

**MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
ZOOM**

September 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield
Beth Chamberland
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Dan DeLongchamp
Jennifer Stanick
Gregg Desto

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

MINUTES: 8/26/2020 for Approval

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26th meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Introduction of New Teachers

Dr. Handfield had the pertinent principal introduce their new APS teaching staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mr. DeLongchamp introduced Elena Arciprete: English Teacher at AHS who was in attendance. Mr. Desto introduced Patrick Armstrong: P.E. Teacher at AMS and Joshua Ponce de Leon: Information Technology Teacher at AMS, both of whom were in attendance. Mrs. Stanick introduced Taylor Arthaud: Intensive Special Needs Teacher at PAK who was in attendance. Dr. Handfield introduced Laura Marcus: District-Wide Occupational Therapy Assistant who was in attendance and also Katherine Grogan: District-Wide Speech and Language Pathologist who was not able to be in attendance due to a conflict.

All were warmly welcomed by the members who noted that anything they we could do to support them in this weird time of 2020, they should seek them out. Dr. Handfield noted that they were a bright and excited group and we looked forward to having them in our schools. Auburn is a great place to work; however, sorry we're getting underway in some strange circumstances.

Return to School Update

Dr. Handfield provided a quick update on some things related to Return to School: regarding air quality tests and HVAC inspections- they were positive; he shared that he and Dr. Chamberland would be meeting with the AEA on Tuesday, September 8th to review these tests with Mr. Fahey. He noted that an independent company came out on Monday, August 31st and did a sample of classrooms to test the air - all were extremely positive; During the first week of every month all buildings will be re-tested. Mrs. Harrington thanked the AEA for their willingness to work with the Committee and the Leadership Team.

Dr. Handfield noted that we are preparing for nursing presentations on Thursday, September 3rd. There will be two live presentations at 1:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Dr. Chamberland sent those invitations out yesterday. These will also be taped as our other presentations have been to this point. He noted that we also continue to review all procedures in our RTS plan as information changes daily and will continue to change.

Dr. Handfield shared that as part of our continued refinement of our reopening plan, we are working with the Board of Health and the nurses right now on a formal communication plan to families that complies with HIPPA, so we are as transparent as possible regarding confirmed cases of COVID, should they occur. There was some discussion on this topic.

Dr. Handfield shared that we continue to work diligently on busses and cohorts. The requests have set us back a bit but we are moving as fast we can (as to be accurate the first time) with getting those done, as well as assigning busses within DESE regulations. He understands that parents and students are anxious to know cohorts and schedules, however, it is crazy busy and we want to get it right the first time. It has been incredibly intense. He noted we are a skeleton crew ...and there are a lot of ever-moving pieces. Dr. Handfield noted that it was his intention to send an update message to families by Friday, September 4th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

School Department Warrant Articles for Fall Special Town Meeting

As previously shared with the Committee, Dr. Handfield noted that the Fall Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2020. As per notification from the Town Manager, the Board of Selectmen opened the warrant on Monday, August 17th, and it closed on Tuesday, September 8th. Included in the packet were the draft warrant articles for the Committee's approval:

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the Warrant Articles as presented; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

NEW BUSINESS:

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Overview of the First Few Days

Dr. Chamberland reported that the School Nurses had done a phenomenal job over these first three days, sharing their knowledge of protocols/mask wearing/general hygiene/managing anxiety and stress/how to deal with allergies etc. She noted that the teachers at AHS created a phenomenal presentation on Zoom and Nearpod and shared with their colleagues, which was very well received. There will be additional faculty meetings tomorrow, Thursday, September 3rd and then next week more planning and preparation and initial meetings with students. She noted that we were fortunate to have this extra time to tend to these kinds of things and overall it was a great start so far.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report as of August 28, 2020

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of August 28, 2020.

Transfers Between the Same Series dated September 2, 2020

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided budget transfers between the same series, dated September 2, 2020 for the Committee's information.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:55 p.m., Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll call vote: Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes;

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from August 26, 2020
Warrant Articles for Fall Special Town Meeting
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers