

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Location: AHS Presentation Room

October 27, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Meghan McCrillis

Absent:

Dottie Kauffman

Casey Handfield
Cecelia Wirzbicki

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

MINUTES: 10/14/2020 for Approval

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14th meeting; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Donation from Masterman's, Inc.

Dr. Handfield shared that he had recently heard from Mr. Brian Davis, Athletic Director, that the Athletic Department at AHS had received a gift of \$250 in the memory of Douglas Flink, Sr. from Masterman's Safety and Industrial Supply, Inc., this because Doug was a longtime volunteer Auburn's youth sports as well as being a past president of the AHS Booster Club.

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude the donation of \$250 from Masterman's, Inc. in the memory of Doug Flink to the Athletic Program at AHS; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Satellite/Galaxy Update

Dr. Handfield reported that Satellite/Galaxy started on Monday, October 19th. Both programs are off to a smooth start. I appreciate everyone's patience as we took a little extra time to ensure we could add this layer of our school programming safely in our schools.

Fall Athletics Update

Dr. Handfield reported that fall athletics started competition on October 19th and he was in attendance for the Girls' and Boys' home soccer contests against Sutton. The MIAA rules regarding one person per player on field were observed. Masks and social distancing were observed. The referees adhered to the revised rules for resumption of play. He was pleased to see revised play guidelines being followed and our student-athletes competing on our fields again.

Communication from Commissioner:

Dr. Handfield shared the following communications from the Commissioner:

Prospective District/School Closures after Thanksgiving: We are hearing that some school committees are considering taking votes to close their schools after the Thanksgiving break, contrary to DESE guidance that districts make closure decisions based on the Department of Public Health (DPH) color-coded metrics and/or other local health and safety factors. Per DESE guidance, districts and schools are expected to use the most recent three DPH weekly color-coded reports (four weeks of data), to make any decisions about shifting to a remote learning model. Please expect that if school committees decide prospectively to shift to remote learning after Thanksgiving (i.e. voting now, before the relevant data is available), this will likely trigger an audit from DESE.

Forthcoming updates to DPH guidance on color-coded metric: We understand that some communities are experiencing increases in COVID-19 rates with minimal impact on schools, and we continue to see little to no evidence of COVID-19 transmission in school settings. As the Commissioner stated at yesterday's board meeting, we are aware that DPH will be issuing updates to the guidance on the color-coded health metric in the coming days and weeks. Please stay tuned.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Special Town Meeting

Dr. Handfield shared his draft of the presentation he posted to the APS website regarding the special fall Town Meeting. He noted that he wanted to give interested residents a clear explanation of the revised budget number and how we are handling the shortfall this year.

Superintendent's Goals for 2020-2021

Dr. Handfield provided an updated copy of his goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Scobie made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Goals as presented for the 2020 -2021 school year; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

FY '22 Budget Format:

Dr. Handfield stated that as we prepare for FY'22 the financial forecast is grim. This assessment, coupled with his assessment of the District at this time, means that we focus on keeping our current personnel and assets in place for FY'22 with the hope FY'23 brings improvement. He noted that the AEA, ABAs and Nurses will be negotiating new contracts this year as theirs all expire on June 30, 2021, plus we have contractual obligations with our other bargaining groups and independent contractors. He noted we also need to anticipate bus and collaborative increases, as well. This approach alters our traditional budget presentations in November/December somewhat. He asked the members what their preference was regarding principals' budget presentations given his suggested approach this year to FY '22. Mr. Scobie stated that an Executive Summary, a list of achievements and anticipated achievements was all that they were looking for.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Voting Delegate and Alternate Delegate to MASC Delegate Assembly

Dr. Handfield, in noting that the Annual Business Meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees is being held virtually this year and in order for the Auburn School Committee to have a vote at this annual business meeting, it is necessary that an official delegate be designated in pursuance of Article IX, Sec. 6 of the By-Laws, as follows:

All members of the Association, and all members of school committees which are active members of the Association, may attend and speak at any meeting of the Association. Only active members shall be entitled to vote on the election of officers or on any other matter as to which members of the Association shall have the right to vote and each active member shall have one vote. No later than seven days prior to each meeting of the Association each active member shall, by written notice to the Executive Director, designate one of its members as its voting delegate and may by such notice designate one of its members as its alternate voting delegate. All ballots and other votes cast by an active member at any meeting of the Association shall be

cast by and only by its voting delegate or if the delegate be absent, by its alternate voting delegate if one shall have been designated. Please note:

Dr. Handfield shared that the deadline for receipt of delegate forms by the Executive Director for the 2020 annual meeting was October 28, 2020; therefore a vote needed to be taken at this meeting. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Scobie made a motion to nominate Dr. Meghan McCrillis as the Committee's delegate to the MASC Annual Business Meeting. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

Nutrition Assistant to Food Services Director

Mr. Handfield noted that Mrs. King had updated the job description for her assistant to reflect current responsibilities and it was his recommendation that Committee approve it as presented.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the updated job description for the Nutrition Assistant to the Food Services Director as presented; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Scobie made a motion to adjourn to the Fall Special Town Meeting; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from October 14, 2020
Thank you to Masterman's
Superintendent's Updated Goals for 2020-2021
Draft PPT Presentation for Fall Special Town Meeting
Delegate Form for MASC Business Meeting
Nutrition Assistant to Food Services Director Job Description for approval