

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, December 18, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle

Call to Order and Pledge:

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Scobie, Chairperson, brought the meeting to order and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting; there being none he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Citizens' Comments: None

Minutes:

December 4, 2019

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4th meeting; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was approved 3-0, with Mrs. Kauffman and Mrs. Holloway abstaining as they were absent from that meeting.

Superintendent's Memo:

Strategic Plan October 2019 Update

Dr. Brunelle provided an updated Strategic Plan as of October 2019, giving sincere thanks to the Design Team, the Leadership Team and all for their efforts in realizing the substantial progress made to date.

Donation to AHS Athletics from DA Early's Office

Dr. Brunelle noted that as previously reported earlier this school year, District Attorney Joseph Early introduced the documentary, "If They Had Known," at Auburn High School on October 7th. She further noted that at that time, Mr. Brian Davis, Athletic Director, had a conversation with the DA seeking potential grant funds to purchase uniforms for the JV Basketball team. Dr. Brunelle shared that we were notified on December 11th that DA Early will be donating \$3,000 to support the purchase of these uniforms. A letter of thanks from Mr. Davis was included in the packet.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept with gratitude the donation in the amount of \$3,000 from DA Early to support the purchase of new uniforms; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Mid Year Goals Update

Dr. Brunelle included a copy of her mid-year goals update in the packet and, as always, thanked the Leadership Team for their contributions as they reflect the team's collaborative efforts.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept the Superintendent's mid-year goals update, as provided; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2020-2021 Preschool Rates

Dr. Brunelle noted that neither the Preschool rates nor the Before and After School rates have changed in the last 12+ years. After a review of preschool rates of the private providers in Auburn, and given that costs to run these high quality programs continue to rise, it was her recommendation that the Preschool rates be adjusted as outlined below:

- 3-year old and 4- year old half day program: from \$165 to \$250/month (approximately \$5.60/hour)
- 4-year old full day program: from \$440 to \$550/month (approximately \$5.60/hour)

Dr. Brunelle further noted that even with these increased rates, families paying for students to attend Auburn Integrated Preschool are still getting a tremendous bargain and that we will continue to offer those families whose income qualifies them reduced rate programming or free programming; therefore no student will be disadvantaged by this change.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the adjusted Preschool rates for the 2020-2021 school year as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

2020-2021 Before and After School Programming Rates

Dr. Brunelle likewise noted that the Before and After School Programming has not had an increase in the rates in the 12 years that she has been Superintendent. Her recommendation was to increase the rates to \$5 per hour from the current rate of \$4 per hour. Important to note, the rate for siblings remains at 50% which is \$2.50 per hour.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the increase in the hourly rate for the before and after school programs to \$5 per hour, keeping the sibling discount at 50%; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

NESDEC Enrollment Projection 2003-2013 Versus Actual

As requested, Dr. Brunelle reviewed the NESDEC projections done approximately 15 years ago, comparing those with the actual enrollments by year. She noted that the predictions for K-12 appear to be far more accurate than those comparing grade 5-12 only, except in the 2013-2014 school year where the NESDEC projection was only 7 students higher than those actually enrolled.

She will continue to monitor the enrollment data, providing the Committee with updates regarding changes throughout the year.

Unfinished Business:

FY 2021 Draft Budget

There were no further discussions on the FY 2021 draft budget.

New Business:

Centerline Communications Request

Dr. Brunelle shared that in mid-October, she received communication from Mrs. Sharon Kwiatkowski, Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager, that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen had received a request from Centerline Communications, a network development consultant to AT&T Wireless, seeking to determine if the town may be interested in having a host facility on school property at 10 Swanson Road. Since it involved school property the request was forwarded to the School Department to see if it was something that we might be interested in.

Mr. Fahey, Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Brunelle met to discuss the same and had a conference call with Mr. Simon Brighenti, Senior Site Acquisition Consultant. They sought photos of other such towers that had been installed as well as information on potential lease payments, with his written response having recently been shared with us along with photos, which were then shared with the Committee.

Dr. Brunelle sought the Committee's input whether they would like her to move forward in potentially pursuing this opportunity, which would definitely require a bid process and may also require Town Meeting approval; however, it is a potential funding source.

Mrs. Kauffman had several questions regarding safety concerns: who would potentially have a section of the pole and would they be accessing it during the school day? Another question was whether we would then have an obligation to engage in a lease with other businesses or could it be handled on a case-to-case basis? Dr. McCrillis asked about the potential for radiation coming from it. After further discussion, Mrs. Harrington made a motion to continue to pursue the opportunity with AT&T through Centerline Communications to host a communications tower at SWIS; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved, with the understanding that we are only still gathering information.

Business/Financial Report:

Year to Date Budget Report

Dr. Brunelle provided a year to date budget report as of December 9th on behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki.

Transfers

Dr. Brunelle included a listing of transfers both within the Series and some between the Series, which required School Committee approval.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

FY 2021 French River Oil Bid Results

On Mrs. Wirzbicki's behalf, Dr. Brunelle shared with the Committee that on December 4, 2019, French River Education Center opened the bids for Fuel Oil #2 for large tanks. The lowest responsible and responsive bidder was Peterson Oil with a fixed price of \$2.1547 per gallon and they were awarded the contract for the period covering July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. She asked for the Committee's acceptance of the award on behalf of Auburn Public Schools.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the bid award for Fuel Oil #2 to Peterson Oil with a fixed price of \$2.1547 per gallon for the period covering July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Based on this information and motion to approve it, Dr. Brunelle recommended a decrease to the heating line item in the amount of \$3,000 for Bryn Mawr School and in the amount of \$5,000 for Swanson Road Intermediate in the FY 2021 proposed budget.

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve the reduction in the heating line item for BM in the amount of \$3,000 and for SWIS in the amount of \$5,000; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Policies:

LBC, Relations with Non-Public Schools on Second Reading

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the above-named policy on Second Reading; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session:

At 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(a) (2) to conduct strategies for negotiations with union and non-union personnel; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

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 December 4, 2019
Strategic Plan Updates
Thank you letter to DA Early's Office
Superintendent's Mid-Year Goals Update
Comparative Preschool Rates
NESDEC Enrollment Projection 2003-2013 versus Actual
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
FY 2021 French River Oil Bid Results