

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, December 4, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Meghan McCrillis

Absent:

Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman

Maryellen Brunelle
Beth Chamberland
Cecelia Wirzbicki

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 her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Unified Basketball Team

Mrs. DeLuca, Ms. LePrevost and Ms. Kozik were unable to be in attendance with members of the Unified Basketball team to be recognized for their victory against the faculty in the game on November 21st. Dr. Brunelle noted that it was an extremely rewarding evening with lots of participation from faculty across the District. The kids had a wonderful time and were thrilled to pull off a victory against their teachers!

Auburn Middle School

Dr. Brunelle was pleased to be able to share the good news that Auburn Middle School had been named as the Best Middle School in Central Mass per the Telegram & Gazette's "Best of Central Massachusetts" contest announced on November 21st. Kudos to Mr. Desto, Mr. Carlson and faculty for making AMS what is – one of the best!

Edward Bedard: In Memoriam

Dr. Brunelle sadly shared the news of the passing of Mr. Ed Bedard, long-time AHS teacher and Department Head, who lost his battle with Multiple Myeloma on Friday, November 29th. She noted that until the very end, Ed quietly displayed eternal optimism, courage, and incredible strength. She asked that everyone join her in a moment of silence in his memory.

Citizens' Comments: None

Student Representatives' Report: Ali Schoenfeldt and Aaron Zheng

Aaron was not able to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment at AHS. Ali gave his report on his behalf:

Model UN is preparing rookie delegates for the next conference at St. John's Prep on December 7th, with Aaron representing Australia in the UN debating Privacy vs. Security. The Marching Band performed their full show at the Thanksgiving Assembly, noting that it was really nice to perform it again after a month away from it. They will be performing again at the Annual Tree Lighting, playing some classic Christmas carols. The new trimester has begun with everyone adjusting well. Grades from the first trimester are being finalized. PSAT scores are going to be released on December 9th for

sophomores and juniors, with counselors noting that online reports from other schools have noted that the scale this year is particularly rough.

Ali reported that the NHS has a field trip the week prior to Christmas break, this being the first group outing to the Boston Aquarium and Quincy Market. They are also making packages to be sent overseas to soldiers. She noted that the Student Council was very involved with the Unified Basketball game on November 21st. She noted that the seniors are very excited that they do not have to worry about making up snow days - finally it's their turn! She also reported that the Student Council has organized fun Fridays for December, with Flannel Friday this week, White Out Friday next week and Christmas Sweater Friday on the 20th.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

November 18th and 19th School Committee Minutes

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the minutes of both the November 18th and 19th meetings; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:

Ongoing Commitment to the Community

Dr. Brunelle provided a listing of examples of giving back to the community by each school showing how seriously our students and staff take this responsibility, ever thankful for the tremendous support we receive from the community.

Supporting the Leadership Team

Dr. Brunelle noted that she continues to meet regularly with all Leadership Team members who are either new to their positions or to the District and that they have acclimated extremely well to their new positions and all are doing an outstanding job.

DESE Superintendent's Evaluation

Dr. Brunelle provided a PowerPoint from a training program offered jointly by DESE, MASS and MASC on November 25th on the new DESE Superintendent's Evaluation. She was not able to attend due to the medical emergency at AHS that morning, but does intend to attend a training session on December 11th at 5:30 p.m. at Millbury High School coordinated by Mr. Greg Myers, Millbury Superintendent, and offered by Tracy Novick, an MASC representative. She will provide an update following that session.

CPR-AED Update

Dr. Brunelle reported that nearly all of the AEDs have been installed and training will be scheduled for January through March, the goal being to train as many people across the Auburn community as possible.

Dr. Brunelle also reported that as part of the "Hands Only" CPR initiative last year, working with the American Heart Association, AHS and AMS were entered into a competition to see which school district could train the most people in Hands-Only CPR. Auburn was the winner and it is our goal is to retain that title and trophy, if possible!

Dr. Brunelle gave a huge shout out to the many businesses in town who made donations to purchase AEDs, with the Committee members echoing their appreciation.

Security Camera Update

Dr. Brunelle reported that with the \$40,000 grant that was secured, the cameras have been purchased and Mr. Fahey is in the process of getting them installed. This should be completed by the close of the calendar year.

Dictionaries Donation to SWIS

Dr. Brunelle reported that she was recently notified by Dr. Lopez that the Auburn-South Worcester County Lodge of Elks had provided a dictionary to every 3rd grader in Auburn. They have been doing this for many, many years and Dr. Brunelle noted we are extremely grateful for their generosity. A thank you letter was included in the packet.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to accept the donation of dictionaries for every 3rd grader attending Auburn Public Schools from the Auburn-South Worcester County Lodge of Elks; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FY 2021 Town Budget Kick-Off

Dr. Brunelle reported that she had attended the Town Budget Kickoff on November 20th and provided a brief update, including an electronic copy of the packet that was distributed by Mr. Kazinovicz.

FY 2021 Draft Budget

As requested, Dr. Brunelle shared with the members some tiered budget cuts that the Leadership Team had made. She asked that the Committee not vote to accept any of them at this point, but rather to wait to see what impact, if any, the Student Opportunity act may have.

Mr. Scobie thanked Dr. Brunelle for working with the Leadership Team to provide this document. He noted that the School Committee needs to be the voice of Auburn constituents and consider what their priorities may be.

School Committee Tour of Schools

Dr. Brunelle provided a tentative schedule for the Committee members' tour of the schools on Friday, December 13th.

Reminders: Annual Tree Lighting and Town Hall Holiday Open House

Dr. Brunelle provided a reminder that the members were invited to attend the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Drury Square Fire Station. She noted that she was not able to be in attendance due to a prior commitment; however, Dr. Chamberland would be there.

Dr. Brunelle also reminded the members that they are invited to attend the Holiday Open House at the Town Hall on Thursday, December 19th between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m., in the Second Floor Meeting Room.

Amendment to FY 2020 CIP

Dr. Brunelle provided a draft warrant article for the January Special Town Meeting, this to amend the FY 2020 CIP to cover the cost of adding a handicapped bathroom at AHS to meet the needs of students in the RISE and EVOLVE programs as they are relocated to a new classroom that will better suit their needs.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY 2020 CIP as presented; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holiday Concert Schedule

Dr. Brunelle provided the dates and times of all of the Holiday Concerts and encouraged the members to attend any that they could.

December 18, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Dr. Brunelle noted that if the Committee was in agreement, she would like to keep the second December meeting in place this year.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to hold a School Committee meeting on December 18th; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle shared other upcoming events happening in buildings leading up to the Christmas break.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Central Office Newsletter for Staff

Dr. Chamberland shared that a newsletter for staff, coming from Central Office is in process, the goal being to create a communication that teachers find informative. She noted that topics, specifically related to Teaching and Learning, would include instructional strategies; pertinent articles; licensure and recertification information and inclusive strategies just to name a few. She felt that this would be an active communication venue which would be used to help share knowledge between schools.

Training with Apple

Dr. Chamberland shared that she and Mr. Bouvier had recently met with Apple representatives to hear about training opportunities for staff. She noted that their hope was to bring the Technology Team together to create a cohesive training plan that will allow us to further elevate the implementation and use of the iPads at all grade levels, this to stay progressive and make the most of them as information changes so rapidly.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year-to-date budget report as of November 26th.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki included a listing of transfers both within the Series and some between the Series, for which she requested the Committee's approval.

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

Revolving Account Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a revolving account update.

Grants Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a grants update.

POLICIES:

KHC, Distribution of Flyers

KJA, Relations with Booster Organizations

LA, Education Agency Relations Goals

LB, Relations with Other Schools and School Districts

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the above-named policies as presented; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

LBC, Relations with Nonpublic Schools on First Reading

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve policy LBC, Relations with Nonpublic Schools on First Reading; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from November 18th and 19th
Ongoing Commitment to the Community Listing
DESE Superintendent PowerPoint
Thank you Letter for Dictionaries from Elks
FY 2021 Budget Kick-Off PowerPoint
Tiered Cuts to FY 2021 Draft Budget
Warrant Article for January Special Town Meeting/Memo from Cecelia Wirzbicki
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Revolving Account Update
Grants Update
Policies: KHC/KJA/LA/LB/LBC