

AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES from March 31, 2020
Virtual Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/568427898>
5:00 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Beth Chamberland
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Thanking everyone for joining remotely, at 5:04 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy BEDH (Public Comment)

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to vote to temporarily suspend Policy BEDH, Public Comment during this period of closure; Mrs. Kauffman 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.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Grab and Go Program

Dr. Brunelle provided an update on the Grab and Go Food Service Program, now referred to as the Meals to Go Program, offered on Mondays (providing breakfast and lunch for Monday and Tuesday) and Wednesdays (providing breakfast and lunch for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), noting that it has been going extremely well and she thanked all of those involved for so generously giving of their time.

Cafeteria Staff:

Ann Fancy, Debbie Falkengren, Michelle Poissant, Allison John, Nicoleta Comoli, Denise King, Natalie Kline, Amanda Wolanski and Cora Franson.

Volunteers:

Ali Deluca, Brian Davis, Alicia Lapomardo, Laura Lavin, Eileen Tarini, April Campbell, Jessie Harrington, Kristin Sandberg, Jayne Gaboriault, Jennifer Keller, Melissa Scanlon, Liz and Cathy Anusauskas, Gregg Desto, Matt Carlson, Sharil Morin, Maryellen Brunelle, and Beth Chamberland.

Dr. Brunelle also shared the good news that the federal government has removed the 50% participation in the free and reduced lunch program requirement for reimbursement from the USDA so Auburn will now qualify for reimbursement. Mrs. Kauffman asked if any further contributions were needed and, if so, where would people send them to. Dr. Brunelle and Mrs. Wirzbicki confirmed that, while they should be covered with the reimbursement from the USDA, if anyone wished to make a contribution they could do so to the Auburn Public Schools, noting that it was for the Meals to Go Program and it would be deposited in the Gift Account.

Minutes from March 11, 2020

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11th meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was approved with a roll call vote 4-0, with Mrs. Kauffman abstaining as she was absent from the March 11th meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:

Payment of Wages During Closure

Noting that the decision had been made early on to continue to pay all salaries and wages supported by the operating budget through the initial closure, Dr. Brunelle sought the Committee's approval to continue to do so, with the understanding that everyone was continuing to work from home, with some time in the buildings as needed.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to continue to pay all salaries supported by the operating budget; Dr. McCrillis 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.

Payment of Transportation Costs

Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that Mrs. Wirzbicki is working with neighboring districts who also use AA Transportation to determine the percentage that would be paid to AA for the period of closure, this being the recommendation of Jay Sullivan from DESE.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to allow Mrs. Wirzbicki to work with other districts who share AA Transportation as their vendor to determine the percentage to be paid to them during this period of closure; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

Payment of Hourly Wages from Revolving Accounts

On Dr. Brunelle's recommendation, Mrs. Kauffman made a motion that during the period starting March 16, 2020 to May 3, 2020 inclusive the Auburn School Committee, subject to appropriation, shall pay the regular wages for work days during this closure period to each employee of the Auburn Public Schools, excluding day substitutes, provided that each such employee to be paid performs work that may be requested or required by the employee's supervisor during the work days to be paid during this period. Nothing in this motion limits any rights that any employee may have to take vacation, sick, or personal leave during this time. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The Chair noted that should the closure period be extended by the Governor beyond May 4th, the School Committee would revisit this motion.

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

Final Day of School and April Vacation

Action

This item was tabled as Dr. Brunelle informed the Committee that the AEA was surveying their members regarding whether to continue virtual learning during the designated April vacation period. Once the results of the survey are known, the Committee will take a vote at an upcoming meeting.

Student Opportunity Act Submission

Dr. Brunelle shared that we continue to await guidance from DESE regarding the extension that will be granted to the original deadline of April 1st. As identified by Dr. Chamberland, Mr. Handfield and me, the priority area will be helping to improve the achievement of our Special Education sub group. Dr. Chamberland will provide an update at an upcoming meeting.

Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Quarterly Report

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to accept the SWCEC's Second Quarter Report for the period of October to December 2019; 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FY 2021 Draft Budget

Dr. Brunelle shared that in light of two teachers requesting full year Leaves of Absences in the 2020-2021 school year, this unanticipated – and after conferring with Superintendent-Elect Handfield and Assistant Superintendent Chamberland - they recommend that the School Committee adjust the budget to \$27,676,055 which represents a 2.75% increase, this in keeping with the Town's requested budget amount.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to adjust the FY 2021 Draft Budget to \$27,676,055 which represents a 2.75% increase, this in keeping with the Town's requested budget amount; Mrs. Kauffman 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.

Finance Committee Meeting

Dr. Brunelle shared that she will be presenting the FY 2021 Draft Budget to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, April 1st and will provide a report at the next School Committee Meeting.

FY 2021 Public Hearing/Annual Town Meeting Update

Dr. Brunelle had hoped to have more information at the meeting regarding the FY 2021 Public Hearing and Annual Town Meeting; however, she will share at an upcoming meeting.

Location of Central Office

Since the comparisons from FY 2019 of the utility costs at the Auburn Police Station as compared to here at Central Office were unintentionally not included in the packet, this agenda item was tabled to an upcoming meeting.

Contract for Superintendent-Elect Handfield

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve and sign the three-year contract for Superintendent-Elect Handfield effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023; Dr. McCrillis 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:

Draft Schedule for 2020-2021 School Committee Meetings

Please

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the schedule for 2020-2021 School Committee meetings as presented; 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.

Upcoming Events

Due to the current uncertainty of when school will resume and further when gatherings of 10+ can resume, we will not add any upcoming events.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Remote Learning Plans

Dr. Chamberland provided a brief update regarding DESE's recommendation that came at midday on Thursday, March 26th regarding remote learning plans. Upon receipt of that guidance, APS Principals,

under the direction of Dr. Chamberland, began to create their school-specific plans. Dr. Chamberland noted that not everyone is robust enough, in terms of technology, and we have been offering families the opportunity to continue learning by providing iPads where needed. She gave kudos to the Leadership Team; APS Team and School Committee for working through this together.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report.

Transfers

Action

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within the Series and between the Series and requested the Committee's approval of those between the Series.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series as presented by the Business Manager; 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.

POLICIES:

JC, Attendance Areas on Second Reading

Action

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve policy JC, Attendance Areas on second reading; 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:56 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:

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

The Zoom meeting ended at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from 3-11-2020
School Calendar 2019-2020
SWCEC Quarterly Report for October to December 2019
Draft Schedule for FY 2020-2021 SC Meetings
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Policy JC, Attendance Areas on Second Reading