

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Monday, November 18, 2019
6:30 p.m. Budget Presentations

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dorothy Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Beth Chamberland
Cecelia Wirzbicki
Rosemary Reidy

Marie Mahan
Jenn Stanick
Susan Lopez
Jessica Pitsillides

Casey Handfield
Gregg Desto
Brian Davis
Eric Bouvier

Call to Order and Pledge:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting. There being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

2020 MIE Partners in Excellence Teacher Awards

Dr. Brunelle shared that three Auburn High teachers have been named by Mass Insight Education & Research as 2020 Partners in Excellence Teacher Award recipients for their exemplary work in the Advanced Placement STEM and English Program: Michael Young, AP BC Calculus; Nicole Le Provost, AP Biology and Jeff Berg, AP Biology from Auburn High School. They are among 25 Massachusetts AP teachers being recognized for outstanding contributions to student success during the 2018-2019 academic year. The teachers have been notified of their award and will be celebrated at MIE's 8th annual Partners in Excellence Award Celebration, which will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at The College of Holy Cross, Hogan Campus Center, Worcester, MA. Please join me in congratulating these three outstanding teachers.

Citizens' Comments: None

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of October 30, 2019

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 30th meeting; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:

Budget Presentations

Budget Kick-Off Presentation, Dr. Maryellen Brunelle

- Dr. Brunelle began the budget presentations with the Budget Kick-Off Presentation, thanking the Leadership Team for being in attendance. She noted that the Leadership Team will be presenting their building- or department-based needs, all of which are focused on our commitment to continuous improvement, educational excellence and, first and foremost, our students' success. A strong commitment to the District's Strategic Plan and the priorities of the School Committee and Leadership Team will be evident throughout. Dr. Brunelle noted that the big unknown lies in the Student Opportunity Act which is in support of increasing education funding by \$1.5 billion over the next 7 years; however, while there is approval from the House and Senate, a source for the funds has not yet been determined.

Bryn Mawr School, Mrs. Marie Mahan

Pakachoag School, Mrs. Jennifer Stanick

Swanson Road Intermediate School, Dr. Susan Lopez

- The evening's budget presentations continued with the elementary principals presenting their accomplishments to date and their expected accomplishments this year. They then presented their individual budgets. Their budgets were, by and large, level-funded with no staffing requests.

Auburn Middle School, Mr. Gregg Desto

- Mr. Gregg Desto then presented the Auburn Middle School's budget, starting with the AMS accomplishments to date and the expected accomplishments this year. He then presented a nearly level-funded budget with only one personnel request for a 0.6 Strings teacher to continue the strings program into the 7th grade, although he did state that alternative funding sources were being sought for this.

Auburn High School, Mr. Casey Handfield

- Mr. Handfield then presented AHS's accomplishments and expected accomplishments for this year. He also presented a nearly level-funded budget for Auburn High School with no personnel requests.

All were thanked for their presentations and Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee of the following evening's presentations from the remainder of the Leadership Team.

Newsweek's Top STEM High Schools

Dr. Brunelle noted that Mr. Handfield had recently shared that AHS is ranked 4,248 out of 5,000 Top STEM High Schools in the country for 2020 per Newsweek Magazine. As a point of reference, Dr. Brunelle noted that there are approximately 26,000 public high schools in the United States and an additional 10,000 private high schools.

One of the members asked if we knew what our STEM ranking was within the State of Massachusetts and Dr. Brunelle said she would see if the State kept such data and, if so, she would share it at an upcoming meeting.

Auburn Chamber of Commerce Mini Grant Award Winners

Dr. Brunelle announced that the Auburn Chamber of Commerce awarded a total of twelve (12) Mini-Grants, in the amount of \$3,000 total, to teachers in the Auburn Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year. The Chamber awarded the grants during surprise visits to the teachers' classrooms in late October. She provided a list of those teachers who were awarded and they were congratulated by the Committee. Dr. Brunelle also thanked the Chamber for their continued support of the Auburn Public Schools.

Assabet Valley Collaborative Quarterly Report

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the AVC First Quarter report for the 2019-2020 school year; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

John and Abigail Adams Scholars

Dr. Brunelle shared that 49 AHS Class of 2020 students earned a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship based on their 2019 MCAS scores and will be recognized at a breakfast in their honor on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 in the AHS Cafeteria. She provided a listing of the students and they were all congratulated by the Committee.

TRI-M Honor Society

Dr. Brunelle shared that on November 5, 2019, fourteen AHS students were inducted into the TRI-M Honor Society in a ceremony at Auburn High. She noted that the Tri-M Honor Society is an international program dedicated to the recognition of exceptional music students in grades 6-12 who meet the music, academic, leadership and character criteria asked of every TRI-M member. She offered congratulations to the 14 students, as did the Committee.

Enrollment Projection Report

Dr. Brunelle shared the Enrollment Projection Report received from NESDEC, noting that it shows only a net gain of +3 students next year; this is due to the number of births in Town going down. It is harder to predict the number of families who will be moving out and moving in, and the projection report makes the assumption that the number of school choice students will remain the same as this year.

An enrollment projection was done in 2003 for the years through 2013 and once that projection has been located, Dr. Brunelle will share a comparison.

Budget Presentations

Dr. Brunelle noted that the budget presentations will continue on Tuesday evening starting with a budget presentation by Dr. Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager, regarding the Central Office budget; Mrs. Rosemary Reidy will present the Pupil Services budget; Mr. Eric Bouvier will present the Technology budget; Mrs. Wirzbicki, on Mr. Fahey's behalf will present the Facilities and

Maintenance budget; Ms. Ginny Bailey and Mrs. Maria Garrow will present the Fine Arts budget; and Mr. Brian Davis will present the Athletic Budgets. Each will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dr. Brunelle will then provide a Budget Summation presentation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town's Annual Budget Kick-Off

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Town's Annual Budget Kick-Off is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th at the Finance Committee Meeting which begins at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Brunelle will be in attendance at the meeting and will share the document with the Committee.

Student Government Day

Dr. Brunelle was recently notified by Senator Michael Moore that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has announced that the 73rd Annual Student Government Day will take place on Friday, April 3, 2020 at the State House. The students who will be representing the Auburn Public Schools are Meghan Sjogren and Sydney Fanion and Dr. Brunelle will invite them to attend a School Committee meeting after the event so they can share their experiences.

Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners

Dr. Brunelle shared the names of the elementary students recognized by the Auburn Fire Department for their outstanding posters and noted that she had been able to attend the award ceremony breakfast that morning. She thanked the Fire Department and Captain Shawn Steele for hosting this event again this year and promoting the message of safety. Captain Steele was unable to attend the event as he was part of the Auburn Fire Department covering for Worcester firefighters to they could attend the funeral of Fire Lt. Jason Menard.

SWIS Donation

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to accept, with gratitude, the donation of \$2,000 from the Elementary PTO to the SWIS Student Activity Account. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This donation will be used to bring programs to the schools to enhance the curriculum.

School Custodians' Request to Negotiate

Dr. Brunelle advised the School Committee that the Custodians, represented by the Teamsters Union Local 170, have submitted a request to negotiate and she noted that she hopes to begin that process soon. As previously decided by the School Committee, Dr. Chamberland, Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Brunelle will negotiate on behalf of the School Committee, with Mr. Fahey, Director of Facilities, assisting, as has historically been the case. Dr. Brunelle noted that School Committee guidance will be sought in Executive Sessions.

All New England Honor Band

Ms. Ginny Bailey was recently contacted with the good news that several of her AHS Band students had been selected to the All New England Honor Band which means they are invited to the All New England Honor Band Festival to be held at Plymouth State University on November 25th.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve this out-of-state trip; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle shared that most of the staff and students in all buildings had recently participated in World Diabetes Day, showing their support by wearing blue. Mr. Desto took this to the next level and sported electric blue hair for the day!

Dr. Brunelle wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year-to-date budget report.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a list of transfers both within and between the Series. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Revolving Account for Unified Sports

Mrs. Wirzbicki, Business Manager, sought the Committee's approval to establish a revolving account for Unified Sports. Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the establishment of a Revolving Account for Unified Sports; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:47 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Mrs. McCrillis – Yes; Mrs. Kauffman – Yes; Mrs. Holloway – Yes; Mrs. Harrington – Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

October 30, 2019 SC Minutes
Budget Presentation PPTs
Assabet Valley Collaborative Quarterly Report
Letter to John and Abigail Adams Scholars
Letter to TriM Honor Society Inductees
Year to Date Budget Report
Transfers
Memo re Revolving Account for Unified Sports