

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Wednesday, October 15, 2019**  
**School Committee Room, 6:30 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Meghan McCrillis

**Absent:**

Dottie Kauffman

Maryellen Brunelle  
Cecelia Wirzbicki

**Call to Order and Pledge:**

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Scobie, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked if anyone was recording the meeting; there being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Citizens' Comments:** Mr. Dan Largesse and Mr. Joe Shenette were in attendance to share their safety concerns with regard to two issues with the Auburn Street redesign as they feel they will impact student safety: the proposed crosswalk in front of Auburn High that will cross Auburn Street and the guardrail that currently provides protection to the basketball/tennis courts located in Drury Square. With regard to the crosswalk issue, there are currently two that go from Auburn High across Auburn Street, with one proposed for elimination. As relayed by Mr. Largesse, the new crosswalk will extend across Auburn Street from Auburn High but go directly into the exit lane for McDonald's; he feels strongly that this is unsafe. Further, his strong contention is that students will take the shortest distance from Auburn High to cross the street, meaning that they will not walk up the sidewalk to enter the crosswalk. He also feels it should be an elevated crossing zone and did express his appreciation that there will be flashing lights, with two being seen in either direction. Mr. Shenette concurred with Mr. Largesse's comments, indicating that he knew Mr. Coyle's engineering expertise was of great benefit, but felt that "human nature" will have students crossing the street at the shortest distance which would mean that they would not be in the crosswalk. Both expressed great concern that the plan was not yet published and available for review, indicating it has changed over time, further expressing concern that the School Committee was not consulted as this would have an impact on students, both our own and those from other communities visiting for athletic events and other such activities.

With regard to the guardrail, they indicated the need for it to stay, further noting that they understand that the intention is to plant landscaping. Mr. Largesse indicated that it was his understanding that Mr. Hammond, during his term on the School Committee, motioned that before he would vote to open this athletic complex for use, that guardrails must be installed.

The Committee thanked both Mr. Largesse and Mr. Shenette and stated that they would have the superintendent follow up with Mr. Coyle as they would like to see the plan and discuss the potential safety issues that have been raised.

**Superintendent's Report**

Out of State Field Trips: Motion made by Mrs. Harrington, seconded by Mrs. Holloway to approve the out-of-state field trips as follows: AHS Athletic Leadership to Woodstock Academy in Woodstock, CT on October 17, 2019; AHS Field Trip to Pequot Museum in Mashantucket, CT on November 15, 2019; and the AHS Music Department trip to New York City in April 2020. Unanimously approved.

MASC/MASS Conference Delegate: Mr. Scobie nominated Mrs. Harrington as the Delegate of the Auburn School Committee at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference, seconded by Mrs. McCrillis; unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

Student Opportunity Act: Dr. Brunelle shared the communication from Mr. Nathan Dearent from Representative Frost's office and her response regarding the Student Opportunity Act. The Committee expressed their support of Dr. Brunelle's comments and appreciation for Representative Frost having reached out. Dr. Brunelle will continue to update the Committee as more information becomes available, with the Senate having unanimously supported it.

Upcoming Events: Dr. Brunelle highlighted some of the upcoming events and encouraged their attendance at those of interest.

### **Business/Financial**

Year to Date Budget Report: Mrs. Wirzbicki shared a Year to Date Budget report dated October 9, 2019; there were no questions.

Transfers: Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfers as presented by the Business Manager; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Executive Session:**

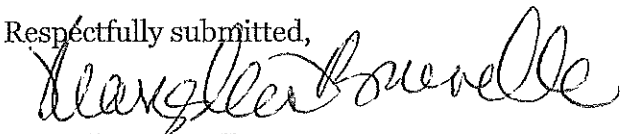
At 6:49 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter into Executive Session per M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Scobie, yes; Mrs. McCrillis, yes; Mrs. Harrington, yes; and Mrs. Holloway, yes.

At 6:59 p.m., the Committee returned to Open Session.

With a motion by Mrs. Holloway, seconded by Mrs. McCrillis, the Committee unanimously voted to recess the meeting to attend the Fall Special Town Meeting.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Harrington and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Maryellen Brunelle  
Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:** Field Trip Forms; Legislative Bulletin; Op-ed Overhaul of School Financial Laws Long Overdue; Year to Date Budget; Transfers;