

AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, October 30, 2019
School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Maryellen Brunelle
Beth Chamberland

Casey Handfield
Alison DeLuca

Melissa LaBeaume
Spencer Kennard

Students:

Alli Schoenfeldt
Elyse Whittemore
Bryna St. Pierre

Aaron Zheng
Emily Ganley
Amanda Healey

Visitors:

Mr. and Mrs. Healey

Mr. and Mrs. St. Pierre

Tristan St. Pierre

Call to Order and Pledge:

Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Student Representatives Report: Alli Schoenfeldt and Aaron Zheng

Alli reported that the NHS had received free t-shirts from Squad locker; they were working on their annual adopt-a-family program for the Holidays; they worked on a grant to be able to send service men and women goodie bags overseas; the Rockets to Rocket program had a "Purple Out" day in support of Maggie and Rhett's Syndrome, in which lots of students participated; the CARE program visited the 5th grade at SWIS to teach the students strategies in self-esteem, drugs and alcohol; STUCO held a Haunted Hall on October 30th, with Halloween decorations, giving out candy and there was also the Senior Class Disney Breakfast on Saturday along with a Trunk or Treat. A lot of fun had been had by all leading up to the Homecoming weekend, including the "Running of the Bleachers." A new Kindness Program was introduced by Avery Pellegrino and Griffin Handfield, called 365Z." And, finally, the first outing of the Humanities Scholars was scheduled for October 31st.

Aaron reported that the Marching Band season had ended with championships, where Auburn took 2nd place and the Silver Medal; the new delegates to the Model UN team had participated in a meet at St. John's HS, while the returning delegates are currently preparing for the Brown University Conference and the St. John's Prep Model UN Conference; the Science Olympiad Club meets weekly for study meetings and to prepare for an in-house in Auburn before the State Invitational in March.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Class of 2020 Certificate of Excellence Award

Amanda Healey was in attendance, with her parents, to be recognized as the recipient of the Auburn Class of 2020 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's (M.A.S.S.) Certificate of Academic Excellence. She is currently the salutarian of the Class of 2020, with a grade point average of 4.797. She is looking forward to going to college and double majoring in English and Dance at one of her top picks for colleges: University of Buffalo, Muhlenberg College, Columbia University, Hofstra University, Skidmore College or Fordham University. The Committee offered their congratulations to Amanda and her parents.

Minutes:

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the minutes of both the October 2nd and October 15th School Committee Meetings; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion. The minutes of October 2nd were approved 4-0 with 1 abstention (Mr. Scobie was not in attendance at that meeting). The minutes of the October 15th meeting were approved unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:

Unified Sports Update

Mrs. Ali DeLuca, AHS Special Educator, was in attendance along with students Emma Ganley, Bryna St. Pierre and Elyse Whittemore to provide a Unified Sports update. They provided a PowerPoint presentation and talked about their experiences during a global Unified Sports event in July held at the Kennedy Compound in Hyannisport, a Youth Marketing Strategies Conference in Brooklyn, NY and at a "Leading the Unified Generation" Conference in Washington, DC. They noted that this was the 5th year of Unified Sports at AHS and they are now extending the Unified Champion School movement to the entire District!

The School Committee congratulated them all on their hard work and success and asked that they keep up the good work!

NEASC Accreditation Granted

Mr. Handfield was in attendance, along with Mr. Spencer Kennard and Mrs. Melissa LaBeaume, to share the NEASC report. Spencer and Melissa provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the entire process. They noted that among the commendations from the visiting team was the active involvement of the student body and faculty in shaping school culture; the authentic learning both inside and outside of the classroom that promotes awareness and the application of knowledge; the abundance of instructional materials available to teachers, the level of student engagement with self-reflection and collaborative learning activities; the safe, respectful and inclusive school culture; the sense of pride in the school modeled by the faculty through their involvement in a wide variety of activities which support students and the productive working relationship between and among the School Committee, central office administration, building-level administration and the community which consistently provides the school department with adequate funding for school programs and services.

They noted that they are prioritizing the recommendations made in the Visiting Committee's Report and will address those. Moving forward, they will prepare the appropriate reports to send to NEASC: 2-year report; 5-year report, etc.

The Committee thanked them for their presentation and for all their hard work being the leaders of the team. Mr. Scobie asked that a thank you be sent to the entire faculty for their time and efforts during the process.

Prior to the end of the presentation, Mr. Handfield mentioned the New Random Acts of Kindness project that they are undertaking at Auburn High, named 365Z. This is a program started by the Ford family of Worcester, who tragically lost their son Zachary when he took his life in 2012. Following his death, they were told of so many acts of kindness that Zachary had shown people. The project was so named so that those participating would do a random act of kindness each day of the year and the Z is in Zachary's honor. Mr. Handfield promised to bring students to present on this to an upcoming meeting.

AMS Field Trip to Providence Performing Arts Center

Mr. Jared Kahn, with Mr. Desto's permission, is seeking to take a group of students who are part of the cast of the Middle School Musical in the January 2020, "Aladdin," to see a performance of it at Providence Performing Arts Center on Wednesday evening, November 6th. It was Dr. Brunelle's recommendation that the Committee approve this trip.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the AMS trip to see a performance of "Aladdin" at PPAC in Providence on November 6th; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

School Supply Donation to BM

Bryn Mawr School was the recipient of a generous donation of school supplies from Webster Five Bank in Auburn. A thank you letter was included in the packets.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude the generous donation of school supplies from Webster Five in Auburn; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Quarterly Report

For information purposes, the Committee was provided with the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative's Quarterly Report for the period of July to September 2019.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to accept the SWCEC's Second Quarter Report for the period of July to September 2019; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SWIS Donation To AYFS

Dr. Brunelle shared that the SWIS faculty had made a donation in the amount of \$150 to AYFS from the Swanson Community Caring Program for the month of September. Any staff member choosing to wear jeans on Fridays donates \$1 each time to the program. They raised \$150 in September. The Committee thanked them for their donation.

SWIS Thank You Notes

Dr. Brunelle shared thank you notes from Dr. Lopez to the Pappas Foundation Trustees, AA Transportation and the Elementary PTO thanking them all for the incredible opportunity that the students and staff of Swanson Road Intermediate School experienced on October 15th, attending *Cirque Mechanics* at the Hanover Theater.

Summer 2019 Student Volunteer Program at St. Vincent Hospital

Dr. Brunelle shared that four Auburn High students were recently recognized by St. Vincent Hospital for their 50+ hours of volunteering in the St. V's Summer 2019 Student Volunteer Program. They all performed their assigned duties diligently and were awarded Certificates of Completion. The students were Amy Ly; Avery Pellegrino; Caleb Scopetski and Julia Zona. The Committee applauded their efforts.

Food Service Administrative Review

Dr. Brunelle shared that based on charges not appropriately coded, there was a minor finding during the National School Lunch Program Administrative Review which took place on March 4, 2019, which have now been addressed. She included a confirmation from the Office for Food and Nutrition Programs at DESE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Reminder: MASC/MASS Joint Conference

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members that the MASC/MASS Joint Conference would be taking place in Hyannis from Wednesday, November 6th through Saturday, November 9th.

Auburn Street Redesign Update

Dr. Brunelle shared that she, Beth Chamberland, Casey Handfield, Cecelia Wirzbicki, Joe Fahey met with Town Manager Jacobson, CFO Kazanovicz and Engineer Bill Coyle on Tuesday, October 29th regarding the proposed Auburn Street redesign. She noted that having now seen the plan, they are all comfortable with the redesign. Dr. Brunelle noted that the sidewalk on McDonald's side will continue right up to Walsh Avenue. There will be flashing lights and large ballards placed where the guardrail currently is, placed close enough that no car crashing in that area would be able to get between them.

She also noted that Mr. Coyle has agreed to attend the School Committee on November 19th to share the plan with the Committee and answer any questions they may have.

NEW BUSINESS:

Non-Resident Tuition

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Leicester Public School District has outreached us with regard to the potential of one of their significantly special needs high school students - for whom they currently do not have programming - to join our EVOLVE program. She shared a memo from Mrs. Rosemary Reidy, Director of Pupil Services, that outlines the benefits to us accepting this student, as well as a copy of the warrant article from the May 7, 2019 Annual Town Meeting granting the District the authority to do so. Dr. Brunelle noted that this will not require additional staff and, due to current enrollment numbers, will be cost-neutral in terms of added costs; conversely, it will be funding that we can use to potentially mitigate the need to utilize the Special Education Stabilization fund to the degree we might otherwise need to do so. She noted that we anticipate knowing in the coming weeks whether this student will join our program and they will keep the Committee apprised if and when that takes place.

2020 Citizens' Leadership Academy

Dr. Brunelle noted that Town Manager Jacobson's office is currently recruiting participants for the 3rd Annual Citizens' Academy which will take place over 12 weeks beginning on March 26, 2020. A copy of the class schedule was shared. The School Department is hosting the class on Thursday, April 16th and will include an overview of District operations and administration, school facilities and programs, much the same format as last year. Dr. Brunelle added that she will be working with Mr. Desto, AMS Principal, to hopefully have some of the 8th grade Civics class students be a part of the School Department's presentation.

Budget Presentations: Reschedule

To allow for a little extra time to work on the FY 2021 Draft Budget, Dr. Brunelle and the Leadership Team recommended that the School Committee Budget Presentation meetings scheduled for November 12th and 13th be rescheduled to Monday, November 18th and Tuesday, November 19th.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to approve the change in meeting schedule for the Budget Presentation from November 12th and 13th to November 18th and 19th; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle brought the Committee's attention to the Unified Basketball Game versus APS Faculty scheduled to take place on November 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Gym at AHS.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

MCAS Presentation

Dr. Chamberland provided a presentation on the 2019 MCAS results for the District.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget as of October 24, 2019.

Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of transfers both within and between the Series.

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

PERSONNEL:

Job Description: Permanent Substitute

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the job description for the Permanent Substitute position as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

POLICIES:

IJND, Access to Digital Resources for Update

IJNDC, Internet Publications for Update

JLI, Student Safety for Update

JRA, Student Records for Update

KA, School/Community Relations Goals for Update

KBA, School/Parent Relations Goals for Update

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

IJ-R, Reconsideration of Instructional Resources on Second Reading

KEC, Instructional Materials on Second Reading

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

KA -1, School/Community Relations for Elimination

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to eliminate the above-mentioned policies from the School Committee Policy Book, as they are no longer recognized/recommended by MASC; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:00 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 and 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. McCrillis 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:

Minutes from October 2 and 15, 2019

Unified Sports PPT

NEASC PPT

AMS Field Trip Request

Thank you to Webster Five Bank from BM

SWCEC 1st Quarterly Report

SWIS Donation Letter to AYFS

Food Service Administrative Review Letter

Memo from RR re Non-Resident Student

Warrant Article re Non-Resident Student

Schedule for Citizens' Leadership Academy

MCAS PPT

Transfers

Year to Date Budget Report

Job Description: Permanent Substitute

Policies