

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Wednesday, September 18, 2019**  
**School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Meghan McCrillis

**Absent:**

Dottie Kauffman

Maryellen Brunelle  
Joseph Fahey

**Call to Order and Pledge:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and asked if everyone would join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Special Recognitions:**

In Memoriam: Albin Fant

Dr. Brunelle asked the Committee to join her in a moment of silence in memory of Albin Fant, who had recently passed away but had served as a custodian for the Auburn Public Schools.

**Citizens' Comments:** None

**Student Representatives' Report: Alli Schoenfeldt and Aaron Zheng**

Alli reported that the NHS fall season is approaching and they are looking to expand tutoring opportunities and make the process for applying easier. She noted that there has been a schedule change with classes being shorter by 2 minutes and the activity period and lunches being longer by a couple of minutes. Alli noted that the NHS has received a grant to send care packages at Christmas to soldiers overseas. She noted that the first Rockets to Rockets meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> and the Student Counsel is selling mums as a fundraiser.

Aaron shared that the Marching Band has its first public performance at the Big E on September 19<sup>th</sup>, when they will play "Dancing Queen" and get to enjoy the festival during some down time. Their first competition will be held on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> hosted by Blackstone Millville in Bellingham. He noted that the Model UN is starting its conference season and in a couple of weeks will be going to St. John's to participate in a learning conference directed at new members, which is a more mellow start to the season! Returning Model UN members are starting to prepare for the first competition at Brown University in November.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:**

September 4, 2019

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Building and Grounds Update

Mr. Fahey was in attendance to provide an update on the summer work done in the buildings and on the grounds. He noted that it was a tough act to follow the student representatives, both of whom had given excellent reports. Noting that it is a very small window in the summer to get done all that needs to be done, he first took time to brag about his phenomenal custodial staff! He noted that they are the ones who bring a lot of the ideas forward on what needs to be done.

**Pakachoag** – the bathrooms were upgraded and all plumbing and water coolers were replaced. Mr. Fahey noted that it was mandated that testing has to be done frequently for lead and copper, this being done through a grant. They were able to eliminate two sources that were problematic. The water coolers record how many refills are taken. HVAC was installed in the gym/cafeteria, this with left over funds from the roof project that they took advantage of.

**Swanson Road** - resilient flooring was installed. This flooring does not require waxing therefore reducing chemical use for stripping it. The outside lighting system was upgraded and is now computer controlled. With the help of the DPW, a new special needs classroom was constructed where the old music room used to be. This provides a great learning environment for students.

**Bryn Mawr** - installed EIU units in downstairs basement. The basement is a learning environment so there is a need to keep the air pure. Resilient flooring was installed in a first grade classroom.

**Auburn Middle** - group cleaning was done by the custodians as soon as school ended as the Middle School was the home for all summer programs this year. The floors there are less maintenance and easier to keep up and we are now installing these same types in other schools, as noted above.

**Auburn High** – no summer programs were scheduled at AHS this summer to allow projects that needed to be done to get done. The turf on the football field was replaced.

**Ongoing projects** – Mr. Fahey thanked Dr. Brunelle and Mrs. Wirzbicki for their hard work on the solar project. A couple of other lighting projects are underway through National Grid, replacing all the lights in the elementary schools at no cost to us. The lights will now be on timers/motion sensors allowing us to save energy. Playground upgrades are in the queue for Columbus Day weekend. Mr. Fahey shared that Dr. Brunelle was awarded a grant from Safer Schools to install more security cameras both inside and outside of buildings. They will be linked directly with the Police Station too; and finally upgrading the card access system at Auburn High School is underway.

Mr. Fahey thanked the School Committee for their support and he, in turn, was thanked by the School Committee for all his hard work and that of the custodians.

#### Budget Timeline and FY 2021 Budgeting Priorities

Dr. Brunelle reported that the Leadership Team is in the midst of determining their FY 2021 budgeting needs, with formal meetings with her, Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Chamberland scheduled for the first full week in October. She asked if the members had any other priorities to share besides those from the previous year of student safety, student achievement, class size, technology, textbooks, educator evaluation, professional development, Strategic Plan implementation, along with ensuring students' social-emotional needs are met. Mrs. Harrington noted that class size is a priority for her and Mrs. McCrillis shared that additional iPads for the elementary schools are a priority for her. Mrs. Holloway also asked that AMS consider adding recess.

#### Auburn Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament

Dr. Brunelle shared that she once again had the opportunity to attend the opening of the Auburn Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament, this year held at Blackstone National Country Club. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the tournament which has allowed the Chamber to donate well over \$300,000 back to the schools in the form of mini grants for teachers and scholarships for students.

#### 2019-2020 Congressional Youth Cabinet

Dr. Brunelle shared that she had once again received a notice from Congressman McGovern inviting her to nominate two students to his Congressional Youth Cabinet and after conferring with Principal Handfield and Auburn High Social Studies teachers, Vin Benacchio and Spencer Kennard, Dr. Brunelle

noted that it was her pleasure to announce that Alli Schoenfeldt and Griffin Handfield, both Class of 2020, were her selections for this wonderful opportunity. They will be invited to a School Committee meeting later in the school year to share their experiences.

#### FY 2025 CIP

Dr. Brunelle shared that Mr. Fahey and Mrs. Wirzbicki were currently working on the FY 2025 CIP and it would be presented to the Committee for their approval at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> School Committee meeting.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### Hanover Performances: Pappas Foundation Donation

Dr. Brunelle shared the performances that each grade level will attend at Hanover Theatre this school year, through the generosity of Dr. Martha Pappas and the Pappas Foundation at no charge to them. Through a request from Dr. Chamberland, the Elementary PTO is covering the cost of transportation for all the grades, in an amount of approximately \$12,300, this year. Mr. Ron Ernenwein, owner of AA Transportation, is also providing all the buses needed at a reduced cost of \$300 per bus. Dr. Brunelle noted that in the following years, the Elementary PTO is willing to conduct a District-wide fundraiser to raise the amount needed to cover transportation, to include the other parent organizations.

##### CPR-AED Update

Dr. Brunelle shared the last of the AED donations for the School Committee's approval and noted that Mr. Fahey is working with the District's electrician to get them installed.

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the following donations; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

- Speedee of Auburn, Inc. - \$833.33 for C CPR-AED Town-Wide Initiative
- Fuller Automotive Service, Inc. - \$833.33 for C CPR-AED Town-Wide Initiative
- Fuller Automotive Service, Inc. - \$833.34 for C CPR-AED Town-Wide Initiative
- Auburn Fast Pitch Softball - \$1,200.00 for AED machine at Lemansky Softball Field

Dr. Brunelle shared that a letter of thanks was being sent to each donator, signed by Town Manager Jacobson and herself.

#### **New Business:**

##### Start the Conversation: "If They Had Known"

Dr. Brunelle shared that in the spring, a group of APS team members viewed the documentary, "If They Had Known," provided by DA Early's office who has secured the rights to it so that area schools can share it with their high school student and to the parents of secondary students at no charge. Dr. Brunelle noted that it will be shared with parents of secondary students on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the AHS Auditorium. High School students will view it on October 8<sup>th</sup> with break-out sessions being held after the viewing.

##### Fall Special Town Meeting

Reminding the members that the Fall Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> and as there is always a School Committee meeting prior to it, Dr. Brunelle asked for the Committee's agreement to cancel the meeting scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> and reschedule it to Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to schedule a School Committee for 6:30 p.m. on October 15, 2019, just prior to the Fall Special Town Meeting, and to reschedule the meeting of October 16<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle updated the Committee with the information that the MICCA show time has changed from the evening to 1:00 p.m. due to the EEE curfew.

**Business/Financial:**

Year to Date Budget Report

On behalf of Mrs. Wirzbicki, who was in attendance at a Finance Committee meeting to answer any questions that may come up regarding the School Department's Warrant Articles for the Fall Special Town Meeting, Dr. Brunelle shared a year to date budget report as of September 11<sup>th</sup>, noting that we were in good shape.

Transfers

Noting that they were mostly to address contractual obligations, Dr. Brunelle shared transfers both within and between the Series. Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the transfers between the Series as required; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Revolving Account Update

As provided on a quarterly basis, Dr. Brunelle shared a Revolving Account update, noting there were no issues. Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the update; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Student Activity Account Audit Update

Mrs. Wirzbicki had provided a copy of the Student Activity Account audit and on her behalf; Dr. Brunelle noted that she was pleased with audit. She gave kudos to Mrs. Wirzbicki for the Procedures Manual put together by her and Mrs. Morin. She noted that cash balances were in alignment with the Town's and any recommendations were already being implemented.

Bus Transportation Update

Dr. Brunelle stated that, regarding bus transportation, we are in the best shape that we have been in for many years. Mrs. Harrington noted that she had received no complaints about bussing at all.

**Personnel:**

Athletic Trainer Job Description

Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the job description for the Athletic Trainer; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Policies:**

IHAM-R, Health Education (Exemption Procedures)

IJNDC, School and District Web Pages

JLC, Student Health Services and Requirements

LA, Education Agency Relations

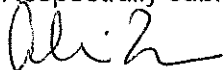
LB, Relations with other Schools and School Districts

LBC, Relations with Non-Public Schools

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the updated above-mentioned policies; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to recess out of Open Session and go back into Executive Session; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner  
Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

Minutes from 9/4/19

Letter of Thanks for AED Donations

Year to Date Budget Report

Transfers

Revolving Account Update

Student Activity Account Audits

Athletic Trainer Job Description

Policies: IHAM-R, IJNDC, LA, LB, LBC