

**MINUTES  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
ZOOM  
August 19, 2020, 1:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

George Scobie  
Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan Creelman

Casey Handfield  
Cecelia Wirzbicki

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 1:00 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

**Janet LaPrad: In Memoriam**

Dr. Handfield shared that Janet M. LaPrad, 81, of Warren and formerly of Auburn, passed away peacefully on August 8, 2020. Born in Worcester and raised in Auburn, Janet was one of twelve children born to the late Frank and Irma (Batchelder) Thomas. She attended the Auburn schools, prior to meeting her beloved Martin J. LaPrad. They were married in 1957 and settled in their hometown of Auburn to raise their family. Later on, Janet began working as a cook for the lunch program at Pakachoag School and would do so for seventeen years – she loved providing hot meals to Auburn's schoolchildren.

Along with her husband, Martin, Janet leaves three sons, including Peter LaPrad (Girls' Ice Hockey Coach) and his wife Donna (former IA at Pakachoag School); one daughter; her 5 grandchildren, including Nicole Vecchio, AHS Foreign Language teacher; and 8 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Handfield asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence in Janet's memory.

**MINUTES:**

**8/12/2020 for Approval**

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of August 12th; 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;*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Fall Special Town Meeting**

Dr. Handfield shared that at the Selectmen's meeting on August 10th, the Board voted to schedule the fall special town meeting for Tuesday October 27, 2020.

The Board of Selectmen also voted to open the October 27, 2020 Special Town Meeting Warrant on Monday August 17, 2020 and to close the warrant on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Any warrant articles the School District have will be brought forward at next week's meeting for the Committee's approval.

### **Town of Auburn Travel Restriction Policy**

Dr. Handfield noted that as shared with the Committee last week, the Town Manager has informed us that the attached Travel Restriction Policy is in effect for all Town of Auburn employees. He shared that we will be revising these forms with the Committee's permission and removing references to "Town" and replacing them with "APS." We will also be removing "comp time" from the town form as our employees do not have that option in their contracts.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adopt the Town of Auburn Travel Restriction Policy as presented with the noted changes to be made to reflect the policy for the Auburn Public Schools. This policy will be in effect until such time that the Governor lifts his current travel order. 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;*

### **Updated School Calendar for FY 2021**

Dr. Handfield shared the revised FY 2021 School Calendar which now includes the delayed start to the year and the addition of professional development time at the beginning of the teachers' school year.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to accept the revised school calendar for the FY 2021 school year; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Dr. Handfield shared that snow days can be remote so that districts do not have to make them up at end of year. However, APS may allow snow days and make them up later.

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Auburn Public Schools Return to School Plan**

Dr. Handfield reported that the draft of the Auburn Public Schools Return to School Plan was released last Friday, August 14th and that it had been received extremely well, with some questions being asked of himself and administrators for clarification. The questions posed will be answered in the live Town Halls. As of this week, there are no major alterations to the plan. Virtual Town Halls will be sent out toward the end of the week. Live Town Halls will follow next week. Orientation activities will begin in-building the week of August 31st.

Dr. Handfield reported that neighborhood busing was not going to work and cohort formation is going to be done by alphabet, with attention to busing first. He also reported that each child will be given an iPad.

Dr. Handfield reported that as of noontime that day, the MIAA just voted to go ahead with fall sports with the exception of football and cheerleading.

While not fully decided yet, Dr. Handfield stated that while morning before school programs and the preschool before and after school programs will not be held, they are looking at the afternoon programs being held, possibly at Auburn High School. He stated that there are so many moving pieces, but it all will be pulled together prior to school starting.

On being asked about vaccinations for students, Dr. Handfield stated that they are not negotiable, unless for religious reasons. The DPH is working to see how many pneumonia shots they can get and if they can offer them free or for a small co-payment.

The Committee thanked Dr. Handfield and the Leadership Team for all their hard work and effort.

#### **TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:**

Dr. Handfield reported that Dr. Chamberland is attending a district-wide PD with teachers on remote learning and would not be in attendance.

#### **BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:**

##### **Year to Date Budget Report as of August 17, 2020**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of August 17, 2020.

#### **POLICIES:**

##### **EBCFA, Face Coverings on Second Reading**

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve policy EBCFA, Face Coverings as presented by MASC 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 1:33 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, namely staff leave requests due to the pandemic. 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;*

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner  
Recording Secretary

#### **Referenced Documents:**

Minutes from August 19, 2020  
Travel Restriction Policy  
Updated School Calendar as of 8/11/2020  
Year to Date Budget Report  
EBCFA, Face Coverings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading