

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Location: School Committee Room
December 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
FY 2022 Budget Presentations

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman - joined via Zoom
Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield
Beth Chamberland

Joined via Zoom:

Rosemary Reidy	Joe Fahey	Eric Bouvier
Virginia Bailey	Maria Garrow	Brian Davis
Marie Mahan	Jennifer Stanick	Susan Lopez
Gregg Desto	Dan Delongchamp	

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:00 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order 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.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Handfield: FY '22 Opening/Overview

Dr. Handfield opened the budget discussion for FY'22. He noted that schools and departments will discuss their accomplishments for FY'21 and intended accomplishments for FY'22. He noted we are recommending level funding operational and supply line items for FY'22; those numbers have been included in packets released to the Committee and public, but we will not be reading them out loud. On January 6th, Dr. Handfield will provide a brief summation of this evening's presentations and will present our recommended draft budget number for FY'22 inclusive of all certainties and assumptions as we know them. He noted that the draft budget must be sent to Town Hall by January 11th.

Dr. Handfield reiterated that it will be a lean and level-funded budget this year; that it is a recovery year where there will be no new staffing and supply lines will be the same as in FY 21; that the budget is created on the best opportunities for children and with our vision and mission in mind as well as our Core Values.

The theme of this budget is response and recovery in unprecedented times. It is also focused on the social and emotional state of students.

Dr. Chamberland: Preschool/Teaching and Learning

Dr. Chamberland stated that her focus was the safe reopening of schools and she gave a shout out to the District's school nursing team and to the Board of Health, noting that Darlene Coyle and Eileen Alexander have been patient and thorough and it has been a rewarding experience. She also concurred with Dr. Handfield that the social-emotional needs of our students have always been a priority.

There then followed a brief presentation from Mrs. Reidy in Pupil Services; Mr. Fahey in Facilities and Maintenance; Dr. Handfield for Mrs. Wirzbicki in the Business Office (she was in attendance at the Finance Committee meeting); Mr. Bouvier in Technology; Ms. Bailey/Ms. Garrow in Fine Arts; Mr. Davis in Athletics; Mrs. Mahan/Mrs. Stanick for Bryn Mawr/Pakachoag; Dr. Lopez for Swanson Road Intermediate School; Mr. Desto for Auburn Middle School; and Mr. Delongchamp for Auburn High School.

Dr. Handfield provided a summation of the presentations and looked ahead to the January 6th meeting when the Committee will have to vote to send a draft budget forward to the Town Manager.

Winter Sports Update

Dr. Handfield provided a letter from Southern Worcester County Principals regarding the 2020 winter sports season that was drafted at the conclusion of a joint meeting of superintendents and principals on December 1st. Winter sports were scheduled to start December 14th, however, as a result of COVID transmission concerns with basketball and hockey, it was decided that IF winter sports happen they would not start in any form until January 4th. Although 8 of the 13 superintendents voted in a straw poll not to have winter athletics, we decided to push the final decision out a few weeks to watch the trajectory of the virus and to discuss this with our school committees.

Dr. Handfield noted that, at this time, he does not support a winter sports season due to serious safety concerns and the potential ramifications within the school community should one or more positive cases occur. There will be more information forthcoming once the final

decision has been made in conjunction with Mr. Delongchamp, AHS principal, and Mr. Davis, APS Director of Athletics.

There was much discussion, all of which was in favor of Dr. Handfield's decision to forego winter athletics in an abundance of caution. Brian Davis, Athletic Director, had remained on the Zoom meeting and also concurred with Dr. Handfield's decision to not have winter sports in the Auburn Public Schools.

Mention was made of the Telegram article regarding renewing a football rivalry with Leicester for the Thanksgiving game in 2021.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Acceptance of French River Oil Bid Award for FY22

In Mrs. Wirzbicki's absence, Dr. Handfield shared that the French River Collaborative recently solicited a bid for Fuel Oil for FY22 for their collaborative members. Mr. Fahey attended the Bid opening which took place on Wednesday, November 19, 2020. The lone bidder was Peterson Oil with a bid of \$1.6999 per gallon. After careful review the bid was found to be acceptable to the group and Peterson Oil was awarded the Fuel Oil bid for FY22, pending each member town's vote to accept the bid. Auburn's current oil price for FY21 is \$2.0675 per gallon, and in calculating our current usage of oil, the District will see a savings of roughly \$13,900. Therefore, Dr. Handfield asked that the Committee accept the French River Oil Bid awarding Peterson Oil with the Contract for FY22.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to accept the bid for Fuel Oil for FY 22 which was awarded to Peterson Oil at a bid of \$1.6999 per gallon; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 9:00 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, Dr. McCrillis made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Copy of Budget PPTs
Letter from Principals/Athletic Directors from SWCL regarding winter sports
Email and attachments from Mr. Coccio regarding winter sports