

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Location: School Committee Room
June 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield
Beth Chamberland
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Jasmyn Gates

Visitor: Jack Generelli

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Scobie, Chairman, 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: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: Dr. Handfield recognized Aaron Zheng as the Superintendent's Scholar from the Class of 2021. On Tuesday, May 25th, the Worcester County Superintendents' Association recognized the Superintendent's Scholar from each of the 53 member school districts. Dr. Handfield stated that he could recite Aaron's accomplishments, but instead he just said Harvard, Yale, and Brown, with Harvard being Aaron's fall destination. Again, he noted that we are so proud of Aaron, and wish him the best as he begins this next chapter.

The Committee noted that this was excellent! Aaron has made Auburn so proud.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The following item was moved up on the agenda to allow Mr. Greg Pratt and his students to provide a presentation:

ADCAP Virtual Workshop for Auburn High School

Mr. Greg Pratt and students, Anielaysha Milinezzo and Ashlie Pelletier, were in attendance to talk about the AdCap Virtual workshop grant they received for \$1000 to implement their SpinGrip project.

AdCap is an organization that partners with global leaders in business, technology, and innovation to uplift young leaders and shows them how to think like social entrepreneurs to help them make a difference in school communities. Mr. Greg Pratt, the Department Head for Health and Wellness, helped the students to participate in a virtual workshop to create something that would improve the wellness of their school community. Students at AHS were awarded a \$ 1,000 grant to implement their project.

Their project is called 'SpinGrip', a spinner that works as a pen and a flashlight. The participating students provided 650 SpinGrip pens to the students at AHS.

The School Committee members noted that it was a fantastic design and gave kudos to the students for coming up with it. Dr. Handfield noted that they will look into getting them some assistance to produce more for the other schools and he promised to pick up a few for the members.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCTION / REPORT

Aaron Zheng and Jasmyn Gates

Jasmyn apologized for not being at the last meeting. She noted that everyone has their eyes set on summer but definitely thinks the new mandates - being outside without masks - has been some light at the end of the tunnel. It is something so special to see people's smiles. She felt it was difficult for the students to keep their heads in the game and finish strong; they are suffering a little burn out. She noted that the teachers are definitely trying to help get us over the finish line. Circumstances were not ideal this year but, with what we had, we made the best of it.

She stated that September is going to be special. Everyone is looking forward to getting back to a normal school year. She noted that juniors have SATs on Saturday. The Committee thanked her for her great report and noted they were pulling for her, wishing her all the best.

Aaron was unable to attend the meeting; however, he shared this via email:

"I just wanted to send a quick message under this thread as the school year concludes. I am so grateful and thankful for all of your everlasting support over these past two years, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a representative for all of you. Unfortunately, this year has been much rougher, as corporate America has a stranglehold over me (shoutout TJX), but still, I am so thankful to have been here. As always, I hope to be able to see you all soon!"

However, in actual representative news, graduation rehearsals have been going well over these past couple days, and we are just hoping for good weather for this Friday."

MINUTES: 5/19/21 for approval.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes from May 19th; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Scobie read aloud the evaluation results for the Superintendent, noting what a fantastic year it had been and a great way for Dr. Handfield to start - nothing but challenges. He stated that he felt sorry for any Superintendent in their freshman year dealing with the pandemic. He recognized that it wasn't Dr. Handfield alone, that the administrators, staff and parents all played a part. He noted that the Committee was on the same page as far as Dr. Handfield's evaluation was concerned. Mr. Scobie then read off the results of the evaluation rubric

Superintendent's Goals:

Ø Student Learning Goals

20 out of 20

Ø Professional Practice Goals 19.8 out of 20

Ø District Improvement Goals 19.6 out of 20

DESE Evaluation Instrument:

Ø Standard I: Instructional Leadership 9.8 out of 10

Ø Standard II: Management and Operations 10 out of 10

Ø Standard III: Family and Community Engagement 9.8 out of 10

Ø Standard IV: Professional Culture 9.8 out of 10

OVERALL SCORE: 98.8 out of 10

COVID Update

Dr. Handfield reported that our COVID case count is holding steady between zero and one case per day. This continues to be a positive trend. Although restrictions were lifted by the Governor May 29th, DESE's most recent guidance from May 27th, has masking in school and on buses for the remainder of the school year. We expect there to be additional mask guidance for the fall but will wait for that before commenting further. Similar to the weeks after April vacation, we will keep a close watch on any potential upticks in cases.

Reminder: Auburn High School Commencement

Dr. Handfield reminded the members that the Class of 2021 Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 4th, on Memorial field provided the weather holds up. Rain dates are Saturday, June 5th and Sunday, June 6th.

He noted that the state has provided updated guidance for outdoor events to coincide with the lifting of COVID restrictions on May 29th. Outdoor gathering limits, spacing, and sanitation protocols have been eased or eliminated as part of this new guidance. However, we will still be seating families in pods, easing the distance between them from 10 feet (last year) to 5 feet, and extending two additional tickets to each graduate for a total of eight. Sanitation practices will be in effect, as will orderly arrival and dismissal procedures.

Superintendent's Entry Report Information

Dr. Handfield noted the he has prepared his impressions and findings in the form of an Entry Report which he shared with the Committee. He provided some highlights of the key points of the document and noted that it was available on-line for people to review in its entirety.

NEW BUSINESS:

AMS 8th Grade Graduation Plans

No plans just yet. These will be shared at the next meeting.

AHS Program of Studies - Updates

This was tabled to the next meeting for a vote.

Auburn Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Recipients

Dr. Handfield provided a listing of the students who received scholarships from the Auburn Chamber of Commerce:

\$3,000 Stephen Lucas Memorial Scholarship - Alysha Creelman
\$3,000 Major David L. Brodeur Foundation Scholarship - Mia DelloStritto
\$1,500 Scholarship - Zoe Picard
\$1,500 Scholarship - Maeve Cahill
\$1,500 Scholarship - Connor Halloran
\$1,500 Scholarship - Emily Dupuis
\$1,500 Scholarship - Miranda Courteau
\$1,500 Scholarship - Samantha Anusauskas



He, and the Committee, congratulated all of the above-mentioned well-deserving students and their families and gave sincere thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for their generosity. In total, over the years, they have given over \$350,000 in scholarships to Auburn Students.

Appointment of Civil Rights Coordinator for 2021-2022

Each school district must have a Civil Rights Coordinator, to whom staff or parents may register a complaint if they believe their civil rights have been violated. It was Dr. Handfield's recommendation that Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent, serve in this capacity next year.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland as the Civil Rights Coordinator for the Auburn Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Appointment of Title IX Coordinator for 2020-2021

Likewise, each school district must have a Title IX Coordinator, to whom staff or students may register a complaint if they have been sexually discriminated against. It was Dr. Handfield's recommendation that Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland, Assistant Superintendent, serve in this capacity next year.

Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland as the Title IX Coordinator for the Auburn Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

DESE Special Education Review – IDEA

Dr. Handfield shared that annually, the Department of Education must identify each school district's specific needs for technical assistance or intervention in the area of special education. The Department assigns each district one of four categories: Meets Requirements (MR), Needs Assistance (NA), Needs Intervention (NI), and Needs Substantial Intervention (NSI). In prior years, the special education determinations were aligned with district accountability levels unless additional performance and compliance measures, specific to special education, warranted a change in the special education determination. The 2021 Special Education Determination process is updated and specifically considers: (a) 5-Year Cohort Graduation rates for students with disabilities; (b) Annual Dropout rate for students with disabilities; (c) Public School Monitoring special education compliance data; (d) Problem Resolution System special education complaint data; (e) Performance on Special Education State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Indicators; (f) Data and findings of Significant

Disproportionality. As the attached letter from DESE indicates, Dr. Handfield stated that he was proud to report they had no findings for the Auburn Public Schools after reviewing our data. Kudos to all involved in this achievement.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Listing of Colleges/Universities Accepting Our Class of 2021 Graduates

Dr. Chamberland provided a listing of all colleges and universities accepting AHS Class of 2021 graduates. She noted the list, which was impressive, represents the dedication and determination of many students and staff and, once again, AUBURN STRONG! I

Dr. Chamberland also noted that we have one graduate joining the Army, one the Navy and one the Marines. She noted we have lots to be proud and impressed about.

High School Seniors Educational Internship Program (HSSEIP)

Dr. Chamberland shared that ten Auburn High School Seniors participated in the High School Seniors Educational Internship Program. These ten students, through a grant from DESE and in collaboration with the Mass Hire Central Region WorkForce Board, were assigned to provide academic and supervisory support to students at Bryn Mawr School, Pakachoag School, Swanson Road Intermediate School and Auburn Middle School. Each student was assigned a schedule at their designated building along with a teacher with whom they could connect as each of these students indicated an interest in education as a career. This hands-on experience was well received by the students and the school in which they worked. Several seniors, while already out of school for the year, continue to work and they are able to be in schools for 4-5 hours each day. The students are paid \$ 13.50 per hour for their time and also received 5 hours of training that took place in the evening.

Dr. Chamberland noted that the Encore program has a garden out in the back and they are still accepting donations. Gift cards and money are acceptable.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Information

Year to Date Budget Report:

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report.

Omnibus Transfers

Information

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided Omnibus Transfers #1 for the Committee's information.

Mrs. Wirzbicki noted that Mrs. Quirion will provide a list of donations for the Encore garden to the next School Committee meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:09 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) to enter executive session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and (3) to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll call:

Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kauffman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes of 5/19/21
Superintendent's Entry Plan
Superintendent's Eval Rubric
DESE Letter
AHS Program of Studies Updates
List of Colleges and Universities
Year to Date Budget Report
Omnibus Transfers #1