

AGENDA
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Location: School Committee Room
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway - joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m.
Dottie Kauffman
Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield
Beth Chamberland
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Gregg Desto
Karin Loach
Kim Sicurella

Jasmyn Gates
Aaron Zheng

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:30 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

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Mr. Gregg Desto was in attendance via Zoom to introduce Karin Loach, 8th Grade Science teacher at Auburn Middle School, who also joined the meeting via Zoom, to be recognized for having been awarded the "Best Graduate Student Paper Award" for presenting a portion of her dissertation at the Eastern Education Association's Annual Conference in Florida last winter. Her paper was entitled: *Science in Elementary Education: Teacher Self-Efficacy, Preparation and Student Achievement*.

The award will be presented to her at the Association's virtual conference in February, and her paper will be published in the Journal of Research in Education, a prestigious journal. Mrs. Loach gave a synopsis of her paper and Dr. Handfield asked that everyone join him in congratulating her on this award.

Therapy Dog, Ella

Also, Mr. Desto introduced Mrs. Kim Sicurella who joined the meeting via Zoom, with Ella, to introduce her to everyone and to let the Committee know of her therapy work thus far. She provided a short video and it was stated that there is no better support system than a dog.

Both ladies were thanked for going above and beyond for the betterment of their students.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCTION / REPORT

Information

Aaron Zheng and Jasmyn Gates

Aaron and Jasmyn joined the meeting via Zoom to provide their reports:

Both students reported that things are good although students seem a little more relaxed regarding social distancing and wearing masks since the beginning of school. Jasmyn reported that the fall sports teams did a really good job following the new guidelines; she noted that positivity is up and a lot of clubs are making the best of the situation. Lots of students are using extra help sessions and there are no major hiccups to report. Aaron reported that the NHS is once again putting military care packages together.

The students were thanked for their reports.

Aaron: students little bit more relaxed than the beginning of school. Military care packages.

MINUTES: 11/10/2020 for Approval

Action

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10th School Committee meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

COVID Update

Information

Dr. Handfield noted that as of the date of writing, he was able to state that the District had NO NEW school cases to report, this being the first time in about two months he is not reporting COVID Positive cases to the school community. However, the next day after writing, we had two and another one on the date of the meeting, November 24th.

As both student representatives noted the laxness of AHS students around social distancing and COVID guidelines, Dr. Handfield noted that he had had the same conversation with Mr. Delongchamp regarding this and he will be bringing it to their attention after the Thanksgiving Break.

COVID Reporting

Information

Dr. Handfield noted that as discussed at our last meeting, we are in the process of creating a COVID dashboard that will be accessible to the public. It will include something similar to the example included in the members' electronic packets from the Wellesley Public Schools. By the time of the meeting, Dr. Chamberland, with help from IT technician, Maureen Elliott, was able to have our first COVID dashboard available for the members. Data Studio through Google was used for this. It reiterates important things including confidentiality/transparent/links to our opening guide and DESE guidelines. Dr. Chamberland sought feedback from the members, noting that the plan is to update it at the end of each week. Dr. Handfield thanked Dr. Chamberland and Mrs. Elliot for their work on this noting that it is extremely comprehensive. The Committee concurred.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Reminder: Budget Presentations (12/9/20)

Information

Dr. Handfield reminded the Committee that on December 9th we will begin our FY'22 Budget Exercise. He noted that as this is a unique year, all schools and departments will present a quick overview of this year (thus far), anticipated accomplishments for this year and next. As we are going forward with no new positions and level funded supply line items, each school and department will present no more than 10 minutes. He will "book end" the evening with an opening presentation, followed by a summation. All presentations will be put together and placed on our website for people at home to review and follow. Each school and department will join the meeting via Zoom.

Air Quality Report

Information

As promised, Dr. Handfield included the October air quality report in the members' packets for their review. As stated previously, he noted that our readings are well within the bounds of being safe for our staff and students. This information was provided to us by ATC and reviewed by our consultant Kevin Seaman of Seaman Engineering. He also reminded the Committee that that we have a confirmed ship date of December 4th for the air ionization units. COVID across the country has slowed production, thus delaying delivery.

NEW BUSINESS:

There is no new business for this evening.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Information

SYNCHRONOUS VS ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Dr. Chamberland shared that each of our schools continues to work on increasing synchronous learning opportunities for students who are at home. At the high school, increased emphasis is being placed on providing students with synchronous mathematics instruction as this particular content area has been challenging for student learning from home. At the middle school, many remote students join their classmates in class, virtually for every class. At the elementary level, webcams are being used to make various meeting times throughout the day more engaging for all students. The commitment of our teachers to creating connections with students who are learning at home is having a positive impact on student participation and success in the classroom. Dr. Chamberland noted that it creates a better balance for students. She noted that we are light years away from where we were six or so weeks ago as we are continually striving to always get better.

SPOTLIGHT ON AMS

Dr. Chamberland noted that Dr. Handfield had asked that we begin a new addition to our meetings that includes a spotlight on the happenings at one of our terrific schools. For this first spotlight, Dr. Chamberland shared that Auburn Middle School staff have demonstrated great creativity and openness to new technological tools. During the most recent professional development day staff shared their expertise with their colleagues on three separate topics. Danielle LeBoeuf shared information on Jamboard, a virtual white board that allows for students to share and collaborate when both synchronous and asynchronous. Jessica Young provided training on Kami, an easy way to annotate student work. Padlet can be used as a place for students to share their thoughts, interact with content by sorting or categorizing and for sharing new knowledge. Pear Deck and Nearpod allow students to interact with Google slides along with some handy tips for making Schoology more effective. John Bastien and Kim Moran presented ways to use multiple screens through screen cloning and extended display to more effectively engage students in person and remotely. This is just a sampling of the expertise found at AMS and we will continue to share the exciting work happening in our schools.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report as of November 18, 2020

Information

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report.

Budget Transfers

Action

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided budget transfers between the same series for the Committee's information as well as a transfer between two different series requiring a vote of approval.

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to approve the transfers between the series as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

POLICIES:

Policy, ACAB, Harassment

Action

Dr. Handfield noted for the Committee that this policy was recently updated by MASC and districts were encouraged to adopt it. The changes to it address the issues created by changes to Title IX Regulations. It was Dr. Handfield's recommendation that the Committee approve this updated policy.

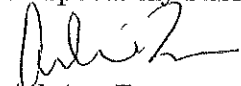
Mrs. Harrington made a motion to adopt the Policy ACAB, Harassment as updated by MASC in July 2020; Mrs. Holloway second the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Action

At 7:19 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Allaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from November 10, 2020
COVID Dashboard from Wellesley
COVID Dashboard from APS
Air Quality Report from October
Year to Date Budget Report
Budget Transfers
Policy ACAB, Harassment for update