

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING/Public Hearing

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

April 27, 2022 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Absent

Zoom

George Scobie

Karen Ballway

Jessie Harrington

Gail Holloway

Meghan McCrillis

Dorothy Kauffman

Beth Chamberland

Cecelia Wirzbicki

Brooke Wrenn - 28 Loring Street

Samantha Raphael - 8 Sunnyside Road

Patricia Howk - 6 Greenwood Drive

Kweku Akese - 13A Bancroft Street

Judy Turcotte - 8 Taewood Drive

Jacqueline Walsh - 95 Bryn Mawr Ave

Stephen Widen - 41 Dolan Road Milbury

Christine Miller - 1 Lexington Millbury

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Worcester County Superintendents' Association Annual Scholars' Recognition Luncheon was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at the Hogan Center at Holy Cross. Sydney Lyons, a senior at Auburn High School was one of 68 students recognized from Worcester County for outstanding scholarship and school involvement. Sydney is an accomplished and active student at Auburn High School. Sydney's participation at AHS includes: **Clubs:** - National Honor Society - Tri-M Music Honor Society - Photography Club - Model United Nations - Math Team - International Club - Science Olympiad - Yearbook Committee - We the People - Students for Diversity - Academic Quiz Team - Student Council **Other Extracurriculars & Sports:** - Concert Band - Marching Band - Softball - Indoor Track **Leadership:** - National Honor Society president - International Club Vice President - Drum Major of marching band - Co-Captain of Model UN - Photography club vice president - Tri-M Vice President - We the People unit captain - Varsity softball co-captain **Outside of school:** - internship at Auburn Historical Society. Sydney hopes to attend either UMASS Amherst or Clark University in the fall and study physics. Mr. Delongchamp and Dr. Chamberland attended the event and can attest they were proud to accompany Sydney to this event.

Minutes: 4/6/22

George Scobie entertained the motion to *approve the minutes of 4/6/22*.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to *approve the minutes of 4/6/22*. Dorothy Kauffman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Spotlight on Students

Model United Nations is a simulation of the UN General Assembly, its specialized agencies, or any multilateral diplomatic body where students, known as delegates, discuss international issues such as gender equality, climate action, global health, and more and collaborate to broker solutions. In order to be successful, students need to be trained in public speaking, specialized research, and the art of negotiating. Students

who demonstrate mastery of these skills compared to their peers are awarded the title of "Best Delegate." The Auburn Model United Nations delegation has competed all over the East Coast for about a decade; from MIT and Brown University to Washington DC. We are proud to have a chapter of Model UN at Auburn High School facilitated by Mr. Benacchio and Ms. Perreault. Patricia Howk and Kweku Akese were present to give us a glimpse into their work in Model UN.

Patricia joined in 9th grade and Model UN became a big part of her high school career. She was not interested in public speaking prior to joining, she has met so many great people.

Kweku also joined in 9th grade. He stated Model UN has been transformative for him and has done a great job preparing him for college and beyond.

COVID 19 Summary

Dr. Chamberland stated given the move to a policy of mask optional in the schools, a majority of students and staff have chosen to not wear masks. A smaller number of students and staff continue to wear masks, we provide masks to anyone who requests one and all students and staff continue to be required to wear masks in our nursing offices. We have not seen a tremendous uptick in COVID 19 cases since this change in mid February. Below is the summary of the weekly COVID 19 positive cases.

Week Starting	Reported # of COVID 19 Positives
2/28/22	15
3/7/22	13
3/14/22	14
3/21/22	14
3/28/22	8
4/4/22	4
4/11/22	8

Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Plan(CIMP)

Dr Chamberland reported in February of 2022, the APS participated in a Tiered Focus Monitoring Review with DESE in the areas of Special Education and Civil Rights. Dr. Chamberland shared the full report from DESE. The three areas included an updated and more complete distribution via student handbooks of the APS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan; a minor revision to the notice and process used for students over the age of 16 leaving school without a high school diploma, certificate of attainment, or certificate of completion; and an update to the APS Physical Restraint Policy to place

more complete emphasis on de escalation and alternatives to physical restraint. The CIMP feedback also highlighted the need for a comprehensive Staff Handbook for all new employees which is well underway, along with the work outlined in each of the action plans. Included in the packet were the three action plans associated with the improvement areas and the first three pages of the Staff Handbook, including the table of contents for review. The Staff Handbook will be brought back to a subsequent meeting for questions and then approval.

Dottie Kauffman commented that she hopes the handbook will put parents at ease.

Jessie Harington commented the Human Resources information is good.

Superintendent Performance Summary

Dr. Chamberland stated in light of her role as Acting Superintendent over the past 3 plus months, she shared a summary of her work during that time. She aligned the activities she has facilitated, initiated or supported during this time to the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation for the committee's convenience. She provided a brief overview and welcomed their feedback.

George Scobie said thank you for all you have done. The past year has been an uncharted ride, it is nice to hear what is happening behind the scenes. He also stated that the past two years have been difficult, but we were lucky to have Dr. Chamberland and Dr. Handfield to lead the charge. Thank you.

Jessie Harrington said this was necessary, Beth has been a jack of all trades and thanked her for all she has done.

Meagan McCrillis said people say amazing things about her leadership. She thanked Beth for giving people what they needed and that her positivity really makes a difference.

Dottie Kauffman thanked Dr. Chamberland for being so dedicated while performing two roles.

[Gail Holloway](#) thanked Dr. Chamberland, stating this has been a rough time and it was a relief to be able to rely on her.

Appointment of Superintendent

Given the recent resignation of the Superintendent of Schools, the School Committee discussed next steps regarding the filling of the Superintendents position. It was unanimously agreed that Dr. Chamberland should be named Superintendent.

Recommended Motion.....to name Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland as Superintendent of Schools with a one year contract and to revisit the appointment in one year.

George Scobie entertained the motion to *name Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland as Superintendent of Schools and to offer her a 1 year contract which will be revisited for extension.*

Dottie Kauffmann made a motion to *name Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland as Superintendent of Schools and to offer her a 1 year contract which will be revisited for extension in one year.* .
Meagan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

George Scobie said two years ago people said they should open the search for superintendent. He said he didn't agree then and doesn't agree now. We had a good 2 years. Then when asked to step up, Beth did not hesitate. We have an Interim, but no assistant superintendent. We need to figure out what to do. We have had a great interview process for the past few months.

[Meghan McCrillis](#) said I think we have a great superintendent in the room right now, she has proven herself, I am in full support.

Dottie Kauffman stated your true qualifications have knocked it out of the park. There is a sense of calm with you leading.

[Gail Holloway](#) said Beth is the way to go, she truly loves this town and gets along with everyone. We are lucky to have her.

[Jessie Harrington](#) said from faculty to parents, they support you in this role. You have done a great job. We are all still healing from the pandemic and this new year.

Dr. Chamberland thanked everyone for their kind words and support. She stated she was humbled and excited for this opportunity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Green Dome

Members of the Green Dome Committee presented an update on the project to the School Committee.

- Looking to hire a contractor to remove lead paint
- Actively fundraising

NEW BUSINESS:

School Committee Meeting prior to Annual Town Meeting

Dr. Chamberland stated that historically, the School Committee has met prior to Town Meeting at Auburn High School for the purpose of discussing any last minute changes to warrant articles or school budget requests. With the Town meeting taking place next week, she didn't think there was anything to discuss. She was looking for direction from the committee.

Recommended Motion....not to meet prior to Town Meeting on Tuesday May 3, 2022 for purposes of last minute reviews of warrant articles and budget.

Mr. Scobie entertained a motion to not meet prior to Town Meeting on Tuesday May 3, 2022 for purposes of last minute reviews of warrant articles and budget.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to not meet prior to Town Meeting on Tuesday May 3, 2022 for purposes of last minute reviews of warrant articles and budget. Gail Holloway seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Electrical Supplier Contract

Included in the packet is a copy of the Electric Supplier Agreement, as the current electricity supplier contract with Constellation New Energy for both the School Department and the Town is coming to an end in May 2022. The School Department once again would like to collaborate on a contract with the Town for Electrical Supply and enter into a 6 month contract with MidAmerican for a fixed cost of \$0.12383. In the meantime both Town and School will work with a consultant from Freedom Energy in an attempt to find better pricing for a longer period of time. In addition the Town will be looking for approval at the May Annual Town Meeting to have the option of entering into an electrical supplier contract for more than three years, which may allow for an option of better pricing.

Recommended Motion....to accept the six month electricity supplier agreement with MidAmerican for a fixed cost of \$0.12383 per KWH, while continuing to work with Freedom Energy to procure better pricing for the long term.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the six month electricity supplier agreement with MidAmerican for a fixed cost of \$0.12383 per KWH, while continuing to work with Freedom Energy to procure better pricing for the long term.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the six month electricity supplier agreement with MidAmerican for a fixed cost of \$0.12383 per KWH, while continuing to work with Freedom Energy to procure better pricing for the long term. Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated April 19, 2022.

Budget Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated April 19, 2022 between the same series for information, along with a listing of transfers between different series for which she sought approval.

Recommended Motion.....to approve the list of Transfers dated April 19, 2022 as presented by the Business Manager.

George Scobie entertained a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated April 19, 2022 as presented by the Business Manager.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated April 19, 2022 as presented by the Business Manager. Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

[Jessie Harrington](#) made mention that this would be the last meeting for [George Scobie](#) and Dottie Kauffman. George has been a member for 10 years and Dottie 8. She thanked them both for their hard work and said they would be missed.

Beth Cahmberland said on behalf of the students and staff we thank you. You make it look easy and it's hard work.

At 7:46pm George Scobie entertained the motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the bargaining position with non-union personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session. We will not return to open session.

Gail Holloway made the motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the bargaining position with non-union personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session. We will not return to open session. Meghan MCCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned into executive session at 7:46pm.

Adjournment
Roll Call Vote

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes for 4/6/22

CIMP Report

Electrical Supplier Contract

Year to Date Report Dated 4/19/22

Budget Transfers Dated 4/19/22

Approved 6-1-22