

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

December 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

George Scobie

Jessie Harrington

Gail Holloway

Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield

Beth Chamberland

Karen Ballway

Absent

Dottie Kauffman

Cecelia Wirzbicki

Ally McGill

Jasmyn Gates

CALL TO ORDER:

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

Minutes: Approved 11/17/21 minutes.

George Scobie entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/17/21 meeting.

[Meghan McCrillis](#) made the motion to accept the minutes from 11/17//21, Jessie Harrington seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Handfield shared with the committee that Swanson Road Intermediate School raised over \$10,000 under the direction of Physical Education Teacher Ann Shane as part of SWIS's commitment to Pride N' purpose. This program has been a long running partnership between SWIS and the Ntsveni (K-7) School in Dumphries, South Africa.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: Jasmyn Gates and Ally McGill not able to join us this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COVID Update

Information

Dr. Handfield provided an update on COVID cases and other pertinent details since our last meeting. Dr. Handfield stated we are seeing an uptick of COVID cases since returning from Thanksgiving break. We reported sixteen (16) on Monday 11/29, six (6) on Tuesday 11/30, and seven (7) today, 12/1. Many students are taking part in the test & stay program. Administration is appreciative of the vigilance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Southern Worcester County First Quarter Report

Dr. Handfield stated in the packets this evening the committee would find the Southern Worcester Country First Quarter Report for their review.

Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Annual Report 2021

Dr. Handfield stated the committee would find in their packet the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Annual report for 2021. This report requires a vote of acceptance by the committee.

Recommended Motion: ... to accept the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Report for 2021.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to accept the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Report for 2021, Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Budget Update

Dr. Handfield stated budget presentations will be December 15, 2021. With the committee's approval, we would like to move the meeting to 6:00 p.m. in order to accommodate the leadership team.

Recommended Motion: ... to approve the change in meeting time to 6:00pm to accommodate the budget presentations.

Gail Holloway made a motion to approve the change in meeting time to 6:00pm to accommodate the budget presentations, Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Information

Dr. Handfield informed the committee this year's holiday tree lighting will be Friday, December 3, 2021. All are invited to attend this annual tradition.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Universal Design for Learning Coaches

Dr. Chamberland reported to the committee that two teachers at each school building are serving as UDL coaches. Each of these teachers are receiving monthly coaches training to ensure the longevity of the changes we are working to build into our instruction at all levels. Through this program, teachers will receive credit for a graduate course toward their own professional development. They will then serve as the 'coach' in each building to support the skill development of other staff members.

CLEE Equity Audit

Dr. Chamberland reported the Equity Audit being conducted by the Center for Leadership in Educational Equity continues. The stakeholder group has examined data related to student academic performance along with data from a staff survey regarding their perceptions of their role in the district and the areas in which we might improve. Staff from CLEE also completed focus group interviews with staff, families, and students from both Auburn Middle School and Auburn High School related to their experiences in the Auburn Public Schools. The next stakeholder meeting will take place on December 13th where we will continue to synthesize the data to identify the barriers that may exist for historically underrepresented groups of students.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

New Scholarship

Dr. Handfield informed the committee Mrs. Wirzbicki was not present as she was attending the Town's Budget kick-off meeting. During the 2019-2020 school year, Donna Heidemann and her Enterprise Support Class took in small used furniture donations and refinished the pieces for sale. The proceeds were to be used for a field trip that was planned but canceled due to COVID. The course no longer exists. Donna would like to use the \$350 to establish a scholarship to benefit students who were in the program and are now graduating and going on to college.

Recommended Motion.....to accept the amount of \$350 for a Scholarship to be awarded to a Senior Evolve student at graduation, raised by Donna Heidemann and her former Enterprise class.

Gail Holloway made a motion to accept the \$350 to establish a scholarship to benefit students who were in the Enterprise Support Class and now graduating, Jessie Harrington seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Recommended Motion: ... to adjourn into executive session to discuss litigation and bargaining position that could be compromised if discussed in open session.

Gail Holloway made a motion to adjourn into executive session, Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:51 p.m. the meeting was adjourned into executive session.

Mr. Scobie entertained the motion to adjourn for the evening at 6:59 p.m.; Gail Holloway made a motion to adjourn, Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Southern Worcester County First Quarter Report

Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Annual Report 2021