

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

February 2, 2022 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Zoom

George Scobie

Jessie Harrington

Gail Holloway

Meghan McCrillis

Dottie Kauffman

Beth Chamberland

Cecelia Wirzbicki

CALL TO ORDER:

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Minutes: 12/15/21, 1/5/22 and 1/19/22 minutes were approved.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 12/15/21, 1/5/22 and 1/19/22.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the minutes from 12/15/21, 1/5/22 and 1/19/22, Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Chamberland spoke of John Robert Anderson, who passed away peacefully at his home with his wife and son at his side on January 23, 2022. He was a co-founder, writer, and photographer for Auburn Mass Daily, contributing articles and photographs on all things Auburn. He especially enjoyed following Auburn sports and you could find John at most Auburn High School games. John was a wonderful supporter of all of our schools and was always willing to post, share and

write about the happenings in the Auburn Public Schools. For many years, John was an Auburn town meeting member and a representative on the Auburn Open Space Committee. He also coached Auburn Youth Soccer. A moment of silence was held.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

[Jasmyn Gates](#) spoke of the AP Government We The People virtual competition over the weekend, Auburn came in 3rd place. A memorial basketball game was held in honor of Mr. Bedard. \$700 was raised for his memorial scholarship. Jasmyn also spoke about the new group Students for Diversity and their goals for Black History Month.

[Ally McGill](#) stated we are at the halfway point in the trimester, Mr. Delongchamp recently announced that the Winter Carnival is back and will be held February 14-18th. Boys & Girls Hockey and Indoor Track are also having successful sports seasons.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COVID Update

Information

Dr. Chamberland provided an update on COVID cases and other pertinent details since our last meeting.

- New COVID 19 Testing Program and Enrollment
- COVID 19 Positives Reporting
- New DESE guidelines, minor changes
- Trending in the right direction

Fee Schedule Review

Information

As discussed at the January 19, 2022 School Committee Meeting, we conducted a review of the substitute rates paid in neighboring districts. Based on this information and in consultation with Mrs. Wirzbicki, Dr. Chamberland recommended the following changes to the rates paid to substitute teachers and support staff in the district. The fee schedule for building use will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

	Auburn Current Rates	Recommended Rates
Day to Day	\$80.00	\$90.00
Day to Day Certified	\$85.00	\$100.00
Retire Certified District Teacher	\$90.00	\$110.00
LTS 1-29 Days	\$85.00	\$110.00
LTS 31-90 Days	\$150.00	\$150.00
LTS 91+ days	BA Step 1	BA Step 1
Instructional Assistants	\$12.00/hour	\$80.00/day(\$12.30/hour)
ABAs	\$ 12.30/hour	\$90.00/day(\$12.85/hour)

George Scobie agreed with the rate change to remain competitive. It was agreed that administration would come up with a few projections to see how the rate change would affect the budget. Will discuss and vote in an upcoming meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Auburn Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendar

Action

In collaboration with building administrators and central office administrators, the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year was presented.

Jessie Harrington asked that we make half days for students more prominent in the calendar by adding a slash through the date.

Recommended Motion.....to accept the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school Year.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year, Meagan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Approval of School Choice for the 2022-2023 School Year

Action

Per Massachusetts General Law, Massachusetts school districts are required to vote on continuance of school choice in their district. School Choice has been an important aspect of our school budget for the last decade. We have also enjoyed welcoming wonderful students and families to the district through the School Choice program. As we prepare for the FY'23 budget, it was Dr. Chamberland's recommendation that we continue the school choice program. The number of students to be accepted into the district will be determined as we get closer to March and demographics are finalized for next year.

Recommended Motion:.....to continue the school choice program in the Auburn Public Schools and to allow the Superintendent to decide what the number of students into the district will be after reviewing demographic data more closely.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the proposal to continue the School Choice Program and allow the Superintendent to decide the number of open seats available,

Meagan McCrillis made a motion to accept the proposal to continue the School Choice Program and allow the Superintendent to decide the number of open seats available. Gail Holloway seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Auburn Lodge of Elks Donation

Action

The Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118, presented Brian Davis, our athletic Director, with a \$200 donation to help defray the cost of commemorative t-shirts which were purchased for the Tarentino Cup Varsity football game.

Recommended Motion: ... to accept with gratitude, the donation of \$200 from The Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the \$200 donation from The Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118, with gratitude.

Jessie Harrington made a motion to accept the \$200 donation from The Auburn Lodge of Elks with gratitude, [Gail Holloway](#) seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Operation Surprise from The Home Depot

Action

Mr. Dustin Kruckas, store manager at The Home Depot here in Auburn, nominated Bryn Mawr School for the Operation Surprise Grant Program. Bryn Mawr has been awarded \$1000.00. The money will go a long way to help support the students.

Recommended Motion: ... to accept with gratitude, \$1000.00 from Operation Surprise and The Home Depot.

George Scobie entertained the motion to accept with gratitude the \$1000 from Operation Surprise and The Home Depot.

Meagan McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude the \$1000 from Operation Surprise and The Home Depot. [Gail Holloway](#) seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

FIRST Robotics for Auburn High School Students

Information

Dr. Chamberland announced a great new opportunity for the students of Auburn High School to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition. FIRST stands for, "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." Dubbed the varsity Sport for

the Mind,[™] FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills, and build and program a robot to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real world” engineering as a student can get. Professional Mentors volunteer their time and talents to guide each team. Robots are built in 6 weeks from a common kit of parts provided by FIRST, and typically weigh up to 150 lbs. This year, we will join a team through the Sutton Public Schools with the hope that next year, we are able to have our own team.

Encore Program-Update

Information

Dr. Chamberland spoke of the five associates enrolled in our 18-22 year old Transition Program that are currently attending fourteen Vocational Sites both within the Auburn Public Schools and out in the Auburn Community over the course of a week. Two of the associates are working independently at vocational sites including running the dishwasher room at Auburn Middle School as well as doing Meal Prep in the kitchen at Swanson Road Intermediate School. The other associates work with faded support in a variety of other roles. In addition to working at places such as Park ‘N Shop and Big Lots, we are quite proud of new opportunities which include not only keeping track of our PPE Gear and filling orders throughout the school system but as recent as this week we received cases of both Test and Stay kits for the school nurses to use and the recent arrival of Test At Home Kits which our associates have both inventoried and packed up for individual shipments to each school to be distributed. We look forward to continuing to help with this recent proactive measure, along with Test At Home Kits for Students, distributing test kits bi-weekly.

The other tier of our Transition Program, **Evolve**, located at Auburn High Schools, currently attends seven different vocational sites over the course of the week and provides vocational opportunities for eight students. Some of these opportunities include Blackstone Valley Nutrition in Millbury as well as running the town wide inter-office mail run, 3 times a week as well as a wide variety of in-house jobs including work in four of our school cafeterias along with delivering mail to staff at the high school.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

FY’23 Budget and Chapter 70 funding from the State

Information

The Governor released the preliminary FY2023 Chapter 70 aid and net school spending requirements on January 26, 2022. Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Chamberland will be meeting with the Town Manager and CFO to discuss how this will impact Auburn’s FY’23 Draft Budget which

was approved at the January 6th meeting and has been forwarded to the Town. Mrs. Wirzbicki will provide an update at the meeting.

Bus Application for 2022-2023 School Year

Action

Mrs. Wirzbicki presented and asked the committee for their approval of the bus application for the 2022-2023 school year. The fee will remain at \$100 for those students who have to pay (Grades 7 through 12 and Grades K-6 who live less than 2 miles from the school they attend) with a family cap of \$250. The late fee remains at \$100 per child, no cap. We will continue to use Zippslip for the collection of responses. The due date will be June 1, 2022.

Recommended Motion.....to approve the bus application for the 2022-2023 school year.

George Scobie entertained the motion to accept the Bus Application for the 2022-2023 school year as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the Bus Application for the 2022-2023 school year as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki. Meagan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Year to Date Budget Report

Information

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated January 26, 2022.

Budget Transfers

Action

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated January 26, 2022 between the same series, along with a listing of Transfers between different series for which she was seeking approval from the committee.

Recommended Motion.....to approve the list of Transfers dated January 26, 2022 as presented by the business manager.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the list of transfers as presented by the Business Manager.

Meagan McCrillis made a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated January 26, 2022 , Dottie Kauffman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Adjournment **Roll Call Vote**

Mr. Scobie entertained the motion to adjourn for the evening at 7:04 p.m.; Dottie Kauffman made a motion to adjourn, Jessie Harrington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes: 12/15/21, 1/5/22, 1/19/22

Fee Schedule

2022-2023 School Calendar

2022-2023 Bus application

Year to Date Report Dated 1/26/22

Budget Transfers Dated 1/26/22