

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

September 22, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

George Scobie

Gail Holloway

Dottie Kauffman

Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield

Beth Chamberland

Cecelia Wirzbicki

Karen Ballway

Absent

Jessie Harrington - absent

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Introduction of New Teachers - Dr. Handfield, Dr. Chamberland, Mr. Delongchamp, Mr. Desto, Dr. Lopez, Mrs. Mahan & Mrs. Stanick welcomed 20 new professional teaching and counseling staff to the Auburn Public Schools. The new staff and building principals joined the meeting via Zoom for their introduction to the School committee.

The committee welcomed the new staff to the district.

Motion made to approve 6/16/21, 8/17/21 & 9/8/21 school committee meeting minutes, Meghan McCrillis made motion to accept, seconded by Gail Holloway, unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: Jasmyn Gates, and newly appointed Junior class representative, Alli McGill

Jasmyn stated students are excited and happy to be back in school. This is homecoming weekend, multiple sports will be play this weekend and the homecoming dance will be held outside next weekend. Seniors are gearing up for college deadlines.

Alli McGill stated it has been a fun homecoming week with daily events and dress up days, students are looking forward to the dance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COVID Update:

Dr. Handfield stated we are 14 days into the school year and we have reported 27 positive cases. Out of the 27 cases, 24 cases have been unvaccinated, 2 fully vaccinated and 1 partial vaccination. Dr. Handfield also stated we have had 29 close contacts, which many have been vaccinated.

We continue to track vaccination rates in the district as well as moving forward with the CIC initiative, but currently there are not enough providers to help support the testing initiative in the district. Dr. Chamberland has actively recruited people to join the team to assist and help with the testing. We have had the tests for over a month, but do not have the staff from CIC to implement the program. This is a problem across the state. Dr. Handfield also states he understands the stress this has put on families but he appreciates their understanding and patience. We appear to have trended up with cases following Labor Day, but we seem to be trending down.

Gail Holloway asked if we have a gauge on staff vaccinations. Dr. Chamberland states we have sent a questionnaire to all Staff and an update will be made in October. We have a 90% response for interest in the CIC testing program.

Meghan McCrillis asked if the mask mandate will be updated by the State prior to October 1, 2021. Dr. Handfield stated he anticipated an update from the state by the end of the week.

New Business:

Staples Donation:

Dr. Handfield informed the committee that Staples in Auburn donated 500 stocked pencil boxes to the school district. They have been sent to Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag. Another 500 boxes are coming and will be distributed to Swanson Road Intermediate School. Dr. Handfield thanked Staples for their generous donation, and thanked Kristien Pappas for assisting with procuring the donation and delivering the materials.

Superintendent's Goal 2021 - 2022:

Dr. Handfield presented his goals for the 2021 -2022 school year.

1. To continue his participation in the New Superintendent's Induction Program.
2. To review and update the strategic plan.

Recommended Motion:

Dr. Handfield recommended to accept the superintendent's goals for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Dottie Kaufman made a motion to approve, Gail Holloway seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

Teaching and Learning Report:

Center for Leadership & Educational Equity (CLEE)

Dr. Chamberland reported the first collaborative meeting with CLEE was held on Monday September 13th. The group, composed of teachers, administrators, guidance staff, students and parents utilized protocols to help create a vision for the work of the group to ensure that all students have an equitable experience in our district allowing each student to reach his or her full potential. We also began an exploration of AP, MCAS, and Demographic Data. The group has 3 additional meetings scheduled. The work of this group will be combined with information gathered from student, parent and staff focus groups that will take place later this fall.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Dr. Chamberland reported the professional development related to the incorporation of Universal Design for Learning into the Auburn Public Schools began on Tuesday, September 14th when all principals participated in a general session on team creation, the identification of instructional coaches and scheduling. Building leaders will continue to attend monthly sessions. On Thursday, September 16th two teachers selected from each building will participate in their first monthly, full-day training session on the incorporation of UDL into their teaching. The training they receive will support the long term sustainability of UDL in our district as they become the resource upon which others can rely. We have committed to three years of formal training for all teaching staff on the practices of UDL. We know this will make Auburn an even greater district.

Dr. Chamberland stated across the buildings, staff and students are happy to be back in person.

Business/Financial Report:

Budget Timeline Approval

Cecelia Wirzbicki reported a copy of the FY23 Budget Timeline has been provided for review and approval as the formulation of the Budget for the coming school year is about to begin.

Recommended Motion:

To approve the FY23 Budget TimeLine as presented by the Superintendent and Business Manager.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve, Gail Holloway seconded, unanimously approved.

Year to Date Budget Report:

Mrs. Wirzbicki has provided the FY22 Year to date Budget Report dated September 14, 2021 for review.

Budget Transfers:

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a list of Budget transfers dated September 14, 2021 in an effort to account for salary increases for the new Fiscal year. Many of the transfers are within the same series and presented for information. However, there are some transfers listed that are between different series requiring approval.

Recommended Motion:

To approve the Budget Transfers between the different series dated September 14, 2021 as presented by the Business Manager.

Gail Holloway made a motion to approve, Dottie Kaufman seconded, unanimously approved.

Bussing update:

Cecelia Wirzbicki is happy to report arrival and departure has been on time and running smoothly. The daily headcounts have fallen within limits. A few reports of elementary students removing their mask on the bus, it has been quickly addressed and rectified. We have no students on the waitlist for busing, we have been able to accommodate all requests.

Dr. Handfield thanked AA transportation for being so accommodating and dependable with their efforts.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:28 p.m. meeting adjourned Mr. Scobie made a motion to adjourn for the evening; Mrs. Kaufman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

2021 - 2022 New Teaching Staff

2021- 2022 Superintendent Goals

Auburn Public Schools FY 2023 Budget Timeline

Year to Date Budget Report as of 9/14/2021

FY22 Budget Transfers

