

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

January 18, 2023 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jessie Harrington

Gail Holloway

Meghan McCrillis

Brooke Wrenn

Samantha Raphael

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Isabella Faber - Student Representative

Karen Ballway

Vincent Benacchio - HS teacher, Model UN Advisor

Alisen Laferriere - HS teacher, Model UN Advisor

Hailey Swenson (Student) - 35 Arlington Street (Student Spotlight)

Claire & Scott Swenson - 35 Arlington Street (Student Spotlight)

Absent

Zoom

CALL TO ORDER:

Jessie Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Meghan McCrillis read out loud the Auburn Public School Vision & Commitment.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

Minutes: 1/4/23

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 1/4/23.

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to accept the minutes from 1/1/23. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Isabella Faber:

- We are at the halfway point of the school year, academics are going smoothly but the work is ramping up slightly, especially in AP classes. We're working to stay consistent and up to date with our assignments.
- In terms of extracurriculars,
 - The class of 2024 is holding a semi formal Winter ball on February 4th to raise money for our class.
 - There is a Quebec Trip next week, which about 50 students, mostly French students will be attending.
 - Auditions are completed and the cast has been selected for the spring musical Beauty and the Beast.
 - On a similar note, 4 Auburn students participated in the CDMMEA district select choir honor music festival.
 - Kweku Akese
 - Neil Grosvener
 - Arlow Johnson
 - Hayden Plumb

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Spotlight on Students:

Dr. Chamberland introduced Model UN Advisors Vincent Benacchio and Alisen LaFeriére, as well as Model UN student, Hailey Swenson.

Hailey gave an overview of Model UN and how it has benefited her.

- Discuss important topics.
- Work with people of different beliefs.
- Public Speaking

Model UN was recently at Brown University, it was a wonderful experience.

Dr. Chamberland and the committee thanked Hailey and the advisors for committing their time to the students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Superintendent's Mid-Year Goals Update

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find a mid-year update of the Superintendent Goals approved by the Committee earlier this year. This is being shared both to keep the Committee informed of my progress and to also hear feedback the Committee may have on my performance thus far this school year. A survey will be sent out in the Spring to all staff members that report to me for feedback.

Meghan McCrillis: Now that you have completed your listening sessions in the buildings, will you circle back to follow up?

Dr. Chamberland: Yes, especially at the high school, given the topics discussed, but I will circle back to the middle school and SWIS as well.

Student Opportunity Act Update

Dr. Chamberland: On July 8, 2020, the School Committee approved the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) plan as required to be submitted to DESE. This plan reflects the District commitment to programming to impact student learning gaps. The plan as approved is included in your packet. The funding for this plan is part of the Chapter 70 money we receive each year. In April, we are required to provide an update to DESE which when complete, will be shared with the Committee as well.

Jessie Harrington: The plan indicates the FY 21 budget and funding for the BRYT classrooms, was this staffed by our own teachers?

Dr. Chamberland: We hired additional staff and used ESSR money for the BRYT classrooms.

Samantha Raphael: I have witnessed with my own kids the adjustments teachers have made and how they have implemented UDL in the classroom.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023-2024 School Year Calendar

Dr. Chamberland: Included in your packet is the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendar. The calendar increases the number of half days from 3 days in the 2022-2023 school year to 5 half days in the 2023-2024 school year calendar. Per the AEA contract, we will continue with 4 full professional development days. The version before you has been reviewed, revised and supported by the members of the Leadership Team as well as Leadership from the AEA.

Meghan McCrillis: I have concerns increasing the number of half days. This may be difficult for families and childcare. A few years ago we were having a half day a month and I don't want to go back to that.

Jessie Harrington: Dr. Chamberland, can you explain the benefit of having 5 half days?

Dr. Chamberland: We are hard pressed with only 4 full days. To have those ½ days it helps with time to go over student data and address building based issues. Especially with faculty meetings down to 21 per year from 26.

Meghan McCrillis: I would like to see what other districts are doing.

Samantha Rapahel: In my district, we only have ½ days and they go by fast. We have about one a month.

Dr. Chamberland: We fall in line with surrounding districts, I am happy to share those calendars with you. Our ½ days used to be on a Wednesday, I am hopeful that our placement now is easier for families.

Gail Holloway: The ½ days count by the state towards the 180 day school year.

Jessie Harrington: Is it unreasonable to bring back the afterschool program on half days to assist families?

Dr. Chamberland: I will have to look into it. Before and after school is staffed by our own people who will benefit from this Professional Development Time.

Brooke Wrenn: There are only so many hours, not everyone will be happy, But I think this calendar is the best we could do.

Samantha Raphael: Overall I like the calendar, I just have 2 concerns. The Professional Development Day in January extending the student break, and the 2 days at the start of the school year. I just want to make sure teachers have time to set up their classrooms.

Jessie Harrington: Are we ready to vote, or do you (Meghan McCrillis) need time to research calendars in other districts?

Meghan McCrillis: You can entertain the motion, I just won't vote. I would like 4 ½ days not 5.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to *table the* vote of the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to *table the vote of the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar*. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was approved by 4 votes, as Gail Holloway refrained from voting.

Approval of School Choice for the 2023-2024 School Year

Dr. Chamberland: 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. It is my recommendation that we continue the school choice program. The numbers of students to be accepted into the district will be determined as we get closer to March and demographics are finalized for next year.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to continue the school choice program for the 2023-2024 school year in the Auburn Public Schools at Auburn High School and Auburn Middle School with the actual number of open school choice slots to be determined in March after reviewing demographic data more closely.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to continue the school choice program for the 2023-2024 school year in the Auburn Public Schools at Auburn High School and Auburn Middle School with the actual number of open school choice slots to be determined in March after reviewing demographic data more closely. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Hanover Theater Grant

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find a letter from The Arthur M. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation. I am pleased to report that they have once again funded a 3-year grant initiative that allows for every student in the Auburn Public Schools to attend a yearly performance at the Hanover Theater. The Auburn MA PTO funded the transportation for these events. This year, they have already funded an Auburn Middle School trip to Hanover to see A Christmas Carol and have funding set aside for additional trips.

Jessie Harrington: What is the cost for the bus?

Cecelia Wirzbicki: Between \$500 - \$700.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to support the participation of the Auburn Public Schools in the grant funded program by The Arthur M. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation at the Hanover Theater in Worcester.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to support the participation of the Auburn Public Schools in the grant funded program by the Arthur M. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation at the Hanover Theater in Worcester. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

School Committee Policy Sub-Committee

Dr. Chamberland: I am proposing the creation of a sub-committee to review all School Committee policies and make recommendations for updates based on the policies readily available from MASC. I propose there be two school committee members and myself on the subcommittee and that the subcommittee meet monthly for 2 hours to review all policies and the current policy book and make recommendations to the larger committee for changes and updates.

Jessie Harrington & Meghan McCrillis volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to create a School Committee Policy Subcommittee composed of herself & Meghan McCrillis and the Superintendent for the purpose of reviewing all current policies and making recommendations for revisions and updates to the full Committee.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to create a School Committee Policy Subcommittee composed of Jessie Harrington, Meghan McCrillis and the Superintendent for the purpose of reviewing all current policies and making recommendations for revisions and updates to the full Committee. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Director of Food Services Retirement

Dr. Chamberland: Janice King, who has served as the Director of Food Services for the past ten years will be retiring at the end of March 2023. I would like to thank Mrs. King for the dedication and professionalism that she has brought to this position and all of the support she has provided to our students and staff over the years. The position has been posted internally on School Spring and on Indeed. I am creating an interview team that will work to fill this position.

Jessie Harrington: She has been an asset to the district, we wish her well.

AVC Annual Report

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find the Annual Report from the Assabet Valley Collaborative for your review. This was approved by the AVC Board of Directors at the December 16, 2022 meeting.

SWCEC Annual Report

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find the Annual Report from the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative. This was approved by the SWCEC Board of Directors at the December 16, 2022 meeting.

Donations

Dr. Chamberland: The following donations have graciously been given to the Auburn Public Schools.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Browning from Auburn Graphics

On behalf of the Auburn Middle School, we thank the Browning Family for their generous donation to be used toward the 8th grade field trip to Philadelphia and New York City. The money will be deposited into the Student Activity Account and used as directed.

On behalf of Pakachoag Elementary School, we would like to thank Katrin Sanford from Fallon Health, for the generous donation of a conference table and chairs. This will be a tremendous benefit to the building.

On behalf of Central Office, we would like to thank Katrin Sanford from Fallon Health, for the generous donation of a large conference table and chairs for Mr. Keller's office. This will allow him to have professional development in his office for small groups of teachers and substitute teacher/staff candidates.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept with gratitude, the generous monetary donation from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Browning for the Student Activity Account to benefit the 8th grade field trip to Philadelphia and New York City, as well as the conference table and chairs donation to Pakachoag Elementary and Central Office from Fallon Health.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude, the generous monetary donation from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Browning for the Student Activity Account to benefit the 8th grade field trip to Philadelphia and New York City, as well as the conference table and chairs donated to Pakachoag Elementary and Central Office from Fallon Health. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Alan Keller: 2023 started with a professional development day on January 3 centered on Universal Design for Learning. We are in the second year of a three-year commitment to UDL which focuses on designing instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that accommodate the needs of all learners. Each school worked with their UDL trainer along with their UDL coaches (staff members) to review exemplar lessons at their content/level and develop their own lessons rooted in the principles of UDL.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated January 10, 2023 for review.

Budget Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated January 10, 2023, between the same series for information and between different series for approval.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to *approve the list of Transfers dated January 10 2023, as presented by the Business Manager.*

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to *approve the list of Transfers dated January 10, 2023, as presented by the Business Manager*. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session: None

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meghan McCrillis made the motion to adjourn for the evening. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Roll Call Vote
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes for 1/4/23

Superintendent's Performance Goals

Student Opportunity Plan SY 2021 - 2023

Auburn Public Schools 2023-2024 School Calendar

Letter from The Arthur M. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation

Assabet Valley Collaborative 2022 Annual Report

Southern Worcester County 2022 Annual Report

Thank you letters from AMS & Pakachoag

Year to Date Budget Report Dated 1/10/23

Budget Transfers Dated 1/10/23

Approved 2-1-23