

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

September 21, 2022 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Brooke Wrenn

Samantha Raphael

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Brooke Beverly, Bryn Mawr Principal

Jenna Bailey, Bryn Mawr Art Teacher

Libby Dumais, High School French Teacher

Nicole Vecchio, High School Spanish Teacher

Euridices, ALonso & Emmanuel DeJesus - 11 Lorna Drive Auburn

Cathleen Rivard, Maggie & Morgan Dunphy - 325 Oxford Street North Auburn

Melissa, Paul & Beatria Tomasello - 17 Wellman Street Auburn

Sarah & Evelyn Schofield - 266 Bryn Mawr Ave Auburn

Absent

Gail Holloway

Zoom

Unable to connect to Zoom

CALL TO ORDER:

Jessie Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Chamberland recognized the passing of two former Auburn Public Schools teachers.

Mary Nowaszcki, worked in the district for 34 years. She was a 7th grade Social Studies teacher.

Glen Williams spent his career in Auburn in the Auburn High School Art Department before retiring in 1999.

A moment of silence was held. .

Minutes: 9/7/22

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 9/7/22.

Brooke Wrenn a motion to accept the minutes from 9/7/22. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Spotlight on Students

Dr. Chamberland introduced Bryn Mawr Elementary School Art teacher Jenna Bailey, along with 6 students Alonzo & Emmanuel De Jesus, Maggie & Morgan Dunphy, Beatria Tomasello and Evelyn Schofield shared their experience with Dot Day, celebrated on September 15th. *The Dot* is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to "make her mark". What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

School Safety

Dr. Chamberland: The District Safety Team met on Thursday, September 15th to review the protocols for the October 7th Active Shooter Drills that will take place at each school building. The goal was to make this experience meaningful while also maintaining a sense of security and calm for all involved. Details of the drill will be shared with all staff prior to that day to ensure everyone feels supported and confident in the process with the goal being to minimize any fear or anxiety on the part of staff. There will be a debrief session at each school following the drill with the Safety Team so that all questions are answered. The District Safety Team also discussed the protocol for the drills that will take place with students at Auburn Middle School and Auburn High School. Parents and students will be notified in advance of what to expect during these drills. Again, the drills are being crafted to ensure everyone feels supported and confident in the process with the goal being to minimize any fear or anxiety on the part of students and staff. All schools have conducted their first fire drill under the supervision of the Auburn Fire Department and all went well.

COVID 19 Update

Dr. Chamberland: COVID 19 remains a factor in our schools, although much less so than in the past two years. She continues to report COVID 19 positive cases twice each week. Nurses track COVID 19 positive cases and families of any classroom in which there are 3 or more cases within a short time frame, are notified to monitor their child for symptoms and to keep their child home if they do not feel well. We did have a trend of positive cases at Bryn Mawr School last week but that seemingly has gone back to being in line with the other schools. Regular cleanings continue to take place in all buildings, students are encouraged to wash hands and use sanitizer and we are adjusting to the 'new normal' in relation to COVID 19. Dr. Chamberland is in constant contact with the Board of Health and DESE. She said she continues to be thankful for the efforts of our nursing team. They are conducting in-school testing of symptomatic staff and students, another tool in our efforts to keep everyone healthy.

Meghan McCrillis asked: How will parents be notified of more than 3 positives in a classroom?

Dr. Chamberland : From the principals.

Brooke Wrenn asked: How is the substitute teacher list?

Dr. Chamberland: Not enough, but Alan Keller is working hard to increase the list and get the subs into the buildings.

Alan Keller: Interviewing subs on Zoom and working hard to add more. Alan stated that since the beginning of the school year he has added 8 additional subs to the list.

Busing

Dr. Chamberland: Busing has gone well thus far this school year. The Administrative Assistants in our main office, Mandy Williams, Caitlin O'Neill and Kelley Ackley did a remarkable job creating bus lists, distributing bus passes and monitoring bus ridership. AA Transportation has collaborated with us on revising routes and also monitoring ridership. As of September 15th, we had 41 students on a waiting list. This was done

to allow bus drivers to complete actual counts of riders. All students have now been assigned to a bus and families have been notified of such. We will continue to monitor ridership throughout the school year.

Consolidated Human Resource Review

Dr. Chamberland: Early last school year, we began a collaboration with the leadership of the Town of Auburn related to Human Resources. The Town, using a grant, was able to facilitate the completion of a study on the Human Resource roles and practices by The Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at UMASS Boston for both the Town and The School Department. This study required the gathering of a great deal of information along with a number of interviews with leadership and staff of both the Town and the School Department. This information was shared with the School Committee last school year and the Committee was in support of this process. On Monday, September 12, 2022, the final report was shared with the Town Selectboard. This report recommends that the Assistant Town Manager, to be hired in January upon the retirement of Julie Jacobson and the assumption of Ed Kazanovicz as the Town Manager, have experience in Human Resources along with the appropriate Human Resource certifications. Also recommended is the addition of a Human Resource Generalist to assist in the day to day work of Human Resources. These changes would help to improve efficiencies, ensure that all legal requirements related to Human Resources were met, concentrate many Human Resource activities into one office and provide overall streamlined Human Resource functions to the Town.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Chamberland: Two Superintendent Listening sessions have been scheduled for families to discuss updates to the Strategic Plan. The sessions will be held at Auburn Middle School on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30PM for families of students at Auburn High School and Auburn Middle Schools and at Pakachoag School on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:30PM for elementary and preschool families. Dr. Chamberland will be sharing the form with families on a regular basis leading up to the sessions to encourage families to attend. Dr. Chamberland will present the survey questions that will be asked of students at SWIS, AMS and AHS as part of my 'listening tour' at a later date. Compiled results will be shared when student and staff listening sessions are complete.

Jessie Harrington asked: Will the sessions be recorded or will minutes be taken?

Dr. Chamberland: Minutes will be taken.

Green Dome Update

Dr. Chamberland: Mr. Fahey and Dr. Chamberland met with 3 representatives of the Green Dome Committee, on September 13, 2022. Dr. Chamberland was pleased to inform the Committee that they have obtained a local, licensed contractor, Murphy's Home Repair, to remove the lead paint and repair the Green Dome located on Auburn Street outside of the baseball field. Repairs will commence mid-October and should take 7-10 days. A second phase may follow at a later date for the installation of a fence

around the Green Dome area. All necessary approvals have been obtained from the Town as well. All of this work is being funded by donations received by the Green Dome Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Auburn High School Graduation Date

Dr. Chamberland: The Leadership at Auburn High School is asking the Committee to change the 2023 Graduation Date from June 9, 2023 to June 2, 2023 at 7:00pm on Memorial Field. This is being done to create a less hectic and more enjoyable experience for our graduating seniors and for staff. In addition to the change in the date of graduation, a number of changes to senior events will also happen to spread out the graduation events in a more manageable manner.

Samantha Raphael asked: When is the last day of school for Seniors?

Alan Keller: May 26th

Recommended Motion....to approve the date change of the Auburn High School Graduation from June 9, 2023 to June 2, 2023.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the date change of the Auburn High School Graduation from June 9, 2023 to June 2, 2023.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the date change of the Auburn High School Graduation from June 9, 2023 to June 2, 2023. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Auburn High School Field Trip to Quebec

Dr. Chamberland: In the packet was a request from Elizabeth Dumais at Auburn High School to take up to 50 Auburn High School students to Quebec City, Quebec Canada. This is a trip that took place for many years prior to COVID 19. The goal of this trip is to immerse students in French-Canadian culture. More details are in your packet.

Libby Dumais expanded on the information in the packet and was available for questions.

Jessie Harrington: Do kids know they need a passport to attend this trip?

Libby Dumais: Yes, but we will also hold a family meeting and go over all the information again. As of right now you have to be fully vaccinated to enter Canada. But that is set to expire on 9/30/22, we will be paying attention to that as well.

Brooke Wrenn: How many chaperones?

Libby Dumais: 35 students - 4 chaperones, 40+ - 5 chaperones

Dr. Chamberland: Should have a COVID plan and check with the travel company regarding insurance if the Canadian border closes.

Megan McCrillis added: Check to see if COVID swaps are required to re-enter.

Recommended Motion....to approve the Auburn High School Field Trip to Quebec, January 26-29, 2023.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the Auburn High School Field Trip to Quebec, January 26-29, 2023.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the Auburn High School Field Trip to Quebec, January 26-29, 2023. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

The Reserve at Ashworth Hill

Dr. Chamberland: Presented to the Committee was information related to The Reserve at Ashworth Hill. This is a housing development proposed by Eastland Partners to construct 324 units of housing off Blaker Street. The Select Board voted to support this initiative on October 28, 2019. The pandemic and supply chain issues delayed the project and they have now come forward with an updated timeline for completion. At the time of this proposal, it was estimated that the public schools could potentially be impacted by the enrollment of 67 school aged children. Dr. Chamberland also included a historical overview of enrollment by grade.

Jessie Harrington: This project could potentially put a strain on our district, especially at the Middle School. Our needs might be different now since the original conversation, can that be revisited?

Dr. Chamberland: Stated she would talk to Julie Jacobson, but did not think there was room for change. She said we would need to think about space issues, buses and staff.

Jessie Harrington: Modules at the Middle School?

Dr. Chamberland: Potentially.

Meghan McCrillis: Bryn Mawr students aren't able to leave the classrooms for Art due to space constraints, which could become widespread. Another question for Julie Jacobson, can some of the money the project is allocating for the 4th of July and the Summer Concert Series, can it come our way?

Brooke Wrenn: Any idea how many updates we will receive?

Dr. Chamberland: No, not at this time.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Alan Keller: In addition to the Active Shooter Drills on October 7, the staff at each of our schools will participate in the first of two sessions on Anti-Bias training, the goal of which is ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff. This training session has been designed for us and will be facilitated by the Anti Defamation League (ADL) based on feedback from the Equity Audit, goal areas in our Strategic Plan, and feedback from our administrative team. The sessions will establish a shared understanding of the different forms of bias (e.g., explicit, implicit, racism, anti-semitism, sexism, etc), develop effective bias incident intervention and prevention strategies and identify actionable steps to facilitate more inclusive and equitable classrooms and school communities.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT: None

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Adjournment
Roll Call Vote

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes for 9/7/22

Consolidated Human Resource Review

Auburn High School Field Trip to Quebec

The Reserve at Ashworth Hill

Historical Overview of enrollment by grade

Approved 10/12/22