

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

December 13, 2023 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Absent

Zoom

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Brooke Wrenn

Samantha Rapahel

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Jennifer Stanick

Katie Luby

Srg, Scott Mills

CALL TO ORDER:

Jessie Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

Jessie Harrington asked if we had any citizens here to comment either in the audience or on Zoom. There were no comments.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Chamberland acknowledged and congratulated the following student athletes as the 2023 Fall SWCL All Stars:

Jon Rocheford - First Team SWCL All Stars Boy Golf
Trevor Amero - First Team SWCL All Stars Boy Golf
Anthony Casillo - Second Team SWCL All Stars Boy Golf
Logan Mulcahy - Second Team SWCL All Stars Boy Golf
Emma Ellis - First Team SWCL All Star Girls Cross Country
Emily Hunter - Second Team SWCL All Star Girls Cross Country
Natalie Frazier - First Team SWCL All Stars Girls Soccer
Molly Hilditch - First Team SWCL All Stars Girls Soccer
Zhunay Moulton - First Team SWCL All Stars Girls Soccer
Omar Abu-Lail - First Team SWCL All Stars Boys Soccer
Nick Almeida - First Team SWCL All Stars Boys Soccer
Alex Mercadante - Second Team SWCL All Stars Boys Soccer
James Almeida - Second Team SWCL All Stars Boys Soccer
Gianna Candelaria - First Team SWCL All Stars Field Hockey
Maia Tatum - First Team SWCL All Stars Field Hockey
Maeve Whittemore - First Team SWCL All Field Hockey

Jessie Harrington, great job everyone!

Minutes: 11/29/23

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 11/29/23

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to accept the minutes from 11/29/23. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Spotlight: None

Dr. Chamberland asked that the first item under new business be addressed now so Sergeant Mills can attend another meeting.

Body Worn Cameras

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the Auburn Public Schools and Auburn Police Department. In January of

2024, the Auburn Police Department will issue Body Worn Cameras(BWC) to all of its members. Our SROs, while they work in the schools, are still considered to be patrolmen and as such, will be issued a BWC. The Memorandum in your packet outlines a draft policy for the presence of BWC in our schools to ensure the safety of our students and staff along with confidentiality for the same. Sergeant Mills is present to answer any questions the committee may have. In researching with other school districts, very few have a policy on this, but I did find one. Because the concern is student and staff privacy. The cameras would only be employed in the event of a very serious offense, something that would require police intervention, not for disciplinary issues within the building. The cameras do have to be turned on, and when they are, a light also goes on, so looking at them you would know it is recording. The memorandum also gives me as superintendent access to any of the footage, but I don't think there would be any need to do that unless statutorily required or required because of an investigation.

Sergeant Mills: The go live date is January 3, 2024.

Brooke Wrenn: We're at times where I think it is absolutely necessary and I think it needs to be done. It's unfortunate we are at this point, but for everyone's safety I think it is needed.

Jessie Harrington: I agree, my only concern is starting the body cameras before we have a policy. Timing wise that is a concern for me.

Dr. Chamberland: Our next meeting is January 3, 2024, is that enough time for the committee to review this policy and make a final decision? This is actually a memorandum so there is no need for three readings prior to a vote.

Dr. Chamberland asked Sergeant Mills if the SRO's could start wearing the body cams on January 4, 2024¹ after the school committee meeting on January 3rd. Sergeant Mills agreed.

Sergeant Mills: We appreciate the collaboration and teamwork with the schools. We have discussed with the SRO's that it is under extremely limited circumstances that they would deploy the cameras. The cameras are being issued to everyone from the Chief down. It is unfortunate that there is a need, but it is also based on transparency and accountability. There is no inadvertent recording, the button must be pressed to start recording, and people will be verbally informed when recording is happening.

Unfinished Business:

FY '25 Draft Budget

Dr. Chamberland: The FY '25 draft budget was presented to you two weeks ago. It will go before you on January 3rd for a vote to go on to the town. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

There were none.

Field Trip Policy Draft

Policy Updates

Dr. Chamberland: We have been talking a lot about field trips and what we need for a policy whether it be nationally or internationally. I did a lot of research through MASC and given all of the discussion that we've been having related to this. In your packet you will find a very lengthy draft that speaks about domestic travel, international, fundraising and gives definition on standards. As well as nursing policies. This incorporates much of what we have already talked about. Please take some time to dig into it and it will take a few readings before we vote. This draft will also be shared with you electronically. This will be the only one we will move forward for the next meeting because it really does touch on the things in the other two policies, JJH and JJH-R that we have listed below. So we will do a second read on this draft next meeting.

Jessie Harrington: I did read through it and it does hit upon all of the concerns we have talked about.

Steph Parker: Is there a repeat and renew section for trips that we do annually?

Dr. Chamberland: I will go back and look for that specifically. But those local day trips do not need to come before the committee for approval.

Steph Parker: Is there a point nurse that will look at these trips or is it based on the school?

Dr. Chamberland: A little bit of both. As far as arranging for a nurse to go on a field trip, the lead nurse does that. But the school nurse signs off on the paperwork after looking at the students lists and needs.

Samantha Rapahel: Should something be added regarding academics? If it's an academic field trip, they can attend, but if they are failing classes, maybe not the "fun" field trips.

Dr. Chamberland: There is a piece in there regarding discipline. So if a student has disciplinary issues that may cause concern, the principal has the right to not allow them on the trip. There isn't anything connected to academic performance. I can look into that.

Meghan McCrillis thanked Dr. Chamberland for all her work putting together this draft.

Policy JJH - Student Late Night or Overnight Travel - disregard
Policy JJH-R - Student Travel Regulations - disregard

High School and Middle School Surveys

Dr. Chamberland: As shared with you at the start of the school year for the elementary schools, in your packet you will find surveys that were completed by families and students at both AHS and AMS, regarding the transition activities that are in place to support the transition of students from SWIS to AMS and from AMS to AHS.

Dr. Chamberland went over the findings in the surveys. All information can be found in the packet. All results have been shared with schools.

New Business:

Auburn Fire Department Building Update

Dr. Chamberland: Auburn Fire Chief Coleman is not able to join us this evening. We invite him back in early January to give you an update on the plans for the new fire station.

Preschool Tuition

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find information regarding preschool tuitions for nearby programs. Hourly, the Auburn preschool is significantly lower. The School Committee is asked to consider an increase to our preschool tuition for the 2024-2025 school year based on this information. With this increase the sliding fee scale would stay in place to assist those families in need. While respecting the fact that we have a top-notch program and DESE certified teachers and special educators who are highly skilled. As well as skilled ABA's and solid IA's, and a dedicated nurse. We do use the preschool revenue to offset teacher salaries and support staff salaries. It does support the program in a big way. Thank you to Jennife Stanick for taking on this project and pulling the information together.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the Preschool tuition increase by \$100 per month as presented by the Superintendent.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the Preschool tuition increase by \$100 per month as presented by the Superintendent. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Alan Keller: This year, at the direction of Dr. Chamberland, we initiated two committees: Educator Evaluation which she is spearheading, and Professional Development Committee which I am leading and briefly mentioned during budget presentations. The Professional Development Committee, consisting of educators from across the district, is focused on ensuring that our professional development is differentiated, aligned to our strategic plan, ongoing and sustained, and focused on school and district improvement.

I would also like to share with you current and happening soon professional development:

- Landon Callahan with Safe Schools presented to the Bryn Mawr staff on Wednesday, December 6 and to Pakachoag staff on Wednesday, December 13. The aim of these faculty meeting presentations are to ensure that our schools are safe spaces for all students and families. We are finalizing a date for this presentation at Swanson Road.
- On Thursday, December 14 an Apple Certified trainer will meet with our Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Coaches and administrators sharing best practices in leveraging the features within the iPad to enhance lesson planning around accessibility, choice, and engagement.
 - On our full-day January 2 Professional Development Day:
 - Our UDL Coaches along with UDL Technical Assistants will be supporting the work of our classroom teachers in each school as we continue to build upon our inclusive practices for all learners in this, our third year of this professional development initiative.
 - Counselors are meeting with Susanne Bahnan from the Worcester County DA's office on a program called "Handle with Care" which focuses on how the nervous system responds to trauma and how we can help students who experienced trauma to achieve academically and emotionally.
 - Nurses are receiving hands-on advanced skills training from SNAP Health Center.
 - Our Wellness teachers will begin unpacking the 2023 Health and Physical Education Standards.
 - Music and Art teachers are having vertical meetings that day as well.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki presented a year to date budget report dated 12/7/2023 for the committee to review.

Budget Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated 12/7/2023 between the same series and between different series for which she is seeking approval.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated 12/7/2023 as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated 12/7/2023 as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

FY24 School Department Grant Awards

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of School Department Grants received for the 2023-2024 school year. The Town requires annual acceptance by the School Committee for all grants received each school year.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the listing of School Department Grants as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki.

Mehan McCrillis made a motion to approve the listing of School Department Grants as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session - None

At 6:53 p.m. Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn for the evening.

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

Roll Call Vote ***Adjournment***

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes: 11/29/23

FY '25 Draft Budget

Field Trip Policy Draft

Policy JH & JJH-R

High School and Middle School Surveys

Memorandum Agreement Between APS and APD regarding Body Worn Cameras

Preschool tuitions from nearby programs and presented increase

Year to date budget report dated 12/7/23

Budget Transfers dated 12/7/23

FY '24 School Department Grant Awards

Approved 1-3-24