

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

February 28, 2024 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Absent

Zoom

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Samantha Rapahel

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Jennifer Stanick, Pak Principal

Alexa Kennedy, Pak Kindergarten Teacher

Kaylee Kittredge, Pak Kindergarten Teacher

Harrison Graham - Student Spotlight

Mia Doray - Student Spotlight

Ava Judge - Student Spotlight

Aylah Murujo - Student Spotlight

Karen Ballway

Katie Luby

Isabella Faber, Student Representative

Molly Hilitch, Student Representative

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

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

Minutes: 2/7/24

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 2/7/24.

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to accept the minutes from 2/7/24. Samantha Rapahel seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Isabella Faber & Molly Hilditch:

- Track State Championship: Boys 4x8 m relay, Girls 4x2 m relay, 55 m hurdle records all broken and multiple medalists (special mention: Kweku Akese Sung the National Anthem for the meet)
- SWCL Championship boys and girls (fundraising app ending March 7th for championship jackets)
- Boys Hockey Won the Jeff Hayes Tournament this weekend moving into playoffs (Tomorrow First Playoff Game)
- Girls Hockey last weekend Won their 1st ever Kelly O'Leary Tournament moving onto playoffs
- Spring Sports Start March 18th
- Winter Carnival: Seniors Won, Juniors close second, Sophomores, then Freshman closed Friday off with fun assembly
- Disney Breakfast Coming Up (Saturday March 23rd)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Spotlight:

Dr. Chamberland introduced Pakachoag Principal Jennifer Stanick. Ms. Stanick introduced Kindergarten teachers, Tesa Fritz, Nicole Allain, Alexa Kennedy & Kaylee Kittredge, as well as the following students:

Harrison Graham

Mia Doray

Ava Judge

Aylah Murujo

The students were invited up to the podium to share with the committee the projects they completed with their families for the 100th day of school.

Unfinished Business:

FY25 Draft Budget

Dr. Chamberland: There have been ongoing discussions with Town Leadership related to the FY25 budget. The Town is anticipating a substantial decrease in revenue based on the Chapter 70 formula, lower than anticipated local receipts, increased assessment to Bay Path (increased by \$250,000), rising costs for employee benefits and other variables. We have been designated as a hold harmless district by the department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Meaning for our Chapter 70 money, we will receive \$30 per student. The primary driver for this lower amount is enrollment, something that is being seen across the state. Likewise the decrease in state aid is being felt across the town. For FY'25 that will add up to \$70,010. We have been advised by Town Administrator Kazanovicz to revise our budget to as close to a 4% increase as possible. The budget before you continues to prioritize the needs of our students with an emphasis on maintaining the class sizes we strive to keep, keeping the social and emotional support that we currently have at each school in place, high quality curriculum materials, up to date technology, and we believe we can meet our contractual obligations. We're also working to maintain the nursing staff across the district to ensure all our buildings are medically supported. We continue to maximize the use of revolving and Grant funds as we always have. The most recent change in funding available to us was received in late January, and this is funding for our newly arrived students. This funding is completely dependent upon the enrollment of these students in our schools. I have some confidence that this funding will make its way to Auburn, and the students will be with us through the end of the school year. But I also know there are no

guarantees. For now the changes reflected in this budget are the loss of two teaching positions. We are using the positions of two retirees as placeholders for the positions with the final determination of where these cuts will be made happening later in the year with the primary goal of being to mitigate the impact that these cuts have on our students. We're also utilizing funding from the newly arrived students to fund one full-time position along with \$100,000 offset to transportation. So the results in this revised FY 25 budget reflects a 4.5% increase. The initial draft budget that you approved back in January reflected a 5.63% increase. So it is a substantial change. Yet one that I believe given this funding that we didn't receive until the end of January will help us to off-set some of that. This hasn't been an easy process for anyone. As with any organization, we're part of a team that's the town of Auburn. And we have to do what we can to support a budget that is deemed to be fiscally responsible. We ask for your support and we welcome your questions.

Brief discussion regarding this not being something the school department wanted to do, but these changes had to be made per the town's request. Brooke Wrenn asked if there was a possibility of this coming back a second time and the town asking us to lower it. Dr. Chamberland said there is always a chance, but she felt it was slim.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the revised FY25 Draft Budget as presented by the Superintendent.

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to approve the revised FY25 Draft Budget as presented by the superintendent. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Funding for Newly Arrived Students

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find an update regarding the enrollment of and funding for our newly arrived students. As noted, this funding is strictly dependent upon the continued enrollment of the students in the Auburn Public Schools. When we first received the original 22 students, we were allotted \$1000 per student as a flat one-time payment. That is the only time it would happen. The students we just receive, we don't receive an additional \$1000 per student. The funding is based on \$104.89 per day of enrollment. All of this information is in the packet.

Superintendent's Goal/Summative Evaluation Update

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find an update related to the Superintendent's Goals for the 2023-2024 school year. The information shared in the first document is specific to the goals established at the start of the school year. In preparation for the Superintendent's yearly performance evaluation that you will complete in March, there is also a summary document included that provides a snapshot of some of the Superintendent's work related to DESE's Standards and Indicators in Superintendent's Summative Evaluation. Your questions related to this information are welcome to allow you to make informed decisions related to the evaluation of the Superintendent.

Also in your packet, you will find the pertinent pages of the DESE Superintendent Evaluation form along with the DESE rubric that defines the performance rating for each indicator. Each School Committee member will be asked to respond to each of the indicators noted under each of the Performance Standards to the best of their ability as exemplary, proficient, needs improvement or unsatisfactory. If a member does not have knowledge of a particular indicator, they should leave it blank. Members may also provide comments related to their selections for each overall standard but comments are not required. At the School Committee meeting on March 13, 2024, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and gather any additional information you may need to complete the evaluation process. The forms must be completed and sent to the School Committee Chair Jessie Harrington by Wednesday, March 20, 2024. She will compile the results to be shared at the March 27, 2024 School Committee meeting. These results will be shared as the results of the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year and will be used by the Superintendent to set goals for the 2024-2025 school year, to be shared with the committee at a later date.

Dr. Chamberland reviewed her goals and the handouts with the committee.

EL Tiered Focus Monitoring

Dr. Chamberland: Every six years the Office of Language Acquisition(OLA) conducts a review of the English Learner Education(ELE) program(s) through a process called Targeted and Focused Monitoring to target success and focus on monitoring for continuous progress. We will begin the self assessment process soon with it all to be submitted to DESE by May 31, 2024.

SPED Tiered Focus Monitoring

Dr. Chamberland: Our district is part of DESE's 2024-2025 Integrated Monitoring (formerly Tiered Focused Monitoring) review cohort for Special Education to improve educational results and functional outcomes for special needs students. This will require us to submit a variety of information to DESE for review and discussion. This process will take place through this spring

Upcoming Events from the District Calendar

Dr. Chamberland shared a listing of events from March 4, 2024 to March 29, 2024. All events can be found on the APS District Calendar on the District website. Families are encouraged to use the calendar for planning purposes.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Alan Keller: I have a few items to report. We are in the process of submitting two grants, we are waiting for information on those pieces.

1. The state issued new physical education and health standards as well as a grant application to receive professional development on that piece. We have submitted for that.
2. There is another grant we submitted regarding the social studies curriculum for investigating history.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

School Department Warrant Articles for May 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting

Mrs. Wirzbicki: The Board of Selectmen voted on February 12, 2024 to open the Warrant for the May 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting and to close the Warrant on March 4, 2024. I have provided the proposed School Department Articles for the Annual Town Meeting for your review and approval, as they will need to be sent over to the Town on or before March 4, 2024.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to *approve the School Department Warrant Articles for the May 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting, as presented by the Business Manager.*

Samantha Raphael made a motion to *approve the School Department Warrant Articles for the May 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting, as presented by the Business Manager.* Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated February 16, 2024 for review.

Budget Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated February 16, 2024 between the same series and between different series for which she is sought approval.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the *list of Transfers dated February 16, 2024, as presented by the Business Manager.*

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to approve the *list of Transfers dated February 16, 2024, as presented by the Business Manager,* Samantha Raphaell seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session - yes

At 6:50p.m. Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn open session and enter into executive for the evening.

Meghan McCrillia made a motion to adjourn open session and enter into executive to discuss the bargaining position with personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session, we will not return to open session. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Open session adjourned at 6:50pm

Roll Call Vote
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes: 2/7/24

FY 25 Draft Budget

APSSummary Report - Newly arrived student enrollment and funding - February 2024

Superintendent's Performance Goals

Dr. Chamberland's examples of evidence for the 2023-2024 evaluation

Indicator Rubric for Superintendent Evaluation

End of cycle summative evaluation report: Superintendent

School Department Warrant Articles - Mat 7, 2024 Annual Town Meeting

Year to date budget report dated 2-16-24

Transfers date 2-16-24

Approved 3-13-24