

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

February 7, 2024 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Absent

Zoom

Jessie Harrington

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Meghan McCrillis

Samantha Raphael

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Dan Delongchamp, AHS Principal

Jennifer Stanick, Pak Principal

Karen Ballway

Katie Luby

Spencer Kennard, We the People Advisor

Amy Paget, We the People Advisor

Jordan Tatro - We The People

Gia Patel - We The People

Morgan Ryan - We The People

Alex Mercadante - We The People

Vincent Miles - We The People

Lexi Sens - We The People

Isabella Faber, Student Representative

Molly Hilitch, Student Representative

CALL TO ORDER:

Jessie Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:02p.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: 1/17/24

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 1/17/24.

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to accept the minutes from 1/17/24. Samantha Rapahel seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Isabella Faber & Molly Hilditch:

We The People

- Auburn came in Second overall
- Unit 5 Captained by Lexi Sens

Girls Basketball games- unified track collecting non perishable items for AYFS

Kaleigh Papierski, Isadora Johnson, Molly Campbell for winning 8th grade welcome video contest

8th grade welcome presentation was last week from 6-8pm.

- welcome video
- curriculum presentations
- booths set up showcasing each of the clubs

Senior Class is hosting a dodgeball tournament fundraiser scheduled for Feb 29

- 6-8 ppl \$20 per team

Juniors are doing the Disney breakfast fundraiser in the beginning of March

- participated last year, so much fun

Still room to sign up for Polar plunge March 22nd

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Spotlight:

Dr. Chamberland introduced Auburn High School Principal Daniel DeLongchamp. Mr. DeLongchamp introduced We The People advisors, Spencer Kennard and Amy Paget. Mr. Kennard addressed the committee and introduced the following We The People students:

Jordan Tatro

Gia Patel

Morgan Ryan

Alex Mercadante

Vincent Miles

Lexi Sens

Isabella Faber

Mr. Kennard explained the students participated in a competition on January 27, 2024. The students won best Unit. They gave a 4 minute sample of their speech as well as a sampling of answers from the 8 minute question segment of the competition.

The committee was impressed by the students' knowledge of current events, as well as their articulation and public speaking abilities.

Unfinished Business:

Field Trip Policy Draft - Policy JJH - Third Reading

Dr. Chamberland presented Policy JJH for a fourth reading and a vote. It was determined by the legal counsel that trip insurance cannot be mandatory but highly suggested. The policy was updated to reflect this, as well as a new emergency form with a section regarding liability.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the updates to Field Trip Policy JJH as presented by the Superintendent.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the updates made to the Field Trip Policy JJH as presented by the superintendent. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

2024-2025 School Year Calendar

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find the proposed 2024-2025 School Year Calendar. This calendar is similar to the 2023-2024 school calendar with adjustments made due to the Presidential Election being held on November 5, 2024 and the extended holiday break in December/January. The kindergarten screening day in April was overlooked the last time it was presented, adjustments were made. I seek your approval.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar as presented by the Superintendent.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar as presented by the superintendent. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Chapter 70 Funding

Dr. Chamberland: We were recently notified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that we will be considered as a “Hold Harmless” district in relation to the Chapter 70 funds we receive for the FY25 school year. Of the 319 operating districts statewide, 212 received the minimum increase of \$30 per student. Additionally, this is based on a decline in our enrollment of 55 students from last school year, another trend that is being seen across the Commonwealth. All of this reflects a change in Chapter 70 funding from FY24 at \$15,134,321 to FY25 at \$ 15,205,331 and is an increase of \$ 71,010. The increase received in FY24 was approximately \$1.1 million. This will have an impact on our FY25 budget.

Special Education Significant Disproportionality

Dr. Chamberland: IDEA requires states to measure whether students from certain racial and ethnic groups are disproportionately receiving special education services in specific disability categories, whether they are disproportionately placed in certain settings, and whether they are disproportionately receiving certain kinds of disciplinary removals. Auburn was not found to have Significant Disproportionality for the 2022-2023 school year. There is data supporting this finding in your packet.

Kindergarten and Preschool Registration

Dr. Chamberland: Kindergarten and Preschool Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. Residents are encouraged to visit our website at www.auburn.k12.ma.us for more information. To register for preschool, students must be 3 years old by September 1st for our 3 year old program and 4 years old by

September 1st to register for our 4 year old program. Likewise, students must be 5 years old by September 1st to register for kindergarten. Please spread the word!

Bus Applications for 2024-2025

Dr. Chamberland: My next communication with families will have all of the information needed for families to register their child(ren) for bus transportation for the 2024-2025 school year. The fee for transportation remains the same for the coming year. There is an increasing fee scale for families who register after May 1st so we ask families to enroll as soon as possible.

It was strongly stated by Dr. Chamberland and Cecelia Wirzbicki that no application would be considered complete until payment is received, or it has been determined that there is no payment required.

Assabet Valley Annual Report

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find the annual report for the Assabet Valley Collaborative. We are required to share this information with you each year.

Business Manager Hiring Committee

Dr. Chamberland: As you know, Mrs. Wirzbicki will retire at the end of this school year after years of dedicated service to the Auburn Public Schools. We will post this job prior to the next meeting and would appreciate the support of a member of the School Committee to serve on the Interview Committee.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to *appoint Samantha Raphael to the interview committee for the next Business Manager of the Auburn Public Schools.*

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to *appoint Samantha Raphael to the interview committee for the next Business Manager of the Auburn Public Schools.* Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

All members thanked Cecelia Wirzbicki for her tremendous impact on the district, she will be greatly missed.

Cecelia thanked Dr. Chamberland, the committee, and the district for their support and stated it was a pleasure to serve as the business manager.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Dr. Chamberland read a statement prepared by Alan Keller in his absence: Beginning in the fall, we started a three-year partnership in the Department of Education's Social Emotional Behavior Academy, in helping our district and school teams create and/or foster joyful, culturally sustaining learning environments. This work began with a kickoff meeting that Dr. Chamberland and I attended that included districts from across the

Commonwealth. Our work with the SEB Academy is helping us frame a coherent, district-level understanding of effective, proactive multi-tiered systems of support in the social, emotional, and behavioral realm focusing on specific goals and our unique needs that will improve the learning experience and outcomes for all of our students. Our team represents a range of roles and levels from across the district: Ms. Jessica Pitsillides, Ms. Alison Simoneau, Ms. Karen Ballway, Ms. Amy Peck, Ms. Eileen Tarini, Ms. Kendra Beveridge, Mr. Matt Carlson, Ms. Ariella Emmanuel, Mr. Andrew Shore, Ms. Brooke Beverly, Mr. Joseph Kalinowski, Ms. Krissi Forques, Ms. Lynn Phelan and Ms. Melissa LaBeaume. In receiving targeted, monthly support from our coach, and ongoing webinars and professional development, as a team, we have been meeting on a weekly basis identifying our strengths and gaps, developing our goals for our overall participation in the Academy as well as each year and determining how we will measure our success.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bid Award and Contract for Installation of a new Resilient Running Track surface

Mrs. Wirzbicki: The Bid for the Installation of a New Track at Auburn High School was posted electronically on December 27, 2023 by Project Dog, Inc. and closed on January 22, 2024. East Coast Sealcoating, Inc. was the sole bidder and came in with a base price of \$256,000, with an additional cost of \$25,000 to include Alternate # 1, (the D boxes which are the 2 areas on the ends of the football field). When putting the bid together Mr. Fahey and I weren't sure if we would be able to afford both the Track and the D boxes, so it was listed as the Alternate # 1, in an effort not to delay the project due to pricing. The District has worked with East Coast Sealcoating previously and their references were all very good. The project funds have been previously allocated through the Capital Improvement Budget and voted on by Town Meeting. The District is seeking the Committee's approval to award the Bid and then proceed to enter into a contract with East Coast SealCoating , Inc. for the Project.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to *award the bid and approve the Superintendent to enter into a contract with East Coast Sealcoating, Inc. for the removal of the existing and the installation of a new Resilient Running Track Surface at Auburn High School.*

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to *award the bid and approve the Superintendent to enter into a contract with East Coast Sealcoating, Inc. for the removal of the existing and the installation of a new Resilient Running Track Surface at Auburn High School.* Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Jessie Harrington asked if we already had this money put aside.

Cecelia Wirzbicki stated yes we did.

Dr. Chamberland stated this is just another example of unexpected increases.

Samantha Raphael asked when the track was last worked on.

Cecelia Wirzbicki said it was resurfaced in 2012.

Year to Date Budget Report

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated January 31, 2024 for review.

Budget Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated January 31, 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 January 31, 2024, as presented by the Business Manager.*

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to approve the *list of Transfers dated January 31, 2024, as presented by the Business Manager, Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.*

Executive Session - yes

At 6:55 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: 1/17/24

Field Trip Policy Draft JJH

2024-2025 Draft School Calendar

Special Education Disproportionality Findings

24-25 Bus Transportation Sliding Fee

Assabet Valley Collaborative 2023 Annual Report

Year to date budget report dated 1-31-24

Transfers date 1-31-24

Approved 2-28-24