

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

January 17, 2024 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Absent

Zoom

Meghan McCrillis

Jessie Harrington

Samantha Rapahel

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Dan Delongchamp, AHS Principal

Brianne Pulver

Chief Coleman

Susan Lopez, SWIS Principal

Stacy Bergeron, SWIS Teacher

Maura Gordon, SWIS Teacher

Isabella Faber, Student Representative

Caleb Rifkin & family - 14 Hilltop Farm Road (Student Spotlight)

Lilah Germain & family - 31 Lorna Drive (Student Spotlight)

CALL TO ORDER:

Meghan McCrillis called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

Minutes: 1/3/24

Meghan McCrillis entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 1/3/24

Samantha Raphael made a motion to accept the minutes from 1/3/24. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Isabella Faber:

- Winter sports in full swing
- We The People Edward M Kennedy center on Saturday January 27th to present speeches
- Just had a showcase today with guest judges brought in
- The Quebec trip left last Thursday and came back over the weekend. Lots of fun and maple butter
- Winter Carnival Feb 12-16 games and competitions and spirit days. Heated hallway decor competitions.
- March 22nd Mobile Pilar Plunge unit is coming to AMS. Signups to join a team start now and it benefits Special Olympics Athletes in MA. Questions pls ask Ms Deluca
- NHS applications just opened for eligible students. Induction ceremony will be sometime in March.
- The Yearbook is coming along nicely. Just had voting for superlatives so stay tuned to hear those when they are released.
- Cap and gowns are being ordered. Puts the timeline in perspective

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Spotlight:

Dr. Chamberland introduced Swanson Road Intermediate School Principal Susan Lopez. Dr. Lopez introduced Grade 4 Teachers Stacy Bergeron and Maura Gordon and the following 4th grade students: Caleb Rifkin and Lilah Germain.

The students shared with the committee their literacy projects that focused on UDL, ELA and writing techniques. The committee praised the students for such beautifully written pieces.

New Business:

Auburn Fire Department Building Update

Auburn Fire Chief Coleman provided a brief overview of updates to the plan for a new fire station for the Town of Auburn. This plan has changed significantly since Chief Coleman gave an overview last school year. The town has a signed purchase and sales agreement with the owners of Chuck's Steakhouse. Contingent upon the vote at a special town meeting to be held on January 30, 2024 at Auburn High School.

Director of Food Services Update

Brianne Pulver provided the committee with some exciting happenings in Food Services. She discussed the farm to school grant, renovations to Pakachoag and Bryn Mawr, as well as upcoming training and participation.

- Participation: breakfast 33.3% lunch 61.7%
- Equipment Repair/Purchasing: PAK and Bryn Mawr
- Professional Development: Sensitivity training, Servsafe, choke save
- Welcomed New Staff: 3 full time staff 2 subs
- Farm to School: Worcester food hub
- National Nutrition Month Plans: Food Show AHS, surveying the students, Tower Gardens

Auburn High School Program of Studies

Mr. Delongchamp, Principal of Auburn High School presented the committee with changes or updates to the Auburn High School 2024-2025 Program of Studies. Mr. Delongchamp did mention the Rise & Evolve section was complete but did not make it into the packet. He would send it separately to the committee.

Meghan McCrillis entertained a motion to approve the Auburn High School 2024-2025 Program of Studies as presented by Mr. Delongchamp.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the Auburn High School 2024-2025 Program of Studies as presented by Mr. Delongchamp. It was seconded by Brooke Wrenn and unanimously approved.

Approval of School Choice for the 2024-2025 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.

Meghan McCrillis entertained a motion to continue the school choice program 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 made a motion to continue the school choice program 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. It was seconded by Samantha Raphael and unanimously approved.

Satellite and Galaxy Rates for 2024-2025

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will see a cost comparison for area before and after school programming in other public school districts. The data shows that our pricing is low compared to area districts. This information is being shared with you to determine if the Committee supports raising the rates for this programming.

There was discussion around this increase being warranted and still being reasonable. The increase will go into effect starting next school year.

Meghan McCrillis entertained a motion to increase the rates for Satellite and Galaxy to \$10 per day for Before School Care and \$20 per day for After School Care.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to increase the rates for Satellite and Galaxy to \$10 per day for Before School Care and \$20 per day for After School Care. It was seconded by Brooke Wrenn and 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. Due to a change in faculty meetings and the need for a Kindergarten screening day in April that was overlooked, we will make the adjustments and bring the calendar back for approval at the next meeting.

Meghan McCrillis made a request that there be as many satellite days offered as can be provided for the half days of school.

Unfinished Business:

Field Trip Policy Draft - Policy JJH - Third Reading

Dr. Chamberland presented Policy JJH for a third reading and stated she was waiting to hear back from legal counsel regarding a few updates to the travel insurance. It was determined the policy would be brought back for the next meeting.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Alan Keller: In November, a team of educators from the High School: Karen Ballway, Nicole Vecchio, Jim Adams, April White and I attended a DESE-endorsed Learning Excursion to Casco Bay High School, a small public high school in Portland, Maine. Casco Bay has received national recognition for an innovative learning model that focuses on Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Our team was one of several teams from across New England that was selected to spend two days and three nights learning from students, staff and leaders on the ways in which this urban public school creates a small, expeditionary learning community.

Throughout our time together, we had the opportunity to meet with and collaborate with one another and teachers and administrators from other New England schools as we observed Casco Bay High School's innovative learning model in action, seeing community-connected projects, participating in student advisory, observing classes and playing an active role in offering feedback to students completing their "learning expeditions."

Our "Casco Bay Team" is sharing our learning with colleagues and HS leadership, examining ways in which we can infuse key learnings from Casco Bay with the improvement work already taking place at the High School. As we move forward in implementing these concepts, our team looks forward to sharing with the School Committee at an upcoming meeting.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT: None

Executive Session - yes

At 6:42 p.m. Meghan McCrillis entertained a motion to adjourn for the evening.

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

Roll Call Vote
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes: 1/3/24

Field Trip Policy Draft JJH

APS Food Services Handout

AHS 2024-25 Program of Studies Changes

AHS Program of Studies 2024-2025

Before & After Care Comparison

2024-2025 Draft School Calendar

Teaching & Learning Slides

Approved 2-7-24