

**MINUTES**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room**

**January 3, 2024 6:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:**

**Absent**

**Zoom**

Jessie Harrington

Brooke Wrenn

Meghan McCrillis

Samantha Rapahel

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Jennifer Stanick

Katie Luby

Jordan Feen & family - 25 Boyce Street (Student Spotlight)

Harrison Eisnor & family - 2 Rock Ave (Student Spotlight)

Sydney Meadows & family - 28 Woodland Road (Student Spotlight)

Zoe Jane Richard & family - 89 Pinehurst Ave (Student Spotlight)

Noah Rodriguez & family - 420 Old Oxford St North (Student Spotlight)

**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:**

Dr. Chamberland:

Lisa Carpenter, longtime Auburn resident and district employee passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, December 26, 2024. Loving wife of Dale, devoted mother of Amanda & Eric, adoring grandmother of Marley, Aria, Aiden, Carter and Kali and cherished daughter of Raymond and Irene. Lisa began working at Auburn High School as a secretary in 2003 and was promoted to data administrator in July. She was a special person, valued employee and good friend to many. What I know of Lisa on a personal note, she was a good, kind and gentle person. She was great at her job and loved her job. She will be greatly missed.

AHS student Logan Plumb auditioned for the New England Music Festival in Griswold, CT on Saturday, December 9th. We are thrilled to announce he was accepted and will be joining top students from New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts in a Concert Festival in March. This is an incredible achievement. Congratulations to Logan and all the students selected for this opportunity.

Congratulations to Zhunay Moulton who broke an AHS Indoor Track & Field record on Wednesday, December 13th. Zhunay broke the 55-meter dash record with a hand time of 7.3 seconds, which converts to a 7.54 in electronic time. MileSplit Massachusetts declared Zhunay one of its Elite Performers of the week. Zhunay now holds two Indoor Track & Field records. She set the 300-meter record as a freshman, during her first-ever Indoor Track season, with a time of 44.33 seconds, on January 15, 2023.

### **Minutes:** 12/13/23

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 12/13/23

Samantha Raphael made a motion to accept the minutes from 12/13/23. Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:** None

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

#### **Student Spotlight:**

Dr. Chamberland introduced Bryn Mawr Principal Brooke Beverly, Second Grade Teacher Eileen Tarini and the following second grade students:

Harrison Eisnor  
Jordan Feen  
Sydney Meadows  
Zoe Jane Richard  
Noah Rodriguez

The students shared with the committee the project they completed in class called New Year's Around the World.

The accompanying slide presentations are included in the packet.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **FY '25 Draft Budget**

Dr. Chamberland: The FY '25 draft budget was first presented to you at the November 29, 2023 meeting. It represents a 5.63% increase from the amended FY '24 school budget of \$30,132,276 to the FY '25 draft budget of \$31,828,336.68 or an overall increase of \$1,696,060.68. I ask now that you vote to approve to send it forward to the town as presented.

Jessie Harrington asked the committee if there were any questions or discussion that needed to happen before moving forward with the vote.

There was none.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to vote to approve and send forward the FY '25 Budget as presented by the Superintendent.

Megan McCrillis made a motion to approve and send forth the FY '25 Budget as presented by the Superintendent. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Jessie Harrington thanked the town for their ongoing support.

Dr. Chamberland agreed and said we will see if it remains as a draft as there are many other moving pieces to inform where we'll finally land come May. Time will tell.

#### **Field Trip Policy Draft**

Dr. Chamberland: As requested at the previous meeting, the new Policy JJH is under consideration for a second reading. As you know we looked at several policies and worked to compile all the information. It will come back one more time for a final reading and vote.

Stef Parker: For the repeat annual field trips, should there be different language to lessen the amount of time needed to present the field trip for approval?

It was discussed and agreed that the amount of time needed for the approval is to give ample time for fundraising.

It was also discussed that we have a program called Helping Our Own that assists students to afford Academic Fieldwork Trips and to add that language to the policy.

### **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.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to vote to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Auburn Public schools and Auburn Police Department as presented by the Superintendent.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Auburn Public schools and Auburn Police Department as presented by the Superintendent. It was seconded by Stef Parker and unanimously approved.

### **New Business:**

#### **Historical Field Trip Listing**

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find a historical listing of field trips for each of the schools. This information was requested by the Committee at a previous meeting as we continue to examine the field trip process for all schools.

Jessie Harrington: I requested it and was looking to see if there was a spike in trips leaving the state. I appreciate the data and I am happy to see that we are utilizing our state and surrounding areas. And I encourage that to continue.

#### **NESDEC 2023-2024 Enrollment Projection Report**

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find this year's Enrollment Projection Report from the New England School Development Council(NESDEC). Each year, this organization compiles this report based upon information we provide and information from the Department of Housing and Urban Development(HUD). Graphs and information provided reflect both historical and projected enrollment data. They do list our Special Education Out of District Placement at 28, that number is not correct, we are at 12.

Dr. Chamberland: At our next meeting we will be voting on continuing the School Choice Program. I felt this information was important for you to have going into that vote.

### **SWCEC Annual Report**

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find the Annual Report from the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative. This was approved by the SWCEC Board of Directors at the December 15, 2023 meeting.

### **Assabet Valley Collaborative FY '23 Audit Report**

Dr. Chamberland: In your packet you will find the Annual Report from the Assabet Valley Collaborative for your review. This was approved by the AVC Board of Directors at the December 1, 2023 meeting.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:**

Alan Keller: We had a plethora of activities occurring throughout the district during our professional development day yesterday, January 2, 2024. Over the course of the school year, we have been planning and preparing for this day like all of our professional development time.

The majority of our staff was engaged in the district's continued efforts with Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Our UDL coaches: Claudia Allain at the Preschool, Dawn Fenuccio and Jessica Roark at Bryn Mawr, Julie Benoit and Nicole Dunn at Pakachoag, Jill Spencer and Erin Kane at Swanson Road, Karin Loach and Patricia Fishwick at the Middle School and Karyn Ferdella at the High School attend monthly meetings with experts in the field in developing their expertise. Principals, together with the aforementioned UDL coaches and a UDL technical assistant at each school continue to move this important initiative forward—the goal of which is to support the needs and interests of all of our students.

Our counselors met with Sue Bahnan, the Community and School Outreach Coordinator from the Worcester County DA's office on the topic of Trauma. Specifically, they looked at trauma-informed practices as part of the *Handle With Care* Initiative, a national strategy aimed at ensuring children receive appropriate interventions to help them achieve at their highest levels despite traumatic experiences they may have experienced.

Although members of our Wellness department have individually seen the new Health and Physical Education standards, yesterday was our first opportunity to meet as a K-12 group. Teachers spent the day unpacking the standards as a first step toward developing a consistent K-12 scope and sequence that includes evidence of student mastery and developing student-friendly targets.

Like their Wellness colleagues, the Music and Art departments had the opportunity to meet as a K-12 group in order to examine gaps and overlaps and share resources and techniques to enhance their instruction.

Nurses received training from Professional Software for Nurses, Inc, on advanced skills in SNAP Health Center, our health documentation software.

Slides are available on the packet.

## **BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:**

### **Year to Date Budget Report**

Mrs. Wirzbicki presented a year to date budget report dated 12/20/2023 for the committee to review.

### **Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated 12/20/2023 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 12/20/2023 as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated 12/20/2023 as presented by Mrs. Wirzbicki. Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **Executive Session - None**

At 6:42 p.m. Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn for the evening.

Meghan McCrillis 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:**

**New Years Around the World Slides**

**Meeting Minutes: 12/13/23**

**FY '25 Draft Budget**

**Field Trip Policy Draft JJH**

**Memorandum Agreement Between APS and APD regarding Body Worn Cameras**

**Historical Field Trip Listing**

**NESDEC 2023-2024 Enrollment Projection Report**

**SWCEC Annual Report**

**Assabet Valley Collaborative FY '23 Audit Report**

**Teaching & Learning Slides**

**Year to date budget report dated 12/20/23**

**Budget Transfers dated 12/20/23**

**Approved 1-17-24**