

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

November 15, 2023 6:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Brooke Wrenn

Samantha Rapahel

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Isabella Faber, Student Representative

Molly Hilditch, Student Representative

Emily Jajliardo, Forest Park Drive - Charlie Brown Musical

Kaleigh Papierski, Sunny Ave Webster MA - Charlie Brown Musical

Zoey Brouillette, Burnett Street - Charlie Brown Musical

Tobin Briesacher, Cooper Street - Charlie Brown Musical

Christian Adamiak, Inwood Road - Draft Budget

Absent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Zoom

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:

Jessie Harrington asked if we had any citizens here to comment either in the audience or on Zoom.

Christian Adamiak precinct 2 : Mr. Aamiak said he knows there are ongoing teacher contract negotiations and he asked how that has been factored into the budget.

Dr. Chamberland stated that she had hoped to present a draft budget this evening. We continue to work with the town on the creation of the budget. It is going to be a tricky process, by the bylaws of the town we have to present them with a budget on January 4th. It is considered a draft budget, not a final budget. We will do our best to do what we can with what we know and how we know things are going. We are working with the AEA and the town. My intent this evening was to present the school committee with a draft so they had time to look at it before we did our actual presentations. Which is scheduled to happen in a couple weeks. We will have to wait and see if that is still going to happen. But again, we have to have something to the town by early January.

Christian Adamiak: I was just asking as a concerned citizen in light of the recent strikes that have been happening around in other towns.

Jessie Harrington: If I can add one more thing, we're definitely trying to balance the needs of our staff & faculty and respecting the taxpayers of this town. The taxpayers have been very supportive year after year so it's really important for us to try and weigh both of those equally.

Christian Adamiak: I've had two kids go through the school system, it's a great school system. We have woeful teachers, I just want to make sure that they are rewarded for that.

The committee thanked Mr. Adamiak for his comments and asked if anyone else had a comment. There were no other comments, we move on from Citizen's Comments.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

Minutes: 11/1/23

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 11/1/23

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to accept the minutes from 11/1/23. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Isabella Faber & Molly Hilditch:

- Leaf raking over 100 lawns, received around \$2500 in donations which will be split between the Jr and Sr classes
- No Shave November fundraiser for men's health with a focus on prostate cancer. A couple male teachers and students that have signed up to participate will not shave their

faces for the entire month of November, then on the last day, they have to come to school with a beard shaped as whatever one of the hideous styles we vote for. People vote by putting change in the collection jar that corresponds with the style they choose. Right now the one in the lead is a guy fieri situation.

- Food drive happening in our home rooms. We are bringing in canned goods and shelf stable items to be donated to AYFS. The home room with the most donations will get donuts next Wednesday. Dr Ferdellas room in first place

In terms of what's coming up:

- Thanksgiving Day Game in Leicester this year,
- tickets will be sold in the Athletic Director's Office during school hours Monday and Tuesday. Cost is \$10/ticket cash
- Lip sync battle is next Wednesday at the thanksgiving assembly. I know I have a couple friends doing it and I don't have any other details it's very hush hush

Jessie Harrington addressed student rep Molly Hilitch and said, I believe you are on Varsity Soccer, can you share with the committee how far you made it?

Molly: Auburn Girls Soccer had a very good year this year. We made it to the first round of playoffs, and won that game. We had a really good season and it was a lot of fun.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Spotlight

Dr. Chamberland invited Auburn High School Assistant Principal Melissa LaBeaume and the students from the Auburn High School Fall Musical, up to the podium to give the committee a review of the play.

Melissa LaBeaume said we are excited to have the Fall production back. This year was You are a good Man Charlie Brown. She introduced the following students:

Emily Jajliando
Kaleigh Papierski
Zoey Brouillette
Tobin Briesacher

The students introduced themselves and what role they played in the production. They spoke of how close knit the cast was and how it was nice to have a small production in the Fall and a larger production in the Spring. They also thanked the community for coming out to support them. The Spring production will be The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

Dr. Chamberland asked what was the most challenging part of the production?

The students responded, the lines and choreography.

Brooke Wrenn, how long do you have to rehearse?

The students responded, a few months.

There was additional conversation regarding rehearsals and their love for theater.

The committee thanked the students for sharing their experience and for joining us this evening.

Unfinished Business:

Superintendent's Goals Update

Dr. Chamberland: Reviewed with the committee her updated goals which are in the packet.

- Student Learning Goal
- Professional Practice Goal
- District Improvement Goal

The only question from Jessie Harrington was regarding the District Improvement Goal (4) developing a facilities committee. She asked who would be on the committee.

Dr. Chamberland stated that it had been brought up last year at a meeting and Meg McCrillis had offered to be on the committee. As well as Mr. Fahey, the town building inspector, and either fire or police. It is not a study or anything formal, it is to look at current enrollment, how spaces are filled & laid out, and any improvements we can make.

Budget Update

Dr. Chamberland: The intention was to provide you with the first draft of the FY25 Draft Budget document this evening. Given a recent discussion with Town Leadership, we have determined that some revisions to the initial draft are necessary. We hope to maintain the budget timeline shared with you previously and we will keep you apprised of our progress. It is a complicated process, but we are required to do so, and will do the best we can.

Policy Updates

Dr. Chamberland presented the following policy updates for a final reading and vote.

Policy DA - Fiscal Management Goals - Third Reading

Policy DB - Annual Budget - Third Reading

Policy DBD - Budget Planning - Third Reading

Policy DBG - Budget Adoption Procedures - Third Reading

Policy DD - Grants, Proposals, And Special Projects - Third Reading

Policy DIE - Audits - Third Reading

Policy DI - Fiscal Accounting and Reporting - Third Reading

Policy DJ - Purchasing - Third Reading

Policy DJA - Purchasing Authority - Third Reading

Policy DJE - Procurement Requirements - Third Reading

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the updates to policy DA, BD, DBD, DBG, DD, DIE, DI, DJ, DJA & DJE

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the updates to policy DA, BD, DBD, DBG, DD, DIE, DI, DJ, DJA & DJE. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

New Business

Field Trip Policy Discussion

Dr. Chamberland: The current policies related to out of state and overnight field trips are not in your packet, but we will forward that to you to review. Given some recent requests for such, and unrest around the world, it seemed prudent to revisit these policies to ensure that our students and staff are both well supported and well protected. I look for your input on these and anything suggestions you may have for improvement of this process. New policies for discussion are: JJH-Student Late Night or Overnight Travel and JJH-R-Student Travel Regulations.

Meghan McCrillis: If there was a student with a medical need, we can't file for reciprocity with anyone like a nurse so that would be something to look at. We want to make sure there is a nurse with a license in whatever country they go to.

Samanta Raphael: I wonder if other districts have an age limit, if they only let high school students go out of the country. And maybe grade 6 and up on overnights.

Dr. Chamberland: I did reach out to the Worcester County Superintendents and I didn't get a lot of variation, but most of the ones I did hear back from said that they only allow one major trip out of the high school each year. I think that is so there isn't an overlap of students that want to do both and that being too much. And there are middle schools that don't allow overnight trips, that push all that to the high school. This is a bigger conversation, so I will see if there is anything else I can find about reciprocity and I'll also look for more formal policies related to age levels.

Samantha Rapahel: Was the middle school trip last year to NYC an overnight trip?

Dr. Chamberland: Yes, but they will not be doing that this year.

Jessie Harrington: I think we should think about putting a cap on the price of the trip, that could be a policy we create ourselves. And I would like to see over the years how many field trips we were taking compared to what we are trying to do now. And with the

climate of the country and the world, it might be a last minute decision to cancel and I think people should be aware of that too.

Samantha Rapahel: I think there should be language in there that states the school committee and superintendent have the right to cancel the trip as needed for the safety of the students.

Jessie Harrington: And there should be some sort of insurance that they take out when deciding to go on one of these trips.

Dr. Chamberland: We do have to be conscious of where we're sending our kids when we have staff in charge of them and make sure it is a safe environment no matter where it is in the United States or outside. This is a good start of things for me to look at, I will do that and we will revisit this topic at a later date.

Chamber of Commerce Mini Grant Winners

Dr. Chamberland: The following staff members are the 2023-2024 Auburn Chamber of Commerce Mini Grant winners. Applicants were eligible to apply for up to \$ 500. We thank the Chamber of Commerce for their generosity and we thank the staff members who applied. Their efforts will enhance the learning experience of our students.

Kim Sicurella	AMS	A Healthy Body is a Healthy You
Jenna Bailey	Bryn Mawr/Pak	Molding Minds
Haley Daigneault	Bryn Mawr	It All Matters!
Sarah Schofield	Bryn Mawr	Snazzy Sight Word Sensory Kinesthetic Approach to learning
Kristin Sandberg	Bryn Mawr	Getting "Techie" With It!
Susan Chianese	Bryn Mawr	Wellness Wednesdays
Stephanie Fontaine Chart Ever?	SWIS	Could This Be the Biggest Place Value
Susan Lopez	SWIS	PBIS Props and Skit Kits

Dr. Chamberland: We thank the chamber for their support and we hope for many more applications for grants, please feel free to apply. It's not a hard process and they are happy to give.

Jessie Harrington: Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce, but also thank you to the teachers that went above and beyond to go after those grants.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

Dr. Chamberland : Mr. Keller is not here with us this evening. Monday evening through tonight, a team of educators from Auburn High School, along with Mr. Keller attended a DESE-promoted Learning Excursion to Casco Bay High School in Portland, Maine. We applied for this last November, were accepted and have been preparing our team for this unique professional development opportunity. April White, Nicole Vecchio, Karen Ballway, and Jim Adams are visiting this school of just over 400 students where relationship-building and personalized instruction are hallmarks of this diverse school community. These focus areas closely align with two initiatives that have been at the forefront of our work in Auburn, relationship-mapping and Universal Design for Learning. Mr. Keller will report with details from the visit on November 29.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

In Mrs. Wirzbicki's absence, Dr. Chamberland presented a year to date budget report dated 10/27/2023 for the committee to review.

Budget Transfers

In Mrs. Wirzbicki's absence, Dr. Chamberland provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated 10/30/2023 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 10/30/2023 as presented by Dr. Chamberland.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated 10/30/2023 as presented by Dr. Chamberland. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Executive Session

At 6:40pm Jessie Harrington entertained the motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the bargaining position with non-union personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session. We will not return to open session.

Megan McCrillis made the motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the bargaining position with non-union personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session. We will not return to open session. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:40pm.

Roll Call Vote
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes: 11/1/23

Superintendent's Updated Goals

Policy Updates: DA, DB, DBD, DBG, DD, DIE, DI, DJ, DJA, DJE

Policy JH & JJH-R

Year to date budget report dated 11/27/23

Budget Transfers dated 10/30/23

Approved 11-29-23