

## **MINUTES**

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**September 20, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

#### **In Attendance:**

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Brooke Wrenn

Samantha Rapahel

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Isabella Faber, Student Representative

Greg Walton, Director of Pupil Services

Brianne Pulver, Food Services Director

Katie Luby, AEA President

Karen Ballway - AEA Vice President

#### **Absent**

Cecelia Wirzbicki

Stef Parker

#### **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:** None

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:** None

**Minutes:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

Isabella Faber:

- Looking back on what has already happened since the start of the year:
  - The Senior class has already gone on a field trip to Apex which was super fun.
  - Class officers have been elected, as well as student council positions. Posters are still hanging in the hallways.
  - Jr class has been holding a fundraiser selling donuts to raise money for class activities.
- Clubs have started back up again.
- In the same vein, Fall sports are in full swing and the turnouts for games have been pretty good so far.
- Speaking of sports, Homecoming is approaching.
  - The football game will be the night of Friday the 29th, and the field hockey and soccer teams will have games running all day on Saturday the 30th.
  - The Homecoming dance is the night of the 30th, and tickets will be on sale starting this Monday \$15 if you buy them in advance, \$20 at the door. Some of the money will go to the senior class.
  - The theme days for homecoming week have just been released:

Monday: Jersey Day

Tuesday: Soccer Mom vs BBQ Dad

Wednesday: Barbie (on Wednesdays we wear pink)

Thursday: Circle of Life (dress your age)

Friday: Auburn Spirit Day

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business**

**Upgrades of Doors and Windows at Various School Buildings**

Dr. Chamberland: The School Department would like to request funding in the amount of \$95,800 from Town funds for the installation/upgrades of doors and windows at various school buildings throughout the District, in a collaborative effort to continually improve the security of our students and faculty. We are seeking your approval and support of

this request, in order for the Town to present a Warrant Article at the Fall Town Meeting scheduled for October 24, 2023.

Jessie Harrington entertained the motion to approve the School Department's request for \$95,800 from Town funds for the installation/upgrades of doors and windows at various school buildings throughout the District in an effort to improve the security of our students and faculty.

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to approve the School Department's request for \$95,800 from Town funds for the installation/upgrades of doors and windows at various school buildings throughout the District in an effort to improve the security of our students and faculty. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **Food Services Director**

Dr. Chamberland: As you know, in the spring of 2023, Brianne Pulver became the new Director of Food Services for the Auburn Public Schools. Brianne comes to us with extensive experience in school food service and tonight, she will introduce herself and share her ideas and goals for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Chamberland introduced Brianne Pulver to the committee and invited Brianne to address the committee and tell them a little about herself.

Brianne Pulver addressed the committee:

A bit about myself, I have spent my entire career working and studying school meal programs. I have been in the school lunch field since 2015 and have been a director since 2019. My Associates Degree is in Culinary Arts and a Bachelors in Culinary Nutrition/Minor in Child Psych from Johnson and Wales and just completed my Masters in Leadership Studies from Roger Williams University in July 2023. Auburn Public Schools has been my dream district to work for and I am hoping to make an impact on the nutrition of the students here.

The program was awarded \$21,281 to purchase local foods for schools, the program seeks to strengthen local food systems and ensure all children across the Commonwealth have access to high quality local foods at school. This includes meats, produce, milk and dairy products  
Vendors we have used in September are Breezland Orchard, Garelick Milk, and Gibson Farm Dairy.

With Universal free meals in MA we have increased our staff and have welcomed 4 new members that are part of the Auburn Public Schools community and a new Assistant Director.

We are offering a hot breakfast at most schools. Our goal is to expand the breakfast offering and remind students of the meal pattern and how they can be savvy when choosing their meals breakfast or lunch. We have up to two scratch main entrees a week district wide, at AHS we have a fully stocked salad bar where students can build their own entree salad or take a side salad. Entree salads offered daily at AMS and starting at Swanson intermediate in October.

I would like to spend this year studying what the children of APS are looking for in their meal choices and will be attending the AHS advisory and creating a Food For Thought club that will meet regularly to discuss menu options, cooking practices, vendor food shows, and regulations for the NSLP & SBP at APS.

The program is also looking to rehab the kitchen at Bryn Mawr during the summer months and conduct routine maintenance on equipment.

Brooke Wrenn said she is blown away by the changes that have been made.

Samantha Raphael said it would be beneficial to offer snacks to the students in the afterschool programs.

Beth Chamberland said Brianne has done a lot of hiring and promoting within the school and it has made a huge difference.

Jessie Harrington asked if the grant renews every year.

Brianne Pulver said yes and no. It has the potential that as long as the state is issued the grant again, we can continue.

#### **Food Service Collaborative Agreement Letter for FY24**

Dr. Chamberland: Auburn Food Services participates in the Massachusetts School Buying Group (MSBG) for collaborative bidding of our district purchases of foods and beverages. All bids have been accepted and awarded by MSBG for FY24. A letter is presented to the School Committee to acknowledge the award recipient companies and request their vote of approval and acceptance. Bids were awarded according to MGL Chapter 30B and meet additional USDA School Nutrition Program requirements for procurement.

Jessie Harrington entertained the motion to approve the MSBG bid for district purchases of food and beverage for the 2023-2024 school year.

Samanth Raphael made a motion to approve the MSBG bid for district purchases of food and beverage for the 2023-2024 school year. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **Special Education**

Dr. Chamberland: Mr. Walton, Director of Pupil Services will provide an overview of our special education programming since he stepped in as Director.

Dr. Chamberland invited Mr. Walton to speak to the committee.

Mr. Walton:

- Auburn Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is looking for new members. I urge parents to join.
- We have worked hard to keep students in-district and reduce our out placements.
- Started therapeutic classrooms at SWIS, AMS & AHS..
- Due to these new programs we have been able to keep 4 students in the district with the proper services.
- Unified basketball has started and there is a game next week.
- Unified bocce has started at the Middle School.
- AMS has received a national banner of recognition from the Special Olympics.
- Hiring has been instrumental. All professional positions are fulfilled. Filling the support staff roles is still underway.

Jessie Harrington said she was happy we are able to keep students in the district and support them.

Beth Chamberland said we just learned today about the Middle School receiving the national banner and we will have them at a later meeting to be recognized. Also, Greg has one amazing job interviewing and hiring.

Brooke Wrenn said she sat next to Mr. Walton at the 2023 graduation and she was impressed with his interaction with the students.

Meghan McCrillis said her son is happy to see his friends from PAK have followed to SWIS and he is able to see them.

### **Negotiations 2024-2026**

Dr. Chamberland: This year we will negotiate the AEA contract which includes the School Nurses. We will also negotiate with the ABA Bargaining Unit later in the school year. A School Committee member is welcome to join the negotiating team and we seek your recommendation. If the Committee chooses not to participate, I can provide updates throughout the year in Executive Session.

Jessie Harrington entertained the motion to appoint a school committee member to serve as the School Committee representative on the negotiating team for AEA negotiations.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to appoint Jessie Harrington to serve as the School Committee representative on the negotiating team for AEA negotiations. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Samantha Raphael stated she would recuse herself from all AEA negotiations and executive sessions where it will be discussed. .

**Thank you letter from Pakachoag Elementary School**

Dr. Chamberland: Ms. Stanick has shared a thank you letter sent to the grandparents of two of her students. They graciously donated their time and money to beautify the front of Pakachoag School by weeding, painting planters and planting mums. We thank Mr. & Mrs. Robert Post for their generosity.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:**

Alan Keller: Auburn was accepted into the state's first Instructional Leadership Institute which took place in August at Tufts University. Our team representing the High School, Middle School and Swanson Road was divided into two tracts: K-5 math and Grades 3-8 literacy. Over the course of the three days, Marybeth Philbin, Jessica Young, Jen DeMeglio, Paula Reno, Erin Kane and I had the opportunity to examine relevant, real-world, grade-level work, practice building equity-centered routines, and deepen our understanding of high-quality instructional materials ensuring all of our students are engaged in the rigor of Massachusetts ELA and math frameworks.

**BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:** None

**Executive Session:**

At 6:39pm 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 6:39pm.

**Roll Call Vote**  
***Adjournment***

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

**Food Service Collaborative Agreement Letter for FY24**

**Thank you Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Post from Pakachoag**