

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

February 16, 2022 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Zoom

George Scobie

Jessie Harrington

Gail Holloway

Meghan McCrillis

Dottie Kauffman

Beth Chamberland

Jessica & Richard Lerner - 6 Linden Lane

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Jessica Lerner spoke in favor of lifting the mask mandate for students.

Minutes: 2/2/22 minutes were approved.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 2/2/22.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the minutes from 2/2/22, Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COVID Update

Information

Dr. Chamberland provided an update on COVID cases and other pertinent details since our last meeting.

- COVID 19 Positives Reporting
- New DESE guidelines
- Trending in the right direction

DESE Mask Mandate

Action

Dr. Chamberland informed the committee, after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, Commissioner Riley will not renew the state mask requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022. Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide. The Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students support this decision. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, should be supported in that choice. Dr. Chamberland recommended the district lift the school mask mandate on February 28, 2022 allowing students and staff the ability to choose whether or not to wear a mask. Students will still be required to wear a mask on the bus and in the health offices. The AEA, Board of Health and school nurses are all in favor. We will continue testing, revise Zipp slip, and supply at home tests.

Recommended Motion..... to lift the school mask mandate for students in grades Pre-k - 12, on February 28, 2022 allowing for students and staff the ability to choose whether or not to wear a mask.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept lifting the school mask mandate for students in grades Pre-k - 12, on February 28, 2022 allowing for students and staff the ability to choose whether or not to wear a mask.

Meagan McCrillis made a motion to accept the proposal to lift the school mask mandate for students in grades Pre-k - 12, on February 28, 2022 allowing for students and staff the ability to choose whether or not to wear a mask. Dottie Kauffman second the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Fee Schedule Review **Substitute Teacher Pay Rate**

Action

Dr. Chamberland stated as requested at the February 2, 2022 meeting, she revised the recommended substitute teacher rates to reflect the concerns of the School Committee. An

updated Fee Schedule and process for Building Use inquiries will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.

Recommended Motion:.....to accept the recommended increase to the Substitute Rates of Pay as presented.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the recommended increase to the Substitute Rates of pay as presented.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the recommended increase to the Substitute Rates of pay as presented. Gail Holloway second the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Auburn Public Schools 2022-2023 School Calendar

Action

A small error was noted in the previous version of the calendar. The half day noted on October 7, 2022 should have been noted as a full professional development day for teachers.

Recommended Motion:.....to accept the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school Year.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to accept the proposed school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year, Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Bryn Mawr Parking Lot Project

Information

Mr. Fahey and Dr. Chamberland attended the Auburn Planning Board Meeting on February 8, 2022 to provide information to the Town regarding the plans for a two phase parking lot project at Bryn Mawr School. Phase One includes the resurfacing of the current parking lot and a minor relocation of the dumpsters to be in compliance with the Conservation Commission request from a meeting held on January 25, 2022, with a follow up meeting scheduled for February 24, 2022 after a site visit. Phase 1 is included in the scheduled work for this summer as noted in the Bryn Mawr CIP Plan. We are also working to include widening the asphalt up to the pine trees for a safer play area for our students if funds allow. Phase Two includes the addition of a parking area at the far end of the Bryn Mawr field and a driveway along the back side of the field that could be utilized for student drop off and pick up for both Bryn Mawr and Swanson Road Intermediate School. Handicap parking spaces as well as sidewalks will be included. Phase 2 is in the exploratory phase to determine feasibility and cost. We continue to work with the Auburn DPW as much as possible. The completion of this project will enhance the safety of our students while also creating a safe handicap parking lot for the whole community to use .

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting with the Auburn Finance Committee

Action

Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Chamberland met with Town Manager Jacobson and CFO Kazanovicz. They tentatively noted that we will present our budget to the Auburn Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 2nd. Since that would conflict with our next School Committee meeting, Dr. Chamberland asked for the committee's input on how they would like to proceed with our next scheduled meeting date.

Recommended Motion....to cancel the School Committee Meeting scheduled for March 2, 2022 to allow Dr. Chamberland and Mrs. Wirzbicki to attend the Town of Auburn Finance Committee meeting regarding the FY23 Proposed Budget.

It was agreed that we would cancel the meeting on 3/2/22 and meet on 3/16/22 unless there was an emergency.

George Scobie entertained a motion to cancel the School Committee Meeting scheduled for March 2, 2022 to allow Dr. Chamberland and Mrs. Wirzbicki to attend the Town of Auburn Finance Committee meeting regarding the FY23 Proposed Budget.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to cancel the School Committee Meeting scheduled for March 2, 2022 to allow Dr. Chamberland and Mrs. Wirzbicki to attend the Town of Auburn Finance Committee meeting regarding the FY23 Proposed Budget, Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Office of Civil Rights Website Review

Information

Mr. Bouvier, Mrs. Elliott and Dr. Chamberland recently met with staff from the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. Several years ago, there was a finding of non-compliance with some of the items on our District/School Webpage. The meeting offered us supportive and common sense suggestions to make our website more accessible to all. The team will also collaborate with Campus Suite, the company that supports our webpage to make appropriate changes to the webpage 'behind the scenes' to again, improve accessibility for all.

Communication with Families

Information

Dr. Chamberland is working to streamline the process by which we communicate with families to ensure that information is disseminated in a timely and appropriate manner. Facebook will be more consistently used in conjunction with One Call when an immediate notification needs to be sent to families. Community Updates and Reminders will be shared with families on the first Friday of each month via One Call email, we are creating a space for the same information on our website and a link will be shared on Facebook as well. We are also working to ensure that One Call has the most current contact information from families.

General Federation of Women’s Club Donation

Action

The Federation of Women’s Club donated Little Leaders:Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison, to Pakachoag School. This is a wonderful addition to the school library.

Recommended Motion: ... to accept with gratitude, the donation of Little Leaders:Bold Women in black History to the Pakachoag library.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept with gratitude, the donation of Little Leaders:Bold Women in black History to the Pakachoag library.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude, the donation of Little Leaders:Bold Women in black History to the Pakachoag library. [Gail Holloway](#) seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:

DESE Report Card for 2021

Information

Dr. Chamberland informed the committee that every year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education releases a report card for each school and district in the state. Just as a student's report card shows how they are doing in different classes, school and district report cards are designed to show parents and community members how a school or district is doing in different areas. Report cards highlight a school or district's strengths as well as any challenges that need to be addressed in order to make sure the needs of all students are being met. Links to these reports have been shared with families by principals and are also available on our website.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report

Information

None.

Budget Transfers

Action

None

Executive Session

Recommended 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.

George Scobie entertained a 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.

[Gail Holloway](#) made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the bargaining position with non-union personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session. And not return to open session. Dottie Kauffman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Adjournment
Roll Call Vote

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes: 2/2/22

COVID Positivity Rate

Letter from Commissioner Riley regarding Updated Mask Requirements

Updated Substitute Pay Rate

2022-2023 School Calendar

Bryn Mawr Parking Lot Project

Thank you letter to the General Federation of Women's Club.