

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

March 16, 2022 6:30 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

**Zoom**

George Scobie

[Cecelia Wirzbicki](#)

Jessie Harrington

Jasmyn Gate

Gail Holloway

Meghan McCrillis

Dottie Kauffman

Beth Chamberland

Karen Ballway

Daniel Delongchamp

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:** None

**Minutes:** 2/16/22, 3/2/22

George Scobie entertained the motion to *approve the minutes of 2/16/22 and 3/2/22.*

Jessie Harrington made a motion to *approve the minutes of 2/16/22 and 3/2/22.* Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

Jasmyn stated things are going well since the mask mandate was lifted. It is encouraging that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Spirits are definitely lifted. Tri 2 ends on Friday, looking forward to the start of Tri 3 on Monday. Spring sports also begin on Monday, March 21st. Jasmyn spoke of Junior Katherin DeFosse who just came in 4th place in the 60 meter hurdles at Nationals in New York City. The Students for Diversity group celebrated Black History month in February, and is celebrating Women in History this month. Rocket of the Week is going strong. Natalie Zona, Shamon Wright and Michael Nelson have been the past 3 winners. The NHS induction ceremony will be held Thursday evening March 17th. The live production of Newsie will debut April 8, 9, 10. Ski Club just returned from Jay Peak on Sunday night. Thank you to Mr. Young, Mr. Pratt and Mr. & Mrs. Berg for chaperoning. Seniors are finalizing Prom plans for May 7th at Union Station.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **COVID Update**

#### **Information**

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

- Still testing symptomatic students/staff
- Week of 2/28 - 8 tests Week of 3/7 - 20 tests
- Positives reported since vacation: week of 2/28 - 15, week of 3/7 - 13, week of 3/14 - 7
- Trending in the right direction

#### **School Choice 2022-2023**

#### **Action**

With current high enrollment numbers, the number of current school choice students, as well as the projected new enrollment numbers for 2022-2023, Dr. Chamberland's recommendation for the number of additional students to be accepted into the Auburn Public Schools via our School Choice program in grades 6-12 is 12. This will keep the total number of school choice students at the same number, 90 accepted students, as the 2021-2022 school year.

***Recommended Motion:***.....to accept an additional 12 students into the Auburn Public Schools via school choice for grades 6-12 for the 2022-2023 school year.

George Scobie entertained the motion to *accept an additional 12 students into the Auburn Public Schools via school choice for grades 6-12 for the 2022-2023 school year.*

Jessie Harrington made a motion to *accept an additional 12 students into the Auburn Public Schools via school choice for grades 6-12 for the 2022-2023 school year.* Gail Holloway seconded the motion.

Dottie Kauffman questioned the number of students and asked to table the vote to give the committee time to look at class sizes.

Meghan McCrillis asked if it was possible to only take in for grade 6.

Dr. Chamberland stated that the current 8th grade was so large that we would not be able to accept any 9th graders, but we would accept the other grades as appropriate.

Jessie Harrington rescinded her motion, Gail Holloway rescinded the 2nd. No vote at this time.

### **FY 23 Budget Review with Finance Committee**

### **Information**

On Wednesday, March 9, 2022, Mrs. Wirzbicki and Dr. Chamberland presented the FY23 budget to the Town of Auburn Finance Committee. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to support the FY23 budget as presented which includes a requested increase over the FY 22 budget of 3.15% or \$ 881,673. Dr. Chamberland thanked the Finance Committee, Town Administrator Jacobson and CFO/Assistant Town Administrator Kazanovicz for their support. Dr. Chamberland stated we will hold our Public Hearing on April 6th, at 6:30PM, at Auburn High School in the auditorium. We will send the final budget to the town for a vote during the Annual Town Meeting on May 3, 2022. Dr. Chamberland also stated that the Town questioned how the school department felt about the prospect of a Town Human Resource person, we are in full support.

### **Bryn Mawr Parking Lot**

### **Information**

Mr. Fahey and Dr. Chamberland attended the Town of Auburn Planning Board meeting on March 8, 2022 for a second discussion on the plans to create a parking lot and driveway on the field adjacent to Bryn Mawr School. The plan was approved by the Planning Board. An updated plan was provided to the committee that included the addition of a second gate at the parking lot end of the driveway, a crosswalk on Swanson Road, and parking specific signs in several areas. Mr. Fahey attended a meeting with the Conservation Commission on March 9, 2022 in relation to Phase One of this overall plan that requires changing the location of the school dumpster and creating a concrete pad for the same. This was approved by the Conservation Commission. Phase One, that includes the paving of the current Bryn Mawr driveway and parking lot is on schedule for this summer. Phase Two, which includes the new parking area and driveway in the Bryn Mawr field, will require additional meetings with the Auburn DPW and Town Leadership to identify a funding source.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Auburn High School Program of Studies**

#### **Action**

Principal Daniel Delongchamp presents proposed changes to the Auburn High School Program of Studies. This includes additions in the areas of Fine Arts, Unified Programming, Social Studies, Student Support Services and Clubs and Activities.

**Recommended Motion.....to accept the proposed changes for the AHS Program of Studies for 2022-2023.**

George Scobie entertained the motion to *accept the proposed changes for the AHS Program of Studies for 2022-2023.*

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to *accept the proposed changes for the AHS Program of Studies for 2022-2023.* Dottie Kauffman seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

**Mileage Reimbursement Request Form**

**Action**

In a memo from Ed Kazanovicz, In accordance with the Chapter VI-Section 6.02 of the Town's By-Laws, the mileage reimbursement rate shall be amended to .58.50 cents per mile, which is consistent with the 2022 IRS rate. This rate shall go into effect on March 14, 2022. This is an increase from .50.50.

**Recommended Motion.....to accept the updated mileage reimbursement rate as set forth by the Town.**

George Scobie entertained the motion to *accept the updated mileage reimbursement rate as set forth by the Town.*

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to *accept the updated mileage reimbursement rate as set forth by the Town.* Gail Holloway seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

**United States Department of Education - Office of Civil Rights Letter**

**Information**

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has completed its directed investigation and reached a determination in the investigation regarding the Auburn Public School District and potential violations of Section 504 or Title II related to accessibility on our website. The investigation was conducted to ensure the District website appropriately provides its online programs, services, and activities to people with disabilities on a nondiscriminatory basis and to ensure that communications with applicants, members of the public, and companions with disabilities are as effective as its communication with others. Because **the District remediated all identified barriers on the tested pages** that impeded the ability of people with disabilities to access the District's online programs, services, and activities, OCR determined that **there was insufficient evidence** that the District violated Section 504 or Title II. Dr. Chamberland also credited Maureen Elliot for her swift work on this matter. She made all the changes in 2 weeks. It was noted by the person conducting the investigation that it was a quick and seamless update.

**APS/APD School Resource Officer**

**Information**

On March 10, 2022, we were informed by Chief Lemon of the APD that Officer John O'Brien has been named as the School Resource Officer for the Auburn Public Schools. Officer O'Brien will replace Sergeant Brian Kennedy who served as our School Resource Officer for many years. We are pleased to have Officer O'Brien join our team.

### **The Shared Street Grant**

### **Information**

The Shared Street Grant is a State funded grant to improve public health, safe mobility and strengthened commerce in the State. The Town has applied for a Shared Street Grant for \$177,712.00 to replace our Blinkomatic school zone signs and install actuated blinking crosswalk signs, radar speed signs and a LIDAR Scope to measure speed. The grant will also accommodate handicap sidewalk ramp improvements at some of our crosswalks. This grant was spearheaded by Julie Jacobson, Town Manager, Ed Kazanovicz, CFO, Todd Lemon, Provisional Chief of Police and his team, as well as Joanna Paquin, DPW Director and her team. Dr. Chamberland thanked them for their efforts to bring such improvements to the town.

### **The Green Dome**

### **Information**

The Green Dome is a remaining structure from the previous Auburn High School. The Green Dome is located on school property in the outfield of Auburn High School Baseball Field. A committed group of Auburn High School Alumni, most from the Class of 1966, have been working to raise money to update and maintain the Green Dome. Mr. Fahey, Town Manger Jacobson, Assistant Town Manager Kazanovicz and Dr. Chamberland met with 7 members of the group on Tuesday, March 8th. The discussion focused on the process to be followed prior to any repairs taking place and noted that the process must include consultation with the Auburn Conservation Committee and the Auburn School Committee.

Jessie Harrington asked if they want to meet with the school committee members to ask for funds. Dr. Chamberland said there was a previous school committee ruling that there would be no funds given by the school department.

### **Chester P. Tuttle Post 279 Donation**

#### **Action**

The Auburn Legion, Post 279, presented Brian Davis, our Athletic Director, with a \$100 donation to help defray the cost of the commemorative t-shirts which were purchased for the Tarentino Cup Varsity football game.

***Recommended Motion***....to accept with gratitude, the donation of \$100 from Chester P. Tuttle Post 279, Auburn Legion.

George Scobie entertained the motion to *accept* with gratitude, the donation of \$100 from Chester P. Tuttle Post 279, Auburn Legion.

*Meghan McCrillis* made a motion to *accept* with gratitude, the donation of \$100 from Chester P. Tuttle Post 279, Auburn Legion. Gail Holloway seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

### **Retirements**

### **Information**

Dr. Chamberland announced the following retirements:  
Rosemary Reidy, Director of Pupil Services, effective 8-31-22  
Eileen Donahue, Assistant Principal at AHS, effective 6-30-22  
Marie Mahan, Principal at Bryn Mawr, effective 6-30-23

Dr. Chamberland and the committee wished them well.

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT**

**Information**

### **Moving Closer to Normal Every Day**

Now in our third week back to school with masks being optional for students and staff, Dr. Chamberland shared some of the wonderfully typical happenings at some of the schools. Pakachoag students are participating in the March Madness Reading Challenge where they compare books about kindness and vote on their favorite. Bryn Mawr School has the Discovery Museum conducting hands-on learning experiences for students related to Sound, Light & Laser, and Physical Properties of Matter with adapted experiences for our students with significant special needs. At Swanson Road Intermediate School, students are focused on reading comprehension and many students are working on hands-on social studies projects. At Auburn Middle School, 7th grade Science classes have been learning about thermal energy and the transfer of heat. Earlier this week, students got to see first hand how heat can transfer via conduction (direct contact). They also saw how energy moves from warmer objects to cooler ones until they reach a thermal equilibrium. Students in the 7th grade also worked on a parachute 'Design and Drop' project.

At Auburn High School, Algebra 1 students are working on solving systems of linear equations or graphing quadratics. Algebra 2 students are solving rational equations, while Geometry students are reviewing concepts for the MCAS exam. Some activities include: Partner worksheets where each person has a different problem but their answers match (so it's self-checking); Whodunnit - they solve math problems to solve a crime; Scavenger Hunts - solve problems posted around the room where the answer to the problem leads them to the next problem.

## **BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

**Information**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated March 8, 2022.

### **Budget Transfers**

**Action**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated March 8, 2022 between the same series, along with a listing of Transfers between different series for which she was seeking approval from the committee.

***Recommended Motion.....***to approve the list of Transfers dated March 8, 2022 as presented by the business manager.

George Scobie entertained a motion to accept the list of transfers as presented by the Business Manager.

Dottie Kauffman made a motion to approve the list of Transfers dated March 8, 2022 , Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **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.

Mr. Scobie entertained the motion to adjourn into executive session 7:18pm to discuss the bargaining position with non-union personnel that could be compromised if discussed in open session.

Gail Holloway made a motion to adjourn to 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. Dottie Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

7:18pm adjourned to executive session.

### **Adjournment**

#### ***Roll Call Vote***

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

#### **Referenced Documents:**

**Meeting Minutes for 2/16/22 and 3/2/22**

**Auburn High School Program of Studies Changes**

Memo and updated Mileage Reimbursement Request Form

United States Department of Education - Office of Civil Rights Letter

Memo form Todd Lemon, Chief of Police

Shared Street Grant Information

Retirement Letters

**Year to Date Report Dated 3/8/22**

**Budget Transfers Dated 3/8/22**

**Approved 4/6/2022**

