

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Location: School Committee Room
June 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

George Scobie
Jessie Harrington
Gail Holloway
Dottie Kaufman
Meghan McCrillis

Casey Handfield
Dan Delongchamp

Lucas Balastracci
Zoe Picard
Emma McGrillen
Elexa McFadden

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:31 p.m., Mr. Scobie called the meeting to order and asked if anyone else will be recording the meeting; there being none, he asked that everyone join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS: None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCTION / REPORT

Jasmyn Gates - Unable to attend

MINUTES: 6/2/21 for approval.

Action

Mrs. Harrington made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2nd meeting; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COVID Update:

Dr. Handfield reported that COVID continues to decline in the school district with our last confirmed case being on May 25th. He noted that we have not seen a prolonged stretch of being "COVID FREE" like this since late summer last year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Announcement of Retirees

Dr. Handfield noted that the below-named employees will all be starting their retirement this summer and have a combined 156 years of service to the Auburn Public Schools! He read aloud their names and years of service.

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>YOE</u>
Bernadette	Engvall	SWIS Instructional Assistant	22
Sandy	Gaspie	SWIS ABA	22
Rick	Hanson	SWIS Custodian	28
Sharon	Hennessey	SWIS Special Educator	14
Deb	Hughes-Johnson	Primary Art Specialist	20
Kathy	Sloan	SWIS Instructional Assistant	23
Ailaine	Zautner	Admin. Assistant to the Superintendent	27

Letters to Retirees

As has been done in previous years, letters have been prepared for signature of Committee members and me to go to all staff members retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 school year to offer our appreciation for their dedicated service to the students of Auburn. In total, these seven staff members have given 156 years of services to the Auburn Public Schools.

Dr. McCrillis made a motion to sign the letters to retirees and have them distributed; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

AHS Students for Diversity

Dr. Handfield introduced Mr. Dan Delongchamp and students Lucas Balastracci, Elexa McFadden, Emma McGrillen and Zoe Picard, noting that as we have discussed over the course of the year, the Students for Diversity group has met a number of times to discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Auburn Public Schools. He highlighted this in our last meeting when sharing my impressions of many things within the APS. In a broad manner, we are beginning an equity audit across the district in the fall facilitated by the Center for Leadership and Educational Equity focused on the following question: **“What factors should Auburn Public Schools (APS) consider in creating a roadmap for strategic implementation of equitable academic and cultural practices that will improve inclusivity, safety, accessibility, and rigor for each and every student?”**

However, at Auburn High School, we discovered a more pressing need for more immediate action for our students. They are here to talk about their journey since last summer, and what they have created and implemented for faculty and students.

Mr. Delongchamp noted how great it was to be in person for the first time in over a year; although bittersweet to be here with these students; who all graduated on June 4th - he wished they were here for the next couple of years! He noted that Karyn Ferdella, Andrew Martin and Heidi Tatum, teachers at AHS, all stepped forward volunteering to be advisors for this group.

Lucas then addressed the Charter and Zoe addressed the SFD Five-Year Plan. Emma and Elexa both spoke to their experience with the group and what it meant to them.

The Committee was very impressed with the presentation and information provided, noting that they are very happy with the fact that they are going into the younger age groups. They noted that it was an incredible time that they have lived through and to have brought this out of it is amazing! They are doing an honorable thing, building a foundation that is going to be with us for a long time.

AHS Program of Studies - Updates

Mr. Delongchamp was in attendance to highlight some of the changes to the AHS Program of Studies.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the updated AHS Program of Studies for 2021-2022; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November

Dr. Handfield asked the members to please let Mrs. Zautner know prior to July 15th if it is was their plan to attend the Joint Conference in November this year.

TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:

Summer Curriculum Work

Dr. Chamberland shared that she has over 70 staff members who will undertake summer curriculum work in preparation for next school year. Some of the areas of concentration are Algebra 1 & 2, STEM Curriculum Mapping, Project Lead the Way, Transition Curriculum for Special Education students, Responsible Citizenship elective, English 9 & 10, Spanish, General Music, Math Enhanced Curriculum Delivery, Civics, Science activities, Reading for Meaning, Welcoming Back to Awesomeness and Becoming a Mentor. Each project will help to further refine and deepen the academic experience of our students.

Acceleration Roadmap

Dr. Chamberland shared that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is offering training throughout the summer, for educators and leaders alike, related to pedagogy and classroom structure when we return in the fall. This training and Roadmap is designed to help educators move students forward with grade level material while skillfully providing context, background knowledge and scaffolds to ensure students are successful with the grade level material presented.

BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Year to Date Budget Report:

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report as of June 10th.

Mrs. Kauffman requested, that starting in the fall, could a revolving account update be included too.

Omnibus Transfers

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided Omnibus Transfers #2 for the Committee's information.

Request to Increase Casual Cafeteria Rate for FY 22

Dr. Handfield noted that there was a letter from Mrs. Janice King included in the packets, this requesting that the hourly rate for Casual Cafeteria staff be increased from \$12 to \$13. It was his (and that of Mrs. Wirzbicki) recommendation that the Committee approve this request.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the increase in the hourly rate for Casual Cafeteria employees from \$12 to \$13 for FY 22; Mrs. Kaufman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

French River Bids

On Mrs. Wirzbicki's behalf, Dr. Handfield shared that once again, the Auburn Public School District has partnered with the French River Educational Collaborative for the procurement of the following: Athletic, Paper, Classroom Supplies, Computer Supplies and Custodial Supplies. The bids were solicited following the Chapter 30B procurement laws and awarded by individual line items. The winning bids for each of the categories included in the packet for the Committee's review.

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to accept the winning French River Bids for Athletic, Paper, Classroom Supplies and Custodial Supplies as presented to be used in the purchasing of needed supplies for the Auburn Public Schools in FY22; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Food Service Bids

Dr. Handfield shared that Mrs. Janice King, Director of Food Service, had included a memo in the packet requesting the Committee's approval of a new Food Service bid for groceries as outlined below:

New bids for FY 22 are for our mainline grocery companies:

Ace Endico – Grocery
Thurston Foods - Grocery

Prior FY 21 accepted bids were for a term of 2 years, and they remain in place for FY22 for the following companies:

Duva Distributors – Bread
New England Ice Cream Company – Milk and Ice Cream
Mansfield Paper Company – Non-Food Disposables

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to accept the Bids from Ace Endico and Thurston Foods for groceries for FY 22; Dr. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Thank You to Auburn Community

Prior to adjourning to Executive Session, Dr. Handfield stated that he wanted to sincerely thank everyone within our school community, our Town Administration and respective boards, Town Meeting members, and our residents. He noted that we are getting ready to "land the plane" next

Tuesday and we could not have done it without everyone mentioned. It was a year like none other, and hopefully a year we will never see again.

The Committee agreed that the June 30th meeting was not needed and that a super difficult year could have had a lot more adversity; however, most residents/stakeholders were supportive which was impressive.

At 7:45 p.m., Mrs. Holloway made a motion to enter Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (2) in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and (3) to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel. Mrs. Kaufman seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Dr. McCrillis - Yes; Mrs. Kaufman - Yes; Mrs. Holloway - Yes; Mrs. Harrington - Yes; Mr. Scobie - Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from June 2, 2021 SC Meeting
Students For Diversity Charter
Students for Diversity 5 Year Plan
AHS POS for 2021-2022 – Updates/Changes
Year to Date Budget Report June 10, 2021-06-24
Budget Transfers
Request to Increase Hourly Rate for Cafeteria Casual Workers
FREC Co-op Bid
Letter from Janice King re Food Service Bids
List of Donors for ENCORE Garden