

MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room

October 26, 2022 6:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Gail Holloway

Brooke Wrenn

Samantha Raphael

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Karen Ballway

Isabella Faber - Student Representative

Wendy Quirion - Encore Coordinator

Adam Laramie - Encore Associate

Jean-Paul Laramie - 8 Buttonwood Lane (Father of Adam)

Zachary Couture - Encore Associate

Jennifer Couture - 17 White Terrace (Mother of Zachary)

Jen McCarthy - Education & Employment Specialist at Viability

Deborah Sanborn - Director of the Worcester Viability Office

**Absent**

**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:** 10/12/22

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 10/12/22.

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to accept the minutes from 10/12/22. Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

Isabella Faber:

- Very Successful homecoming weekend.
  
- First real in person pep rally since COVID which set a positive atmosphere for the weekend.
  
- Over 400 students at the homecoming football game.
  
- Over 500 students attended the homecoming dance.
  
- The Marching Band received a silver medal in their competition.
  
- Student council held a successful boo bash for families.
  
- The Varsity math team had their first meet of the season today, and the first in person meet since COVID. Was hosted at auburn high school.
  
- Athletic teams had a great fall season, most are winding down, some teams being sent to playoffs.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

### **Spotlight on Students:**

Dr. Chamberland: The ENCORE Program (Educational Next Steps: Creating Opportunities for Real World Experiences) is located at 5 West Street and offers work-based opportunities as well as various real-world experiences, including grocery shopping, meal planning and cooking, physical fitness, transitional literacy and the like. This transition program is designed for associates ages 18-22 who continue to be eligible for educational services as they transition to adulthood. ENCORE blends educational opportunities within real-world settings in the Auburn community, the hometown of all associates. We are proud to report that our students were featured on promotional material for Viability, a program providing career readiness training for students with disabilities.

Dr. Chamberland introduced Wendy Quirion.

Wendy Quirion introduced Zachary Couture and Adam Laramie, ENCORE associates, and the members of Viability.

Zachary & Adam shared their experience with the Viability program and how it has prepared them for job interviews through use of the interactive headset.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **8th Grade Field Trip**

Dr. Chamberland: The Auburn Middle School grade 8 team is excited to present for your consideration an overnight field trip to Philadelphia and New York City. Mr. Desto is here to expand on the details and to answer any of your questions.

Mr. Desto presented the committee with a packet outlining the itinerary of the trip and the associate fee. As well as outlined how the trip correlates with the current 8th grade curriculum. There will be fundraising, payment plans, and 4 scholarships available through the travel company. There will be a 10-1 chaperone ratio. This will include the 8th grade teachers, first responder parents, a school nurse and a building administrator.

Gail Holloway: Is this trip in place of the DC trip?

Greg Desto: Yes, we wanted something memorable for the 8th grade. The D.C. trip would have been far too expensive for families due to the cost increase.

Samantha Raphael: Your leave time of 6:00 a.m. should be earlier to avoid traffic. The ferry is a great idea.

Jessie Harrington: This was a very thorough presentation and I heard great feedback from the parent meeting you held at the school. How many students per room?

Greg Desto: 4

Brooke Wrenn: I think it is great that trips are returning for the kids.

Beth Chamberland: We would like to hear from the students after the trip.

Jessie Harrington: The parents as well!

***Recommended Motion***....to approve the Auburn Middle School overnight Field Trip to Philadelphia and New York City, May 23-24, 2023.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the Auburn Middle School overnight Field Trip to Philadelphia and New York City, May 23-24, 2023.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to approve the Auburn Middle School overnight Field Trip to Philadelphia and New York City, May 23-24, 2023. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **Town of Auburn Special Town Meeting**

Dr. Chamberland: On Tuesday, October 18, 2022, the Town of Auburn held a Special Town Meeting. The Auburn Public Schools put forward amendments, approved previously by the School Committee, to increase the school budget from \$28,870,214 to \$28,973,070, a difference of \$102,856 to cover a 30% increase in expected electricity costs. APS also requested an increase from \$ 100,000 to \$125,000 in Medicaid receipts based on an anticipated increase, a transfer of \$95,000 in CIP funds for new windows at 5 West Street to the required installation of backflow devices at 5 West Street, Pakachoag, Bryn Mawr and Swanson Road Intermediate. Three other amendments required corrections to scrivener's errors. I am pleased to report that Town Meeting members supported all amendments presented on the behalf of the Auburn Public Schools.

Dr. Chamberland & Jessie Harrington: Both expressed their gratitude for the Town's support.

### **Satellite and Galaxy Pay Rates**

Pay rates for Satellite and Galaxy staff have not been updated in some time. Given the need many families have for before and after school care and our need to hire high quality staff, I am recommending that we update the pay rates.

CURRENT Satellite/Galaxy Pay Rates		PROPOSED Satellite Galaxy Pay Rates	
Lead Teacher	\$ 22.20	Lead Teacher	\$ 23.50
Step 4	\$ 18.40	<b>Step 4 OR CURRENT PERMANENT STAFF</b>	\$ 19.70
Step 3	\$ 15.70	Step 3	17.00
Step 2	\$ 14.89	Step 2	16.00
Step 1	\$ 14.35	Step 1	15.00
Sub	\$ 12.25	Sub	14.50

Gail Holloway - As I looked at the proposed rates I wondered why not a straight \$2 increase? Can we afford it?

Cecelia Wirzbicki - We can look at that for an increase, but with the increase of costs, we can use that money elsewhere.

Jessie Harrington: How many employees?

Dr. Chamberland: 20-25. We can increase by \$1.50 and reevaluate next year.

Samantha Raphael: I agree with increasing. Bumping up the pay may bring in more current staff. The cost is reasonable, even if we needed to increase the fee.

Dr. Chamberland: We have worked hard to keep the cost reasonable for families, I don't want to make any increases at this time.

**Recommended Motion:** .....to approve the recommended increase of \$1.50 to the pay rates of Satellite and Galaxy staff.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the recommended increase of \$1.50 to the pay rates of Satellite and Galaxy staff.

Gail Holloway made a motion to approve the recommended increases to the pay rates of Satellite and Galaxy staff by \$1.50. Meghan MCCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:**

Alan Keller: As a follow up to the October 12, 2022 presentation on statewide MCAS trends, tonight we will examine areas we have identified as highlights and areas for growth in our district and schools. Parent reports were sent out today from the schools. (Powerpoint slides with information provided in minutes) 2022 is our new base line. The

NAPE scores came out recently, reading scores across the board for grades 4 & 8 declined. In most cases we exceeded the state average.

Gai Holloway: What caused Auburn to perform lower in ELA? What are we doing differently?

Samantha Raphael: There is testing fatigue because students haven't done this for a couple years due to COVID.

Jessie Harrington: I am happy with the results. I don't see many negatives. As always we are here to support you and the teachers.

Brooke Wrenn: To see the numbers after all the teachers and students have been through is great.

Samanth Raphael: I commend the teachers.

Meghan McCrillis: It must be difficult for students to write an essay for ELA on iPads without proper typing skills.

Brooke Wrenn: Can there be a lesson on typing?

Dr. Chamberland: We do start early and give the students experience on the device in the elementary schools for practice. The schedule does not allow for a typing class.

## **BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated October 19, 2022 for review.

### **Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated October 19, 2022, between the same series for information, along with a listing of transfers between different series for approval.

***Recommended Motion.....to approve the list of Transfers dated, October 19, 2022, as presented by the Business Manager.***

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to *approve the list of Transfers dated October 19, 2022, as presented by the Business Manager.*

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to *approve the list of Transfers dated October 19, 2022, as presented by the Business Manager*. Gail Holloway seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Samantha Raphael made the motion to adjourn for the evening. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

Meeting Minutes for 10/12/22

Spring 2022 MCAS Overview

Year to Date Budget Report Dated 10/19/22

Budget Transfers Dated 10/19/22

**APPROVED 11-9-22**