

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES from Wednesday, April 16, 2014
7:00 p.m. Regular Session**

In Attendance:

Wayne Page
Liz Gibbons
Lee Ann Gibree
George Scobie

Absent:

Jeff Lourie

Maryellen Brunelle
Peter Gray
Kathy Lauzé

Casey Handfield
Joe Gagnon
Ed Bedard

Eric Bouvier
Karen Ares
Maria Berrios

Visitors:

Bruce Hopper
Dorothy Sutton

Jonathan Brennand
Samuel Butler

Jessie Harrington

Call to Order and Pledge: At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Page asked if anyone besides ACTV was taping the meeting. There being none, he then asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Special Recognitions:

Moment of Silence in Memory of Mrs. Virginia Giordano, John Giordano's mother

Dr. Brunelle observed a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Virginia Giordano, Mr. John Giordano's (Assistant Principal, Auburn Middle School) mother who passed away recently.

Auburn Middle School Teachers: Ms. Connell, Mr. Watson, Mr. Wright

Dr. Brunelle recognized Auburn Middle School Teachers: Ms. Connell, Mr. Watson, Mr. Wright, all of whom had been selected by former students (now freshmen at St. John's) as teachers who have impacted their school career thus far. They will attend a breakfast in their honor on April 30th.

Citizens' Concerns/Comments: None

Student Representatives Report:

Kyle reported that the Madrid exchange program was underway with AHS students currently visiting their partners in Madrid, Spain; he reported that the sophomores' ring breakfast was scheduled for Thursday, April 17th; the We The People team leaves next Friday, April 25th, for their National Competition, returning on Tuesday, April 29th. He noted that a mock competition is being held on Thursday, April 17th and judges from the Harvard Competition (where Auburn won the State) were coming to judge, which he felt was a nice gesture. When asked how much had been raised, Kyle responded that he believed close to \$40,000.

Regular Session Minutes:

April 2, 2014

Mr. Scobie made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2014 meeting; Mrs. Gibree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report:

Worcester Youth Orchestras

Mr. Bruce Hopper and Mr. Jonathan Brennard were in attendance to seek the Committee's approval on a rate reduction for the Worcester Youth Orchestras to rent the AHS Auditorium, band room and, several times a year, a couple of classrooms. They noted that the Worcester Youth Orchestras have been located at Pakachoag Church for the last 4-5 years; they are rooted in Auburn, happy to be in Auburn; growing leaps and bounds and that they love the Auburn High School facility. They would very much like to make an arrangement with the High School to use the space there. Mr. Brennard noted that it is the end of his second season with WYO and they are now reaching capacity at Pakachoag Church. Auburn is a great, centrally located community for them as it is very accessible to parents bringing their children from outlying communities. They are looking for a new home and would like to stay in Auburn. He noted the two programs would complement each other well and, while they have no current AHS or AMS students in the orchestra, they have in the past and hope to in the future.

The Committee members asked them what their proposal was and they responded that they would need the Auditorium and Band Room for rehearsals on Saturday mornings, three times a month, with sectionals taking place in 4 classrooms once a month. They were proposing an agreement where they would pay custodial and site manager fees and, in turn, provide full scholarships to 5 APS students, with all other APS students receiving \$175 off the registration/audition/tuition fees. They would also commit to having one performance per year at AHS and would cover all associated rental costs for that. If there were not 5 APS students interested in joining the WYO, then the offer would be extended to Auburn residents.

The Committee noted that this is a good opportunity for Auburn Public School students as it is providing an extension to what APS has to offer. They noted they would like to approve it on a trial basis for a year with an update to be provided in December/January to see how things are going and to determine how many APS students are participating. In the meantime, they were given permission to get into the schools and plant the seed.

Mrs. Gibbons made a motion to approve Worcester Youth Orchestras rental of the AHS facilities at a cost of \$9,832 for the year (see breakdown below) on a trial basis of one year; Mrs. Gibree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

4.5 hours @ \$29.50 for custodian	=	\$132.75
5 hours @ \$30 for site manager	=	\$150.00
Total each week	=	\$282.75
X 32 weeks	=	\$9,048.00
Sectionals (7 times/year) @ \$112	=	\$784.00
Grand Total	=	\$9,832.00

STEM at AHS

Mrs. Karen Ares, Ms. Maria Berrios, and Mr. Ed Bedard, Auburn High STEM teachers, were in attendance to provide an update on the STEM program and activities taking place at Auburn High School, along with student Samuel Butler.

They provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Bioengineering and Environmental Engineering project-based classes they teach, where students use problem-solving skills to create solutions to environmental issues facing our world today.

The Committee noted the teachers' excitement at what they do and thanked them for that and for a wonderful presentation.

1:1 iPad Update

Dr. Lauzé, Mr. Handfield and Mr. Gagnon were in attendance to support Mr. Bouvier as he provided an update on the 1:1 iPad implementation initiative for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Committee noted that they would like to see something in the handbooks regarding the initiative and asked if there were any policies that they should be approving. Mr. Bouvier will look into this.

They gave kudos to all of the Implementation Team and thanked them for bringing it to fruition.

They also approved the recommended insurance cost of approximately \$40 to be assessed to each student with a motion from Mrs. Gribbons and a second from Mrs. Gibree. The motion was unanimously approved.

New AMS Assistant Principal

Dr. Brunelle announced the name of the new Auburn Middle School Assistant Principal who will replace Mr. John Giordano, who is retiring as of June 30, 2014: Mr. Matthew Carlson, who comes to us from the Wachusett Regional School District as an Assistant Principal in Rutland, will take Mr. Giordano's place. He is a resident of Sturbridge, MA where he resides with his wife and three young children. Dr. Brunelle noted that he will be in attendance to be introduced to the Committee at the first meeting in September and she welcomed him to the team.

Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP)

Dr. Brunelle noted that Mr. Handfield had recently notified her that Auburn High School had been awarded a grant to implement the Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP). Beginning in the fall of 2014, AHS will receive three years of supplemental resources to support the implementation of PYFP, including tools for professional development, assessment and participant recognition. This program was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in September 2012 and its goal is to improve fitness and physical activity among youth and AHS Physical Education teachers are excited to work with PYFP to enhance and improve their current program. She gave kudos to them for seeking out this award.

SHINE Initiative

Dr. Brunelle was recently informed by Mr. Paul Richard, Executive Director of the SHINE Initiative, that the Auburn Public Schools has been awarded \$5,000 in grant money to support mental health training and consultation for staff. This is an initiative that Ms. Pam Kaufmann, Interim Director of Pupil Services, has been working on in conjunction with Auburn Youth and Family Services. She thanked Ms. Kaufmann for securing the grant which will be awarded at a breakfast on Wednesday, April 30th at Fidelity Bank in Leominster.

SWCEC Quarterly Report

Mr. Scobie made a motion to approve the SWCEC Quarterly Report for the period of January to March 2014; Mrs. Gibree seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Superintendent's Evaluation

Dr. Brunelle provided copies of her updated goals and self evaluation to the members so that they could complete their evaluation of her. These should be completed and given to Mr. Lourie, Chairperson, by April 24th or sooner.

Comparison School Districts for Data Collection

With a request to include Northbridge and Uxbridge, the Committee approved the highlighted school districts to seek data from when making comparisons on salaries, contracts, etc. Mr. Scobie made a motion to approve; Mrs. Gribbons seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Reminder: Meeting prior to Town Meeting, May 6, 2014

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members of the Annual Town Meeting taking place on Tuesday, May 6th, noting that, as usual, a School Committee meeting would be scheduled for 6:30 p.m. that evening in the Guidance Department Conference Room at AHS in case there were any items to discuss prior to the Town Meeting taking place.

New Business:

Educator Evaluation Spring Convening: Connecting Policy, Practice and Practitioners

Dr. Brunelle noted that APS had been asked to present at the DESE Educator Evaluation Spring Convening to be held on May 28th and 29th. She noted that it was an honor to be asked to present and informed the Committee that Mrs. Beth Chamberland, Principal of Bryn Mawr School, will be doing so with perhaps a team of colleagues. The purpose of this convening is to bring educators from across the state together to share best practices for educator evaluation implementation and to support districts in planning for the 2014-2015 school year. The Auburn group will participate in a breakout session entitled, "Incorporating Student Feedback in Educator Evaluation."

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle noted that the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Middle School would take place on April 17th, followed by Good Friday being observed on April 18th, and then spring vacation from April 21st to 25th.

Business/Financial Report:

Transfers

Mrs. Gibree made a motion to approve the transfers as requested by the Business Manager; Mrs. Gribbons seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Procurement Update

Mr. Gray reported that due to the volatile market at the moment, the FREC group has not gone out to bid yet on Natural Gas. The FREC consultant advised that because of the severe winter the usual dip in prices at this time of year has not occurred...the group is on call for when that might happen and Mr. Gray will continue to keep the Committee apprised.

FY 2014 Medicaid Billing Report

Mr. Gray provided a FY 2015 Medicaid Billing Report as of April 1, 2014 for Informational purposes. There were no questions.

Summer Project Update

Mr. Gray provided an updated summary of summer projects currently being worked on for informational purposes.

Personnel:

Job Description for Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

Mrs. Gibree made a motion to approve the job description for Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Curriculum; Mrs. Gribbons seconded the motion and it was approved 3-1 with Mr. Page voting against it.

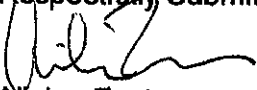
Job Description for Teacher

Mrs. Gibree made a motion to approve the updated job description for Teacher; Mr. Scobie seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Executive Session: At 9:13 p.m., per MGL Chapter 30A Section 21 (a) (2) and (3) to discuss strategy with regards to negotiations with union and non-union personnel, Mrs. Gibree made a motion to enter Executive Session; Mr. Scobie seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Roll Call: Mrs. Gribbons – Yes; Mrs. Gibree – Yes; Mr. Scobie – Yes; Mr. Page - Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ailaine Zautner
Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Minutes from April 2, 2014
WYO Proposal re AHS Facilities Use
STEM PPT
1:1 iPad Presentation
SWCEC Quarterly Report and Cover letter
Superintendent's Update Goals
Superintendent's Self Evaluation – APS model
Superintendent's Self Evaluation – DESE model
DESE Map of Central MA
Transfers
FY 2015 Medicaid Billing Report as of April 1, 2014
Summer Project Update
Job Description: Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Curriculum
Job Description: Teacher

