

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
MAY 23, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.  
AUBURN VILLAGE MEDIA CENTER**

**These minutes have been approved.**

Keith Leclair, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members, Alan Villeneuve, Maureen Murgo, Samantha Belcourt, and Janice Baker; Principal, Lori Collins; Maintenance Director, Scott Dube; Superintendent Dr. Charles P. (Phil) Littlefield; Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak; and Business Administrator, Karen Lessard.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Keith Leclair led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Dr. Littlefield provided proof of posting.

**FACILITIES NEEDS**

Keith Leclair reviewed the goals that were set by the Board when deciding on the renovation/addition plan. Keith said since the plan failed twice, that the Board has decided to meet to revisit and readdress the goals which were to:

- Remove portable and modular classrooms
- Improve safety and security of entire school
- Increase primary education, special education and group learning space
- Improve the function of key common areas, including the gymnasium, nurse's office, and restrooms

After considerable discussion, the Board concluded that the goals were all needed and appropriate, but that the removal of the portables and modulares was essential. However, after review, none of the Board members felt that the other goals were less important. Considerable discussion ensued relative to prioritizing goals, student safety, flexible learning areas, ability to house full-day kindergarten, having space that would fit the entire student body, expansion in the nurse's office, and renovations of bathrooms. Other items were traffic flow, parking, access to the school, and the time-frame necessary for a warrant 2018 article. Alan Villeneuve stated that in 2013, the top four concerns at the school were library/media, removal of the portables, gym, and cafeteria. He said the community said no twice to the proposed plan and that a gym is less important than classrooms. Keith Leclair stated that renovations could be done over a ten year period so as not to include that amount in the bond. Dr. Littlefield suggested that the Board consider sacrificing the full project and do it in phases, starting with the removal of the portables and modulares, then addressing entire-school safety concerns, etc. He said that this would show the public that the Board was addressing goals, although this process would be less cost-effective. Samantha Belcourt asked if the Board should consider contacting a firm other than the Turner Group.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Mark Jordan said that he was hopeful in October when the Board said they were going to revisit the plan with the Turner Group and 'sharpen their pencils', but was extremely discouraged to find that at the next meeting the price had in fact increased. He also said many families have put their homes up for sale. Mark also referenced school funding issues the town of Croydon, NH, and the fact that staff continues to get annual raises no matter what. Keith Leclair stated that the Board was encouraged by reduced interest rates the proposal had at first. He said they did reduce the plan, but felt that only so much could be chiseled off. Alan Villeneuve stated that the Board did try to find places to reduce, but decided not to make the cuts. Mark Jordan asked why the building has fallen into such disrepair that such a large scale renovation is necessary. Keith said this Board can't answer to that, as it is a relatively new Board, but that during the budget process, they are always under pressure to keep the budget down. He said as far as raises, the teacher's association got nowhere near what that wanted this year.

Faye Hanscomb asked if funding would be provided if full-day kindergarten is mandated, to which Dr. Littlefield stated that he doesn't see anything on the horizon with regard to any aid.

Tom Gonyea stated that the goals need to be moved from qualitative to quantitative. Keith Leclair stated that the Board could consider presenting the same information, but organizing it differently to show the importance of each goal item. Janice Baker concurred. Tom Gonyea suggested showing the structural soundness of each goal.

Rick Eaton stated that the Board has worked hard on this project and may want to get with another architect to get fresh ideas with fresh eyes, but to not give up. Samantha Belcourt agreed with Mr. Eaton.

Keith Leclair stated that the Board won't be pushing the same ideas again, and that this meeting is to readdress goals and to decide what can the Board live with. He added that he showed the plans to a couple of local architects who gave positive feedback on the Turner plans.

Keith Leclair stated that Primex will meet with town department and committee heads for further goal-setting and to discuss priorities in town. When asked by Jennifer Anderson if the public is welcome, Mr. Eaton indicated to Keith Leclair that it will be a closed meeting.

Paula Marzloff stated that putting forth a proposal next year is too soon, that the Board will get pushback.

Maureen Murgo stated that she is dedicated to children and feels cutting back on the original goals would be a disservice to the community. She does not want to 'kick the can down the road'.

Faye Hanscomb stated that most people in the community agree that the portables and modulares should be removed.

Shawn Wesley asked how many plans have been proposed in the past, the which Alan Villeneuve stated that there have been conceptual plans, but this is the first viable plan for the current structure in a number of years. Plans had been presented for a new building on the Hooksett Road property.

Jennifer Anderson said she is hearing three options; four goals with a similar plans, reducing the number of attainable goals, and a new building at an alternative site. Keith Leclair stated that the Board is not considering a new building at an alternative site. He said the Hooksett Road property was up for sale, but because of a change in zoning, lost a lot of value. The district had it marketed at \$1 million, and it is now assessed for \$600,000. Dr. Littlefield stated that it is not a cheap site to develop. Alan Villeneuve stated that there is talk about possibly mining on that site. Discussion ensued relative to capital improvement funding. Alan Villeneuve stated that the town reserve is for catastrophic circumstances, but that capital funds are different. Mike Anderson stated that many people voted no to a renovation as they only want a new building.

Paula Marzloff suggested the district adopt a Capital Improvement Plan which sets schedules and how it's managed. The town and school district must work together fiscally, as they are both funded by the same taxpayers.

Janice Baker asked if there were enough funds left for Turner. Karen Lessard stated that there is \$12,000 remaining.

Discussion ensued relative to structuring of warrant articles to allow for multiple choices, or wording one as 'If what is proposed doesn't pass, would you approve of establishing a Capital Improvement Fund'.

Janice Baker asked if there is any revenue from those who use the facility, to which Karen Lessard said that number is minimal. Janice suggested reframing and rewording goals; what are aspirational goals and what problems would be addressed. Keith Leclair reiterated that all the goals are need-based.

Alan Villeneuve suggested adding a 12-classroom pod and phasing in renovations over a period of time. He said the project must be limited in order to get it moving and doing this would begin the process without ruining the building lot. He said things like electricals, windows and repaving can be added through the budget.

Jennifer Anderson disagreed with Alan, saying that the Board should find out what the town can afford, and rebuild/renovate to that number. She said the nurses room and main entrance are critical areas that need to be addressed. Mike Anderson said they should try again with the full plan.

Janice Baker said the goals are legitimate and sound, and the Board must decide how to achieve each goal. There needs to be funding for the removal of portables and modulares and funding for a Capital Improvement Plan. She said she feels all can exist and to not give up on everything/ all goals are legitimate and sound. It's more of when we achieve them. Maureen Murgo said this would provide for a framework, moving ahead while staying on track with a master plan for the school.

Not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Alan Villeneuve seconded by Samantha Belcourt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Auburn School Board Meeting is **Thursday, August 10, 2017** at 6:00 p.m. at Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca SJ McCarthy  
Recording Secretary