

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.  
AUBURN VILLAGE MEDIA CENTER**

**These minutes have been approved.**

Alan Villeneuve, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members, Samantha Belcourt, Jason Tyburski, Barbara Carpenter, and Janice Baker; Principal, Lori Collins; Assistant Principal, Lindsay Murray; Director of Student Services, Deena Jensen; Curriculum Coordinator, Cheryl Violette; Technology Director, Bob Strobel; Maintenance Director, Scott Dube; Superintendent William (Bill) Rearick; Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak; and Business Administrator, Amy Ransom.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

8<sup>th</sup> graders Alannah Whiting and Alexis Heiser led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Superintendent Rearick provided proof of posting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Samantha Belcourt, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to approve the meeting minutes of August 13, 2019 with the following amendment. Page 2, under 'February 11, 2020 NH Primary Discussion' strike ~~It will be discussed at the September meeting,~~ and add **'The board asked administration to make a proposal'**, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Samantha Belcourt, seconded by Janice Baker, to seal the non-public meeting minutes of August 13, 2019 in perpetuity because divulgence of the information would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the board itself, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Samantha Belcourt, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the sealed, non-public meeting minutes of August 13, 2019, and the motion carried unanimously.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Resident Allison Welch asked for an update on full-day kindergarten, and if it might be implemented by next fall. Alan Villeneuve stated that the board decided to move forward to study the feasibility of having full-day kindergarten. He said the board will need information garnered from the study to make their decision. Alan said the recommendation will be brought to the board in January, and if approved by the board, would put it in the 2021/2022 budget. Voters have final approval of the budget.

Resident Jen Strabone stated her concern with the 3rd grade class size. She said there are 'a sea of desks' in the classroom. She asked if the classroom paraprofessionals are certified in education, to which Alan Villeneuve stated that each met the criteria of being hired. Bill Rearick stated that they are not teachers.

Resident Amy Matte stated her impression that the qualification for paras is having a high school education. She asked if those hired for 3rd grade had extra qualifications. Lori Collins said the three paras required the same criteria as other paras. She said they were chosen out of eight applicants. Jen Strabone said her assumption was that the para would be there to help the teacher. Alan Villeneuve said he trusts administration to have hired appropriate people who they felt qualified to do what is necessary in those classrooms. Alan asked Lori Collins her opinion of how 3rd grade is going, to which Lindsey Murray stated it is going very well and people are getting adjusted. Lori Collins stated she has observed up to four adults in a classroom supporting students, and has seen benefits of having an extra adult in the classroom when the need to assist a student outside of the classroom arose.

Resident Jess Monroe said that during Open House, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher commented on the large class size. Ms. Monroe asked the board to consider an additional teacher. She asked if the sole reason was lack of space and what would be done if the class size increases. Alan Villeneuve stated that things are unfolding. He said that the board understands the parent concerns, but that there is no classroom available until sometime in January. Cheryl Violette stated that the paras hired for 3rd grade have had training, and will continue to do so. They will be mentored as well. She said they are all very capable and knowledgeable, and are happy to be in the school. Alan Villeneuve stated the

school opening in and of itself was more stressful than normal, but that the AVS teachers are high quality professionals. He said the board will keep monitoring 3rd grade. He said administration is confident with paras in the classroom.

Resident Jackie Low came to the meeting saying this is the biggest class ever and that they should hire a fourth teacher. She suggested using some creativity in opening up space and that she hopes for another possibility.

Janice Baker stated that there was recently a large 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and that with team effort, they got through it quite successfully. She said administration should make sure the new mentor program focusses on 3rd grade teachers, possibly having 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher mentor 3rd grade teachers, and having experienced paras mentor 3rd grade paras.

Resident Trisha Powers suggested that the board plan for next year, making sure to budget appropriately. She asked if four teachers are being considered. Bill Rearick stated the budget is due in October. He and Lori Collins will look at enrollments of K-8 and will then make their recommendation to the board. The board will proceed from there.

Resident Katelyn Beaulieu said from what she is hearing, teachers in 3rd grade are overwhelmed, but apparently are not speaking up to administrators. She suggested opening up a classroom by moving those who could teach portably.

Resident Jennifer Anderson suggested the board look at the size of grade 1. They should plan for four grade 2 teachers next year. She also said the board should take a serious look at the pay offered to paras and to consider the ability for 'step ups' to allow for the highest quality para. Janice Baker stated that a comparison was done last year and that paras are paid the same level within SAU #15. She said Candia and Hooksett have difficulty filling these positions as well. Bill Rearick stated with the current economy, filling para positions is a state-wide problem.

Amy Matte said districts like Bedford pay a higher rate for paras.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Bill Rearick summarized his report which was in the packet.

## **REPORTS**

### **Reports of Administrators**

Janice Baker asked Marge Polak about the Mentor Program in her report. Marge said they are in the beginning stages of mentoring throughout SAU #15. She said each school is mentoring their own teachers, but when necessary, mentoring comes from elsewhere.

Alan Villeneuve asked when the board would see DIBELS results, to which Marge said they would be available next week. She added that more DIBELS testing will be held in January. However, Cheryl Violette stated, when appropriate, some children are tested every three weeks.

Alan Villeneuve gave kudos to all involved in preparing school for the first day, namely Lori Collins, Scott Dube, and Bob Strobel. Lori Collins stated the days leading up the first day were stressful, but that people pulled together. She said she couldn't say enough about Scott, Bob, Bonnet Page, & Stone, and the teaching staff. Bill Rearick thanked the Auburn Fire Department and the BPS team for their efforts to help make it come together.

Lori stated that hiring has been an issue and that certified teachers are few and far between. It was difficult to find a long-term substitute.

When asked by Alan Villeneuve how her budget is doing, Deena Jensen stated it wasn't doing well and is challenging. She said the IDEA allotment is \$100,000 less than last year, so she is looking for guidance from the state. She added that services won't be affected. Barbara Carpenter asked if paras got insurance benefits, to which Deena said they do not.

Bob Strobel stated that projector mounts and smart boards will be installed soon.

Scott Dube stated that access control via phone will be completed by next week.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

NHSBA: Samantha Belcourt reported that NHSBA is now conducting their Call for Resolutions. Sam also said there are a number of new, upcoming workshops.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Co-Curricular and Athletic Nomination**

Motion by Samantha Belcourt, seconded by Janice Baker, to accept the Co-Curricular Nominations as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Renovation Discussion-Construction Dashboard\***

Bill Rearick stated the Town Administrator, Bill Herman reached out to him as the Town Health Officer has recommended spraying for mosquitos at designated locations in town. The cost to the

school district for treating its property would be \$400. Alan Villeneuve said we should be mindful of the close proximity of AVS to the watershed.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Samantha Belcourt to authorize spraying for mosquitos in the amount of \$400 and the motion carried unanimously. Scott Dube will coordinate. Barbara Carpenter suggested that parents be notified. Bill Rearick stated that parents will be notified of a scheduled spraying, and will also be notified a few days before the spraying is done.

Janice Baker stated that Phase 2 of 3 has been completed aside for some 'touch-ups'. Some things left to be done are:

- 5-Classroom Wing
- Lobby Restrooms
- Fields
- Main Office
- Nurses Office

She said there was substantial activity in the days leading to the first day of school and that the work continues. She said the committee continues to meet weekly, but hopes to pare them down to once every two weeks as the project winds down. Because so much of the project is done, Janice presented the board with Project Construction Alternates that could be possible as money gets freed up. Samantha Belcourt asked if there were contingency funds still available as there is still a portion still to be completed. Both Alan and Janice said there were.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Goals**

Goals were reviewed. Janice Baker suggested a language change on the goals to make Kindergarten Program to Kindergarten **Proposal**.

## **FINANCIAL**

### **Manifest Approvals**

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to approve the September 10, 2019 construction manifest in the amount of \$1,495,706.29, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Samantha Belcourt, to approve the September 10, 2019 manifest in the amount of \$768,840.73, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATIONAL Items**

NHSBA Call for Resolutions

Opening Day Enrollments

### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (c)**

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 Section II c at 8:03 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The board reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Samantha Belcourt, to seal the minutes in perpetuity because divulgence of the information would likely adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the board itself, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Samantha Belcourt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Auburn School Board will be October 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

The SAU Board will be meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center and on October 16, 2019 at the Henry W. Moore School Media Center. Both meetings are a 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy,  
Recording Secretary