

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
NOVEMBER 10, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.  
AUBURN VILLAGE MEDIA CENTER**

**These minutes have been approved.**

Alan Villeneuve, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were members Jason Tyburski, Janice Baker, Barbara Carpenter and Derek Berger. Also in attendance were Principal, Lori Collins; Assistant Principal, Lindsay Murray; Director of Student Services, Deena Jensen; Curriculum Instructor, 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**

Scott Dube led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Superintendent Rearick provided proof of posting.

**Opening of the Public Hearing**

Alan Villeneuve opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Alan welcomed new Board member, Derek Berger and everyone introduced themselves.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to approve the Supplemental Public School Response Fund in the amount of \$188,800, and the motion carried unanimously. Marge Polak explained that this money is available until December 31 and all purchases must be received by that date. Items previously purchased related to COVID-19 can also be reimbursed with these funds.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to approve the minutes of October 27, 2020, with the following amendment: 'What goals do you have for the School ~~Board~~ District', and the motion carried unanimously.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

There was no participation.

The agenda was rearranged to allow for Mr. Joe Falzone to address the Board with his request for an extension of the closing date on the sale of the District's Hooksett Road Property. Mr. Falzone stated that due to many, mostly COVID-19, related delays, he is asking the Board for a 120 day extension. Considerable discussion ensued. Some Board members felt that it was premature at this time to ask for such a long extension. Mr. Falzone explained that the nature of his business is to get one project done before knowing the scope of the project that follows. He said he is currently delayed 60 – 75 days. Derek Berger stated that many agencies have learned to work through things and that delays may not continue; the Board could consider granting a shorter extension and revisit the issue at a later date.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Derek Berger, to approve a 75 day extension on the closing date of the Hooksett Road property to Mr. Falzone. With a vote of 3 yes, 1 no, the motion carried.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES**

Bill Rearick summarized his report which was in the packet for review. He added that the Hooksett School Board considered a plan for their students to go to remote learning from Thanksgiving break until Civil Rights Day. Alan Villeneuve asked Bill what his recommendation was to the Hooksett Board, to which Bill stated that the union provided information on those planning to travel over the holidays. He considered that information, along with the increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases and not having a full complement of staff, and recommended going remote. The Hooksett Board chose to shift to remote learning for that time by a vote of 5-2.

Discussion ensued regarding the vacant health teacher position. Currently, Principal Collins is trying to integrate health curriculum into guidance and science. She will continue to post the health teacher position, but because it is part time, it has been difficult to fill.

## **REPORTS**

### **Reports of Administrators**

Reports of Administrators were in the packet for review.

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

Janice Baker stated that the budget committee has been holding a series of meetings and the School Board's budget will be reviewed on November 24.

Janice Baker stated that the building construction is nearing a close with only landscaping, irrigation, fencing and some patching still to be done.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Goals**

The Goals were reviewed.

### **Updated Capital Improvement Project**

This item was tabled until the December 8 meeting as a few items needed to be added to it.

### **Policy III-Methods of Learning (previously tabled)**

Barbara Carpenter stated that she liked the idea of having a policy for guidance with clear definitions regarding various methods of learning.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve Policy III- Methods of Learning as amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **2020/2021 School Calendar**

Bill Rearick requested that this item be on the agenda for the Board to give him guidance regarding how they wanted to address snow days – shift to remote learning, or a day off. No vote was taken, but the consensus of the Board was for snow days to be non-school days, and to not shift to remote learning, unless there were more than five snow days.

Bill Rearick asked the Board to consider remote learning around the holidays. He said they would be hard-pressed to function as smoothly as they have if a number of teachers had to quarantine.

Considerable discussion ensued. Barbara Carpenter asked Lori Collins if the younger grades would be prepared to go remote, to which Lori stated because of Schoology and See Saw, they would be prepared. She added that each child has a Chrome Book. Alan Villeneuve stated that 6-7 weeks of remote learning is a lot and that AVS was able to shift smoothly in March. He said to be prepared to shift quickly into remote learning as necessary. Janice Baker cited the critical mass, 80% of parents who wanted their children to learn in person. She said we have proven able to pivot to remote. Bill Rearick stated that everything depends on the number of teachers and support staff, and that it would be considered an unfair labor practice for him to ask teachers and staff if they had travel plans. Alan Villeneuve asked Bill Rearick what his recommendation is for AVS, to which Bill said he recommends shifting to remote learning the two weeks following the Thanksgiving Day break.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to go into remote learning the two weeks following the Thanksgiving Day break, and the motion unanimously did not carry.

The Board will discuss the possibility of shifting to remote learning after winter vacation at their December 8 meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Custodial Increases**

Bill Rearick explained that at the last meeting, the Board requested financial impact on custodial staff pay raises.

No motion was taken, but the consensus of the Board was to approve a \$2.00 increase to all custodial staff.

### **Full Day Kindergarten**

Alan Villeneuve stated that full day Kindergarten has been discussed for a number of years. He said the space is now available. Janice Baker asked if administrators had enough fortitude to add full-time kindergarten and if now would be the right time to implement it. Jason Tyburski said he would be in favor of full-day kindergarten as it is what people want. Barbara Carpenter said to consider the current uncertainty and 6' spacing needs. Derek Berger said the bedrock of a school is to build a high level of education and if it is financially plausible he would be in favor.

The consensus of the Board was to put it in the budget.

### **Budget Approval**

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to approve the proposed budget of \$16,322,148, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Pinkerton Sub-Committee**

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to nominate Alan Villeneuve as the Pinkerton Sub-Committee member, and the motion carried unanimously.

The purpose of this position is to discuss Pinkerton issues with other sending towns.

### **Leach Field**

Alan Villeneuve explained that a sub-contractor made an error in elevation on the baseball field, resulting in the need to either remove or re-do the leach beds. The leach beds were redone, and BPS and the Turner Group asked the district if they would contribute to a portion of the cost. Alan Villeneuve stated that he had no problem contributing toward it, as the leach beds were in the Capital Improvement Plan for replacement in 5 years, and this would extend the life by another 20 years. He said Auburn has a very good relationship with both BPS and the Turner Group.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to contribute \$10,000 to the HL Turner Group for the leach field to be paid out of the construction fund, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Closing of the Public Hearing**

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to close the public hearing at 9:02 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL**

### **Manifest Approvals**

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the November 10, 2020 construction manifest in the amount of \$1,679.76, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the November 10, 2020 manifest in the amount of \$683,553.17, and the motion carried unanimously.

The expenditure report was reviewed.

The construction report was reviewed.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Ratification of Poll Vote (X-Country Coach)**

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to ratify the poll vote for Karin Sowa as Cross Country Coach, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Retirement**

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to accept the retirement of Eileen McDonald, with profound regret, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **INFORMATIONAL Items**

Enrollment Reports

### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (a-k)** (if necessary)

Not necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Janice Baker seconded by Derek Berger to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Auburn School Board will be December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy,  
Recording Secretary