

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 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 6:01 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; and Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Scott Dube led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Superintendent Rearick provided proof of posting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020 with the following amendment: Under New Business the second paragraph should read 'Janice Baker asked if administrators had enough fortitude to add full-time kindergarten and if now would be the right time to implement it', and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There was no participation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick summarized his report which was in the packet for review.

Alan Villeneuve asked what drivers warranted the increase in tuition at Pinkerton Academy, to which Bill stated that they added a special education coordinator and that there wasn't enough reduction in staff or students to decrease the tuition rate.

REPORTS

Reports of Administrators

Reports of Administrators were in the packet for review.

Janice Baker asked if it were possible to look at shifts, comparing grades from last year to the first trimester of this year. Janice also asked about winter sports, to which Lori Collins stated basketball will be co-ed AVS student scrimmages. Barbara Carpenter asked how many students have shifted to/from remote learning. Lindsay Murray stated that those numbers have evened out, though some students have chosen homeschooling and VLACS as well. Barbara Carpenter asked about the lack of student advisors. Lori Collins stated that this year it has been difficult to fill some positions, but that there will be no volleyball this year and that the garden club is still up in the air. She said NJHS has become a Leadership Club. Referring to Deena Jensen's report, Janice Baker asked why Pinkerton was unable to provide evaluations for Auburn students. Deena stated that Pinkerton lost an evaluator, but that the AVS School Psychologist has taken on the responsibility of providing all evaluations for those students. Jason Tyburski asked how many special education students are full time remote learners, to which Deena stated that there are six, but all of those students were offered in-person instruction. Janice Baker asked Cheryl Violette if testing this year is dramatically different than in the past. Cheryl said the most indicative testing is the NWEA as she felt it gave a more accurate picture than the state's Interim Assessment. Discussion ensued relative to monitoring student activity as they learn remotely. Scott Dube expressed his concern with the heating services and hopes to address issues during the holiday break.

Reports of Standing Committees

Janice Baker stated that she, Alan, Bill, Marge, Amy, Lori, Scott, Bob, and Deena attended the Budget Committee Meeting last Tuesday, and thanked everyone who participated for their support. Janice said the committee is recommending full-time kindergarten. Alan Villeneuve stated that though full-day kindergarten is in the budget, it must still be approved by the voters. Derek Berger stated that he attended the November 17 PTA meeting of which some of the fundraisers include:

- Spooky Walk
- Meadow Farms Fundraiser
- Barnes and Noble Book Fair -Cancelled
- Square One Fundraiser
- Virtual Vendor Fair
- Merry and Bright Holiday House Decorating Fundraiser

Lori Collins stated that the PTA graciously purchased a swing set and will replenish the bark mulch cushion.

Alan Villeneuve stated that the Board should begin discussions regarding strategic planning. Janice Baker agreed, and stated they should consider getting a consultant with expertise and insights and the ability to organize meetings to develop goals and deliverable services. The Board will continue discussions at their January Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Approval

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter to approve the 2021/2022 Auburn School District Budget in the amount of \$16,798,163 and the motion carried unanimously.

Goals

The goals were reviewed.

Winter Break

Bill Rearick stated that the Board discussed shifting to remote learning after the Thanksgiving break, but declined to do so. He asked if the Board would consider shifting after the holiday break.

Considerable discussion ensued. Bill said the positivity rate in Rockingham County has doubled in three weeks. He said using the Department of Health and Human Services metrics, there is not a need to shift immediately. He added that AVS is being held together 'on a shoestring'. Alan Villeneuve asked Bill for his recommendation, to which Bill said the goal is to continue with in-school instruction as long as possible, but parents should be aware to prepare for shifting to remote if necessary.

Capital Improvement Plan

Discussion regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Alan Villeneuve asked the Board to prioritize items on the CIP. The consensus of the Board was that combining the building automation system into one system would be the first priority and air conditioning in the media center would be the second.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Simulcast Meetings

The Board discussed video recording Board meetings. Alan Villeneuve stated that minutes are put up online in a timely manner and that there is no policy or technology to record or archive the meetings. Janice Baker said she would entertain the thought if the rest of the towns' Boards decided to record their meetings as well. If this were to occur, the Boards could consider cost-sharing. Marge Polak stated that the Hooksett School District was sued in the past because its meetings, that were archived online, were not closed-captioned. Bill Rearick stated that the Candia School District is placing a warrant article for a recording system on their March ballot. Marge Polak stated that Hooksett livestreams their meetings which are available to view in real time.

Superintendent Evaluation Process

Janice Baker stated that two years ago, she, Kara Salvas (Hooksett), and Matt Woodrow (Candia), worked to create a new Superintendent's evaluation process and evaluation tool. By January 31 of each year, the three school districts are expected to conduct their own review of the Superintendent

and provide their feedback directly to him. Each school district will also make a recommendation on a performance bonus and the three Board Chairs will come to agreement as to the final performance bonus. The bonus will be communicated at the SAU Board meeting held in February of each year. Last year, the Auburn School Board didn't review the Superintendent using the tool since Mr. Rearick was still very new in the position and hadn't delved into some of the performance areas included in the tool. Instead, the Board provided informal feedback. This year, the Board will use the evaluation tool. Janice will send out the evaluation tool to the Auburn School Board members and the Board will come to consensus on performance at the January meeting.

FINANCIAL

Manifest Approvals

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the 12/8/20 manifest in the amount of \$741,118.30, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the construction manifest, Alan Villeneuve stated the retainage has been released. He expressed disappointment in the building not being in the finalized stages with the vendors BPS hired to do on the control work. Janice Baker stated she and Alan have been very vocal about closing out the project.

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the 12/8/20 construction manifest in the amount of \$84,596.56. With no one in favor, the vote did not carry.

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

Alan Villeneuve asked why \$261,000 has not yet been encumbered. Bill Rearick will have Amy Ransom address this.

POLICIES

First Reading

Policies KF-School Use of Facilities, KF-A-Extended Use of School Facilities, KF-P-Application Form, JLcj-Concussions and Head Injuries, and JLDBB-Suicide Prevention were reviewed.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter to approve the first reading of the policies, and the motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

Teacher Nomination

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, approved the teacher nomination of Jennifer Strabone as long-term substitute as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Co-Curricular Nominations

Janice Baker stated that though she is a big supporter of basketball, she felt the stipend was too high for the shortened season. Lori Collins said she supports the teachers' involvement and hopes for summer basketball camps. Barbara Carpenter said she would rather pay the stipend instead of risking losing the program. Jason Tyburski agreed with Barbara, saying slashing the program might defeat morale. Derek Berger added that while he agreed that the stipend is high, he appreciated the staff stepping up to do what is necessary to get it done. Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Derek Berger, to accept the co-curricular nominations as presented. With 3 voting yes, no other votes cast, the motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL Items

Enrollment Reports

Updated Standing Committees List

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

At 9:05 p.m., motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Barbara Carpenter, to enter in to a non-public session RSA 91-A:3 Section II c. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board resumed public session at 9:35 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Barbara Carpenter, seconded by Janice Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Auburn School Board will be January 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy,
Recording Secretary