

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.
AUBURN VILLAGE MEDIA CENTER**

These minutes have been approved.

Alan Villeneuve, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Those in attendance were members Janice Baker, Jason Tyburski, Adrian Newton and Derek Berger. Also in attendance were Principal, Lori Collins; of Student Services, Deena Jensen; Middle School Grade Leader, Kerry Boles; Superintendent William (Bill) Rearick; Assistant Superintendent, Marge Polak; and Business Administrator, Amy Ransom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alan Villeneuve led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

PINKERTON LIAISON – Mary Lachance

Pinkerton Academy Junior, Mary Lachance was in attendance as this year's Pinkerton Liaison. The Board and attendees introduced themselves and Mary spoke to the Board on activities happening at Pinkerton which included:

- She Kills Monsters and Coney Island at the Stockbridge Theater
- Homecoming Dance
- Mack Plaque
- Pep Rally
- Freshman Reception
- Senior Corn Roast
- High Attendance at Football Games

Mary also said that one half of the 2023 Class Officers are from Auburn and that there is a lot of Auburn representation in the other grades as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to approve the September 14, 2021 Board meeting minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the sealed minutes of the September 14, 2021 Board meeting, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Resident Brad Winslow stated that masks are ineffectual when moist and that may be possible mental health issues related to mask wearing. Fatality rate in children is low and they are not a vector for transmission.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick summarized his report which was in the packet for review. He said that the nurse would benefit greatly by having help from an LPN or a CNA. Derek Berger asked if ESSR funds could be used to fund this position, to which Bill Rearick stated it could. Bill said he hopes to offer testing for symptomatic students and staff five days a week.

REPORTS

Reports of Administrators

Janice Baker asked for an update on learning gaps. Marge Polak explained the plan going forward which included skills and standards for both individuals and classrooms using NH SAS, as well as DIBELS and NWEA results by grade level. Some discussion ensued. Alan Villeneuve stated that he was hoping for a schedule on how to fix learning gaps over a period of time, while making it manageable. Bill Rearick stated the first step is to identify targets and then build from there by

reviewing the data, getting teacher input, and finalizing a schedule for execution. He said the process of filling in learning gaps may take 2-3 years. Janice Baker would like to see a timeline/schedule and asked what research is being done and how other districts are handling it. Grade level teachers should meet to see where they need to be. Jason Tyburski asked if there have been any changes regarding use of lockers, to which Kerry Boles said there have been no changes, but there is room in the boys and girls locker rooms and that teachers provide areas in their rooms. He said only 2% of freshmen at Pinkerton use their lockers and overall only 5-10% of upperclassmen use theirs.

The shortage of paras at Pinkerton was discussed and Deena Jensen explained the risk of non-compliance due to staff shortages.

Reports of Standing Committees

Adrian Newton said the first PTA meeting was on September 21 and was very well attended. Things the PTA has done or is working on include:

Spooky Walk/Monster Mash

Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Holiday Vendor Fair

Lori Collins thanked the PTA for providing food for the Professional Development Day on October 1.

Lori also commended Kerry Boles for the Scavenger Hunt held on the PD day which helped with morale and team building.

OLD BUSINESS

Bus Transportation

Bill Rearick reported that he sent two letters to Student Transportation-America (STA) regarding delays and co-curriculars, respectively. He said the response received was that they were doing what they could to recruit and train drivers, but that there is a serious lack of applicants. Bill also said the district's attorney had been contacted with regard to breach of contract and, again, because of the lack of drivers, there is little that can be done at this time. Bill said many scenarios were looked at including consolidating morning routes, but that everything depends on having a full complement of drivers. Bill said they looked into renting a van for co-curriculars, but found out that schools must own and not lease buses for use for their students. Janice Baker asked how STA is repurposing the funds saved on salaries and Alan Villeneuve said to ask if they are prepared to offer something for not providing all the services in the contract.

Derek Berger of the Transportation Committee, spoke to the Lover's Lane/Chester Road bus stop and said there was a delay to the committee's October review as the ridership numbers just came in today. The Transportation Committee will reschedule their meeting and make their determination.

Derek said that the state police will no longer make safety determinations for bus stops, and that nothing has determined that it is an unsafe stop at this time.

Resident Heather Belanger asked the committee to look at the whole route when doing the review.

Review of COVID-19 Response Plan

Bill Rearick stated the Board clarified criteria for switching to mask wearing at the last meeting and that there was a mask mandate for two weeks due to that criteria having been met. After two weeks, the overall numbers went down enough to return to optional-mask wearing. The Board reviewed the new language suggested to be added to the COVID Response Plan. Alan Villeneuve opened the meeting up for public input.

Resident Jennifer Alldredge asked why the positive Anti-Gen rate is still being used in the Plan when the DHHS no longer uses it, to which Bill Rearick stated that he is waiting for clarification from the state as to why it was removed before removing it from the plan. She asked why they are using a 3-day trend and not a 14-day trend.

Resident Pamela Storlazzi said the positivity rate depends on who gets tested. Wanted a precise percentage to determine a trend. Mask wearing should be a parent's choice.

Resident Tara Kelly asked if there have been any situations when a whole classroom had to be masked, to which parents would be notified if such a situation were to happen.

Jennifer Alldredge asked the Board to send out a survey for parent input.

Resident Heather Belanger said she felt masks created health issues and suggested that elementary and middle schools try using the same schedule.

Brad Winslow stated that residents can call for a special meeting to speak with the Board about their concerns.

Resident Kirsten Wright said you can't outrun this virus. Masks create anxiety and social and communication challenges.

Resident Sarah Roubian asked why 3 days is considered a trend and asked if there is any data showing that masks work.

Bill Rearick stated that in Auburn Village, there were no new positive cases the two weeks they were all in masks. He said if the Board wanted to mandate masks, they could have, but chose for optional wearing unless high numbers warranted otherwise.

Heather Belanger asked if there was a waiver to which Bill Rearick stated only medical documentation would make a child exempt from wearing masks.

Alan Villeneuve stated that the Board received a couple of emails with regard to mask wearing as well.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to modify the adopted COVID Response Plan for 2021/2022 as presented and amended. With Jason Tyburski no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Devices for Disposal

Keith Lord submitted a list of items for disposal.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to allow for the disposal of technology as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL

Manifest Approvals

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to approve the October 12, 2021 manifest in the amount of \$1,020,972.03, and the motion carried unanimously.

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

POLICIES

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Jason Tyburski to table Policies ECAF Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses, EEAA Audio and Video Surveillance on School Property, and JICD Student Conduct/Discipline. With Derek Berger no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Co-Curricular Nominations

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger to accept the co-curricular nominations as presented and the motion carried unanimously.

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

No need.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE, and/or/ MISCELLANEOUS

INFORMATION

Enrollments

NHSBA Proposed Resolutions

The Board reviewed each of the proposed resolutions in order for Derek Berger to have the Board's consensus with regard to each of the proposals.

Transportation Update

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next Auburn School Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

The SAU Board will meet on October 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Henry W. Moore School Cafetorium in Candia.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
Recording Secretary