

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.
AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL 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 Janice Baker, Adrian Newton, Jason Tyburski, and Derek Berger. Also in attendance was Principal Lori Collins, Assistant Principal Lindsay Murray, Assistant Principal Jennifer Barnhill, Director of Student Services Tracy Griffenhagen, Math Coordinator Jenn Bordis, Maintenance Director Scott Dube; Superintendent William (Bill) Rearick, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments Meg Largy, and Business Administrator, Cory Izbicki.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jennifer Barnhill led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the November 14, 2023 Board meeting minutes. With Derek Berger abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the October 10, 2023 non-public, sealed meeting minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC to ADDRESS THE BOARD

Resident Maura Cassedy asked that the Board consider adding a pre-K program in AVS in order to support developmentally delayed toddlers. She said early intervention is essential.

It is an agenda item to be discussed later in the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick had nothing to add to his report.

REPORTS

Reports of administrators were reviewed.

Janice Baker asked the members of the Auburn School Board who sit on the Pinkerton Start Time Committee if they understood how the final decision will be made regarding keeping or changing the start time. Janice said that at the November Sending Schools meeting, Dr. Nevios indicated that the start time will only be changed if all sending towns are in agreement. Adrian Newton, who attended the meeting, said that was how it was conveyed at the meeting as well. Adrian said changes won't start until 2025, but that it will be discussed further at a meeting in January. Bill Rearick said he will be asking about Pinkerton's security plan and how it affects Auburn. Bill also said Pinkerton has declining enrollments but costs are increasing; Pinkerton is not decreasing their programming or staffing.

Adrian Newton said the November PTA meeting was a review of the successful fundraisers, including the most recent vendor fair.

Alan Villeneuve stated that all responses from Pinkerton to the Board's questions were met negatively and that after the most recent meeting of sending towns, Dr. Nevios condescendingly offered a 'one-time only' chance for board chairs to meet and discuss contract language with him.

Alan Villeneuve stated the budget will be reviewed by the budget committee on Thursday. He said all other town departments budgets have been reviewed but for Parks & Recreation.

Alan said the negotiations committee met for the first time with the IBEW to set ground rules.

OLD BUSINESS

2024/2025 School Budget

The board reviewed changes made to the budget since the last meeting. Cory Izbicki fielded some questions.

SRO Update

Bill Rearick stated that the attorney would not opine on having an armed citizen in the school building and that Primex said there is no legal protection in place in NH law to protect an individual other than police.

No action was taken by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

PreK Program

Bill Rearick stated that there had been discussions with SNHU regarding using some of their space for a Pre-K program, but they declined. Lori Collins stated there is no question how valuable a Pre-K program would be, but expressed her concerns with already using 34 of 35 classrooms. She also said how an additional 24 kids would affect the nursing staff and that the playground is designed for grades 1-8.

Considerable discussion ensued on budget, programming, and enrollments. Lori Collins, Lindsay Murray and Tracy Griffenhagen would develop the program. Janice Baker and Adrian Newton felt that it was too soon for the Board to take action as this is the first time it has been before them.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to move forward with conducting an assessment for a Preschool program, without a reduction in the 2024/2025 budget, and the motion carried unanimously.

January 23, 2024-NH Primary Day

Motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Janice Baker, to amend the calendar for January 23, 2024 to be a professional development day, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

Manifest Approval

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$949,016.64, and the motion carried unanimously.

Janice asked Bill Rearick if the district is in a good place financially, to which Bill stated because of unexpected increases in special education since last year's budget was created, it is possible he will be asking to expend money from the Special Education Trust Fund in April or May.

Janice Baker indicated that due to higher than expected special education expenditures this year, the Board should actively review expenses each month for the rest of the year to ensure we are not excessively squeezing other areas of the budget to make up for special education expenses-and to determine if funds from the trust fund will be needed.

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the proposed operating budget in the amount of \$18,308,598, and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

No participation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollments

Next Agenda: School District's Moderator and Clerk in Attendance

At 8:15 p.m. motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to enter into a non-public session RSA 91-A:3 Section II k/l. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board re-entered their public session at 8:45 p.m.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to seal the non-public minutes in perpetuity, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to have the Superintendent engage with an attorney over the Pinkerton contract language, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The Auburn School Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
School Board Recording Secretary