

AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, January 14, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Auburn Village School Media Center

These minutes have been approved

CALL TO ORDER

Alan Villeneuve, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members, Derek Berger, Jason Tyburski and Adrian Newton. Also in attendance was Principal Lori Collins, Assistant Principal Lindsay Murray, Math Coordinator, Jenn Bordis, Maintenance Director Scott Dube, Technology Director Adam Hollins, Director of Student Services, Christina Catalano, Superintendent of Schools William (Bill) Rearick, Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Sarfde and Business Administrator Cheryl DiGennaro.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alan Villeneuve 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 minutes of the Auburn School Board meeting on December 10, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the non-public, sealed minutes of the Auburn School Board meeting on December 10, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Derek Berger, to amend the agenda to discuss the resignation of the School District Moderator, and the motion carried unanimously.

Alan Villeneuve stated that Tom LaCroix has submitted his letter of resignation as School District Moderator and that Kathy Sylvia has offered to fill in this year and will also file for the position.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No participation.

REPORTS

Reports of the Superintendent and Administrators were reviewed.

Lori Collins stated that the playground equipment is aging and will need some improvements to make it safer.

A preliminary quote came in at 'at least \$11,000'. When asked how the preschool program was going,

Christina Catalano said it on target and is working out well. She said students are actively engaged and that the teacher has done an excellent job with setting up the classroom and with communicating with parents.

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the need for a half-time occupational therapist which is not in the 25/26 budget. The Board weighed in on their charge of assuring all students get what they need and with being fiscally responsible.

Alan Villeneuve asked for public input. There was no response.

OLD BUSINESS

2025-2026 Budget Update

The Board continued discussions of whether or not to add a half-time occupational therapist to the 25/26 budget or to possibly use year end fund balance to offset that cost.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the 2025/2026 school district operating budget in the amount of \$19,961,108, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the default budget in the amount to \$19,852,715 and the motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update

Jenn Bordis covered this in her report.

Recording Board Meetings

Adam Hollins stated he received a quote for recording Board meetings using the vendor Candia recently used, which was \$37,630. The Board briefly discussed this item, but took no action.

24/25 Budget

The Board reviewed items removed from the 24/25 budget and asked what had been put back in. Alan Villeneuve felt that Board stipends should be put back in as it is not fair to new, incoming Board member to not be compensated for this year. The Board took no action.

Warrant Articles

The Board discussed adding a warrant article to establish a trust fund for accrued benefits. Some discussion. Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to establish an Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund to be included in the 2025 school district warrant, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve warrant articles #2 and #3 as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft 25-26 School Calendar

The Board reviewed the draft 25/26 school calendar. Bill Rearick asked that early release day on Jan. 14 be moved to Jan. 15 and early release day on May 13 be moved to May 19.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the 25/26 school calendar as amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL

The Expenditure Report was reviewed.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$1,109,272.57, and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES

Motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Derek Berger to table the second reading policies GBAA and JBAA, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve Policy JICD as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve Policies AC and ACE as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Policies DAF Administration of Federal Grants, DIA Fund Balance Policy, EBCH Chemical Safety and Chemical Hygiene, GBGA Automated External Defibrillators, and IHAM Health Education & Exemption from Instruction were in the packet for a first reading. Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the first reading of the policies, and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued relative to Education Freedom Accounts. Cheryl DiGennaro is researching the number of Auburn students using these accounts.

PUBLIC INPUT

No participation.

Alan Villeneuve stated that he will be going to Concord tomorrow to testify regarding a bill that would provide more transparency on financial reporting for private academies. Alan also said the Board asked administration to speed up the timeline for the annual audit. The auditing firm believes it can provide at least a good portion of its findings before Deliberative Session #1.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE, and/or MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Enrollments

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II c

AT 8:04 p.m., motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Adrian Newton, to enter into a non-public session. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board returned to their public session at 8:50 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT (action required)

Motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Derek Berger, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

The SAU Board will meet on February 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the David R. Cawley Middle School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
Board Recording Secretary