

AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, December 10, 2024 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 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Board members, Jason Tyburski Adrian Newton and Janice Baker. 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

Eighth grader Lydia Kinzel led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the minutes of the Auburn School Board meeting on November 12, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to amend the agenda to appoint a School District Clerk, and the motion carried unanimously.

Alan Villeneuve stated that the previous School District Clerk has resigned and the Board has chosen Caitlyn Folia to replace that position for the upcoming Deliberative Session. Ms. Folia then took the Oath of Office and was sworn in by Alan Villeneuve.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Maura Cassidy, parent and educator, spoke in support of adding an additional grade 5 teacher for the 25/26 school year, saying 23 students in a class is too many.

Rachel Alling voiced her continued concerns for the current grade 4 class, agreeing with Ms. Cassidy that 23 student is too many, as it is chaotic and unproductive, and requested the Board add a grade 5 teacher for the 25/26 school year.

Crystal Diorio stated she asked for input from (current) 4th grade parents and presented the Board with that feedback. Alan Villeneuve stated that the Board will be discussing the budget later on in the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick stated that the IBEW informed the NH Public Employees Labor Relations that they issued a decertification order.

Bill Rearick stated that a parent appeal from the fall is with the NH Board of Education's hearing officer. The parents haven't filed any additional information, but the hearing officer has not made their decision. The district's attorney is awaiting any updates, at which time the Board will be notified. The next regularly scheduled meeting is in February.

REPORTS

Reports of Administrators were reviewed.

Adrian Newton asked Kimberly Sarfde for testing results. Kimberly said she will email them to the Board. Some discussion ensued relative to leasing vs. purchasing ChromeBooks.

Adrian Newton said the PTA's move night was a great success with 300 attendees.

Alan Villeneuve said the Budget Committee meetings are starting to wind down. One open seat on the committee will not be filled. Peter Miles continues to be Chair.

OLD BUSINESS

2025-2026 Budget Update

The 25/26 budget updates were reviewed. Enrollments were discussed, as was the Pinkerton fee schedule for paraprofessionals. Christina Catalano explained that due to an imminent need, hiring our own Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) would save money rather than hiring consultants to fill that need. She said two paras are currently training to be Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT).

Considerable discussion ensued relative to adding a potential teacher for next year's grade 5 class. Everyone agreed that smaller class sizes are ideal. The Board looked at class size comparisons throughout AVS, space available, how a special education teacher, which is in the default budget, would impact next year's grade 5, consideration of moving teachers, and the effect adding a teacher would have on the budget. When asked the budget percentage increase, Cheryl DiGennaro said the default budget shows an 8.8% increase. The proposed budget without adding a grade 5 teacher is 9.4%, and adding a grade 5 teacher made it a 10% increase. Alan Villeneuve stated that he didn't feel the Budget Committee would support a 10% increase. Motion by Alan Villeneuve, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to add another teacher in the 25/26 budget. With Janice Baker opposed, Adrian Newton and Jason Tyburski in favor, the motion carried. Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the proposed operating budget in the amount of \$19,523,041, and the motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update

Jenn Bordis updated the Board on the Strategic Plan as well as the SAS Results & Summary in her report.

NEW BUSINESS

Recording Board Meetings

Resident Andrea Robbins requested that the Board consider recording their meetings. Alan explained that other towns who have negotiated with Comcast had the opportunity for their town to choose to have public access channels or to take a credit. Auburn has opted to take the credit. Because of this, the school district would have to add its purchase of the necessary equipment into their budget. Viewership numbers for various districts who have public access were reviewed by the Board and Alan Villeneuve said due to rules from the Office of Civil Rights, streamed meetings must be handicap accessible and must provide closed captioning. Adam Hollins said he preferred to use district-owned equipment and not borrow from the town or other districts. The type of equipment and accessories was also discussed as was maintenance. Adam Hollins will reach out to appropriate professionals and will report back to the Board.

504 Training

Kimberly Sarfde said a virtual training was conducted by Drummond Woodsum on December 5, 2024.

Special Education Trust Fund Warrant Article

Some discussion ensued about possibly having a fund balance at the end of the year. Alan Villeneuve said he would like to re-fund the Special Education Trust Fund using available fund balance funds which would have no impact on taxes. Janice Baker agreed and said the Board should consider building up other Trust Funds in the next cycle as well.

FINANCIAL

The Expenditure Report was reviewed.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$756,362.31, and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES

The policies were tabled.

PUBLIC INPUT

Resident Crystal Diorio asked how many students have 504 Plans in the current grade 4 class, to which she was told that they could provide the total number of students in the school with 504 Plans, but not the number in any one specific grade. Alan said, however, the Board looked at those numbers before tonight's meeting. Ms. Diorio asked if classroom disciplines were looked at by the Board as well, to which Alan said they were. He said if an additional teacher is not approved by the Budget Committee or the voters, administration will be flexible and will address staffing needs as necessary. Classroom volunteers would be welcome.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE, and/or MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Enrollments

Draft Calendars

Invite School District Clerk and Moderator to January Board meeting.

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

AT 8:10 p.m., motion by Janice Baker, 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 8:35 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT (action required)

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Janice Baker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The School Board Budget Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center with the regular Board meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
Board Recording Secretary