

AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
April 8, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.
AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

These minutes have not been approved.

William (Bill) Rearick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were members Janice Baker, Derek Berger, Adrian Newton, Michelle Gilbert and Anthony Piascik. Also in attendance was Principal Lori Collins, Assistant Principal's, Lindsay Murray and Jennifer Barnhill, Director of Student Services, Christina Catalano, Curriculum Coordinator Jenn Bordis, Maintenance Director, Scott Dube, Superintendent of Schools William (Bill) Rearick, Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Sarfde, and Business Administrator, Cheryl DiGennaro.

Bill Rearick said the first order of business was for Board Reorganization.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to nominate Derek Berger as Board Chair, and the motion carried unanimously.

Derek then presided over the meeting.

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to nominate Janice Baker as Vice Chair, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to nominate Adrian Newton as Board Clerk, and the motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Derek Berger introduced 8th graders Kylie Baillargeon and Callie Ouellette 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 March 11, 2025 Board meeting minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Mark Monroe-McEvoy Rd. stated that the deliberation minutes should be improved to be more robust. He also said that the Pinkerton start-time survey was lacking in information. He said other creative options should be considered. Finally, Mr. Monroe stated that he felt the Board should respond to comments made in the public input session of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick stated that the newly reinstated Board member stipends will be issued on Friday. Bill summarized his report and added that his offices was notified by the NH Department of Education that the federal government is requiring school districts to verify they don't participate in any DEI initiatives, and asked Superintendent's to sign a letter attesting that their district(s) don't engage in illegal actions related to DEI initiatives. He said the NH ACLU has filed an injunction to determine whether or not to move forward. Bill said Auburn Policy DAF will be before the policy committee to remove language specifically related to Title VI.

Bill also spoke of continuing issues with the bus company and the number of late buses and missed buses which invoices are being held back paying as liquidated damages. He said First Student has now started charging for 'excess hours' which the district is challenging. Bill said he has been meeting with the attorneys and First Student to come to some sort of agreement.

Janice Baker said it would be helpful to know all the non-town revenues. Derek Berger gave a brief history of the Pinkerton Start Time committee and how it was established. Pinkerton formed a committee and invited the sending towns to participate as well. Pinkerton sent out a survey and requested that the sending towns do so as well. Of the two town's in SAU #15 which participated, Bill Rearick said the majority of the responses were not in favor. Derek Berger said further discussions will take place at the next Start Time Committee meeting.

REPORTS

Reports of administrators were reviewed.

Kimberly Sarfde stated all teachers' certifications which were up for renewal for the 2024/2025 school year have been renewed. Kimberly added that many new bills are being considered for the legislature.

Adrian Newton asked who tracks policies and changes in law, to which Bill Rearick stated that he and Kimberly do. Adrian said she would like a paragraph dedicated to policy tracking in an administrator report.

Jenn Bordis said they are working on getting back to annual reviews of curriculum and getting grade level representatives to hash out problems and gaps. Janice Baker requested a deeper dive into curriculum and its review cycle.

Scott Dube asked the Board if they would be interested in a walk-through of the building.

Adrian Newton reported on PTA events that included:

- Summer camp enrollment is up
- Mother –son event
- Missoula Children’s Theater
- Fundraising cash calendar
- Applied for a grant for 7th grade rocket materials

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan

Jenn Bordis summarized the Strategic Plan, the strategy, progress, evidence, accountability and deadline of each category, which was in the packet.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Meeting Schedule

The Board consensus was to accept the 25/26 Board Meeting Schedule as amended and presented, changing the October meeting to the 14th and the November meeting to Wednesday, November 12.

Standing Committee Assignments

Budget-Member, Derek Berger – Alternate, Janice Baker

Policy-Michelle Gilbert

Sick Leave Bank-Anthony Piascik

Technology-TBD

PTA-Member, Anthony Piascik

AEA Negotiations-Member, Janice Baker – Alternate, Adrian Newton

Transportation-Michelle Gilbert

Pinkerton Start Time-Derek Berger

Manifest-Adrian Newton

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the 2025/2026 Standing Committee assignments, and the motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Gilbert questioned if there was a need for a communications committee. Some discussion ensued. This topic will be on the May agenda for further discussion.

FINANCIAL

Expenditure Report

The expenditure report was in the packet for review.

Manifest Approval

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$809,570.22, and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICIES

Policies ILD Non-Academic Surveys and Questionnaires, IHAMA Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, JJIC Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics, JFABB Foreign Exchange Students, JF Enrollment and BK School Board Memberships were reviewed as a first reading.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the first reading of the policies as amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

Janice Baker spoke to the policy process and asked for policies to be added to the retreat agenda for further discussion.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mark Monroe addressed the Board and asked for better communication. He reiterated his earlier comment about the Start Time survey was ‘not hitting its goal’, asked again for creativity when considering transportation to Pinkerton Academy. Mr. Monroe also spoke to Bill Rearick’s update regarding having to sign an attest letter, saying the district is not doing anything illegal; that we are not breaking any law as no federal law has been changed. Derek Berger said the district’s attorneys are looking into this matter.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollments

Upcomin: General Assurances, Communications committee discussion, Building Walk-through, Retreat agenda

At 8:10 p.m., motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to enter into a non-public meeting under RSA 91:A 3 Section II a. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.
The Board re-entered a public session at 8:50 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The Auburn School Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
School Board Recording Secretary