

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 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 6:05 p.m. Those in attendance were members Janice Baker, Derek Berger and Adrian Newton. Also in attendance was Principal Lori Collins, Assistant Principals Lindsay Murray & Jennifer Barnhill, 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**

Boys Soccer Captains Maleck Alldredge, Cohen Cashman and Bryce Gauthier, and Girls Soccer Captains Ava Harris, Peyton Kelsey and Callie Ouellette led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Each got an American flag pin for their participation.

**PROOF OF POSTING**

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the August 13, 2024 Board meeting minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the August 26, 2024 Board meeting minutes with the following amendments: All under Due Process Hearing-First paragraph, last line should read 'The Board **granted** this hearing base on the parent request which will **be** conducted....' Second paragraph, strike 'results for the AVS assessment', and third paragraph first sentence should read 'Alan Villeneuve **asked** how....', and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the non-public minutes of August 13, 2024, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker, to unseal the non-public minutes of August 26, 2024 for discussion on making an amendment to the language, and the motion carried unanimously.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC to ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Resident Crystal Diorio asked the Board to consider adding a grade 5 teacher to next year's budget to accommodate the large current grade 4 class.

Resident Christina Demico said she works at Hooksett Amazon who has extra COVID supplies which they would like to donate to AVS, but have no way of transporting these items. Alan Villeneuve suggested Ms. Demico contact Lori Collins to work out the logistics.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Bill Rearick said he is narrowing down his search for a human resources director and hopes to have a decision by Friday. Bill reviewed his report and added that there has been little feedback regarding the high school bus runs. Seven requests were granted and one is being considered. Daily elementary runs have been better than last year, but there have been some delays. The bus company has taken issue with the district withholding \$9,100 in liquidated damages in 23/24.

Janice Baker asked what the root causes for the transportation problems, to which Bill Rearick stated

- Changes to last years' routes
- Dry runs didn't consider literal stopping times
- Admin feedback on routes were sent to the scheduling department in Ohio which was time-consuming to make necessary changes
- Not having realistic start/stop times

Janice asked if we can amend the contract and if the bus company sat with the admin team before the start of the school year to review routes. Bill said they can amend the contract, but that no liquidated damages can be charged for the first 30 days. He said only he spoke with bus representatives.

Janice would like to revisit root causes at the June meeting to include specific, detailed approach to enter the next school year, definite date we need routes by, and valid, timed, dry bus runs.

Bill explained his plan on meeting with his team to review the budget every two weeks. In addition, he will meet with Christina Catalano every two weeks as well. Janice asked for Bill to provide a financial summary in each Board report.

## **REPORTS**

Reports of administrators were reviewed.

Derek Berger asked Kimberly Sarfde if she was familiar with the Auburn School District Strategic Plan, to which Kimberly said she is.

Lori Collins said that AVS enrollment is at a historical high and that space is getting limited. She said the elementary Open House was well attended and that the administrative team is meeting with the PTA next week. Christina Catalano said she attended IDEA Grant training and Janice Baker asked for a running number of total students on Christina's monthly report.

Scott Dube stated that the sprinkler system has been fixed and the soccer field looks good. The plumber and concrete people will be in next week to finish up the work caused by the leak in the gym.

Adrian Newton reported that the PTA had their first meeting which was well attended. They have a new president.

Upcoming activities include:

- Fundraiser
- Gearing up for Spooky Walk
- Back to School Bash
- Ice Cream Social (Elementary)
- Holiday-themed Family Movie Night

Derek Berger said the high school start time meeting at Pinkerton is on November 19. Bill Rearick plans to attend.

Alan Villeneuve stated that the town budget committee will begin meeting on October 17 and every Thursday after that. Considerable discussion ensued relative to the MS 25. Alan said on the advice from the attorney, the intent was to borrow 138,000 from the July town assessment to close out 2023/2024 budget year, but that a representative from the Department of Education said it couldn't be done. However, \$145,000 in interest from the addition/renovation project can be used, resulting in a \$7,000 overage.

Discussion ensued relative to the budget process. Alan Villeneuve said it would be helpful to review actual 'asks' and who is cutting what and where.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Field Trip Request-Lowell, MA**

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approve the field trip as requested, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL**

### **2024/2025 Budget Update**

Bill Rearick said though it is early in the year, many encumbrances have been done, but many more will follow.

### **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 \$1,092,319.32, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Athletic Nominations**

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton to approve the Co-Curricular nominations as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

No participation.

Alan Villeneuve announced the Friends of Auburn Casino Night on October 5. It will have a silent auction for a number of gift bags.

## **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Derek Berger at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Adrian Newton, to enter into a non-public session under RSA 91:A 3 Section II c.

A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board resumed their public session at 7:35 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The Auburn School Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on October 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn Village School Media Center.

The SAU Board will meet on September 26, 2024 at the Auburn Village School.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy  
School Board Recording Secretary