

AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, March 11, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Auburn Village School Band Room

Approved Minutes

Alan Villeneuve, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were members Janice Baker, Derek Berger, Adrian Newton and Jason Tyburski. Also in attendance was Principal Lori Collins, Assistant Principals' Lindsay Murray & Jennifer Barnhill, Curriculum 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.

Jason Tyburski led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Derek Berger, to amend the agenda to recognize departing School Board members, and the motion carried unanimously.

Janice first commented on Jason Tyburski's tenure on the Board, highlighting how Jason has weathered seven Auburn School District budgets, represented the Board on the Technology committee, was part of the implementation of a preschool program and full-day kindergarten, and voted to increase compensation of all job classes in the district, ensuring that Auburn could attract and retain the best educators and staff. In addition, Jason provided leadership through COVID. She added that Jason was generally quiet and thoughtful, but had no problem speaking his mind on issues he was passionate about. Derek Berger presented Jason with a plaque in honor of his time on the Board.

Janice then commented on Alan Villeneuve's tenure on the Board, highlighting how Alan has weathered 18 Auburn School District budgets, 18 SAU budgets, worked with two Superintendents and at least four principals. Alan, Like Jason, provided leadership through COVID. He has most recently represented the Board on the Budget committee, and likely had multiple rounds on each sub-committee. Janice highlighted some of Alan's accomplishments on the Board include building and shaping a strong administrative team, adding part-time and, subsequently, full-time kindergarten, and increasing compensation of all job classes in the district. Alan was instrumental in establishing a preschool program and the building and expansion and renovation project in 2018. He also led the Board through last year's budget challenges. Janice pointed out that Alan would be the first to tell you that he doesn't always say the right things or say things the right way. However, he served with integrity; his intentions were always good, advocating for all students and the staff who educate them. Alan always had the community in mind, not just the school district. Alan has always been practical and pragmatic, never shying away from a problem. He viewed AVS as a unifying force, a way to connect with neighbors. Having the big picture, Alan always made sure the Board was aware of what impact the school budget would have on taxes. Adrian Newton presented Alan a plaque in honor of his time on the Board.

Alan said he's enjoyed his time on the Board and hopes they move forward following the Strategic Plan. He said we have a good facility and it's time to move educationally forward.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2025, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the non-public, sealed minutes of February 11, 2025, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Deborah Comeau gifted Alan Villeneuve in appreciation for his efforts over the years on the Board.

REPORTS

Bill Rearick summarized his report. Referencing the Pinkerton Start Time Committee, Bill said Pinkerton requested that a survey be sent to parents regarding changing the high school start time. Considerable discussion ensued. Derek Berger volunteered to draft survey questions and its effects on the AVS bus schedule.

Some discussion on paraprofessional vacancies. Christina Catalano said there has been some interest, but those interested have not followed up with the required fingerprinting process.

Subcommittees

Adrian Newton updated the Board as to PTA events which included:

- 400 Campers signed up for Summer Camps
- Mother/Son Game Night
- Jump Rope Club

Alan Villeneuve suggested that a PTA representative attend a School Board meeting with updates.

Strategic Plan Update

Jenn Bordis spoke to the Strategic Plan, saying that a Grading Committee has been established.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to amend the agenda to include budget discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Derek explained that in January, the Board discussed adding back some items that had been cut in the 24/25 budget. Derek said he was opposed to reinstating the School Board member stipends at that time, but now feels comfortable in the district's financial state. He would like the Board to reconsider this topic again.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to reinstate the School Board stipends for the 24/25 school year, retroactive to July 1, and the motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Janice Baker, to approve the 2025/2026 staff nominations as presented. With Alan Villeneuve abstaining, all others in favor, the motion carried.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to approve the 2025/2026 administrator nomination as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Teacher Excellence Award

Bill Rearick said he meets with the AEA representatives every month and spoke with them regarding the Teacher Excellence Award. He said no teachers have made any nominations. Some discussion ensued as to if this was a Board request or directive. It was the consensus of the Board was that awarding for teacher excellence was a directive and must be done in order to be compliant with the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Bill will meet with the representatives to discuss this further.

POLICIES

Policies ADB/GBEC Drug-Free Workplace/Drug Free Schools, ADC/JICG/GBED Tobacco Products Ban-Use and Possession in School Facilities in and on Grounds, IHBA IHBA-R Programs for Pupils with Disabilities and Procedures, ACF Food and Nutrition Services Anti-Discrimination and Civil Rights Complaints, JLCJA Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics, JLP Parental Notification of and Involvement in Student Welfare, and JI Students Rights and Responsibilities were in the packet for a first reading. Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to approve the second reading/adoption of the policies as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Policies JLCD-R/JLCE-R Medication Permission Form, DC Taxing and Borrowing Authority Limitations, DD Funding Proposals and Applications, DEA Revenues from Local Tax Sources, DH Bonded Employees, FBB Enrollment Projections, GA Personnel Policies Goals, GBGA Staff Health, IL Evaluation of Instructional Programs were in the packet for a first reading.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Jason Tyburski to approve the first reading of the policies.

Discussion ensued relative to waiving the second reading so that new Board members will not have to review these as well as discussion on the need for some of these policies. The motion and second were withdrawn.

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to eliminate policies JLCD-R JLCE-R, DC, DEA, FBB, GA and IL, and to waive the second reading of policies DD, DH and GBGA, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

The Expenditure Report was in the packet for review.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$954,259.34, and the motion carried unanimously.

Alan Villeneuve thanked everyone for a wonderful 18 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alan Villeneuve, seconded by Jason Tyburski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca SJ McCarthy, Recording Secretary