

**AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD HEARING OF DUE PROCESS/MEETING
AUGUST 26, 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 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance were members Janice Baker, Derek Berger, Adrian Newton and Jason Tyburski. Superintendent of Schools William (Bill) Rearick and the District's Attorney, Gordon Graham were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Derek Berger led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

Motion by Janice Baker, seconded by Adrian Newton, to amend the agenda to discuss uniforms, and the motion carried unanimously.

Alan Villeneuve stated that the Booster Club offered to donate new uniforms for most sports (not cheer or volleyball which were recently purchased). These need to be ordered for fall sports and the Board must approve the donation. There is \$1,200-\$1,500 currently in the budget for uniforms. Discussion ensued relative to whether or not to have a logo, and if purchasing all at once and not being on a purchase cycle is wise.

Motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Janice Baker, to accept the donation of uniforms as presented. With Adrian Newton and Derek Berger voting no, all others in favor, the motion carried.

DUE PROCESS HEARING

The Board and attendees introduced themselves. The Pratt family introduced themselves.

Alan Villeneuve asked Ms. Pratt if she wanted the hearing in a public or non-public session, to which she responded that a public session was fine. Alan then explained the law governing the hearing process and that per Auburn School District Policy JEB, there is no requirement for the Board to hear parent appeals of an administrative decision to enforce a district policy regarding the age requirement for admission to school. The Board granted this hearing based on the parent request which will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Ed. 204.01.

Ms. Pratt responded in the positive when asked if she received letter from the Superintendent of Schools notifying her about the hearing. She also responded in the positive when asked if she had time to prepare for this hearing. All parties were informed that a recorder was present to take minutes of the hearing.

Ms. Pratt presented evidence supporting her request which included a hand-made sign made by her child, a letter from the PCP stating he was emotionally and mentally ready for a school setting, letter from Manchester Karate Studio, and Kindergarten registration form. Ms. Pratt added verbal content such as her child likes to read and write and she feels he will be stunted being home with babies all day; there is no need to wait any longer just because his birthday is two weeks later than the cut-off. Copies were given to the Board to review.

Alan Villeneuve asked how registrations are done online and asked if age requirements were listed on that form. Discussion ensued relative to pediatricians' recommendations versus school testing requirements and that they don't make placement determinations and do not address academics. The testing teacher documented interactions with the child, making comments but not making recommendations.

Given the chance to speak to the Board comments, Ms. Pratt said student's cannot participate in sports without a pediatrician's approval; her son is not delayed or behind.

The administration was given the opportunity to present.

Bill Rearick stated that Policy JEB states that one must be 5 years old before 9/30 and that there is no waiver; the policy is straightforward. Lori took responsibility for her staff member who did not 'catch' the registration form being submitted in error. Lori Collins stated that the child is kind and patient and worked very hard when taking the assessment. Lori looked at the assessment results and compared them to an average Kindergarten and low Kindergarten.

Number recognition

Avg 11.5 Child 2

Uppercase Letters

Avg 16.3 Child 14

Letter Sounds

Avg 4.2 Child 0

Cube Counting

Avg/Low 3, 6,7,10 Child 0

Shapes
Avg/Low 4 Child 2
Form Numbers
Avg/Low up to 12 Child 3

Bill Rearick asked Attorney Graham if Policy JEB is in conflict of anti-discrimination laws, to which Mr. Graham stated it is not.

Ms. Pratt said her child was invited to take the Kindergarten bus ride. Derek Berger asked when the error was discovered, to which Lori Collins stated it was during placement meetings that it was discovered that two students' parents had registered them too early.

Alan Villeneuve asked if the assessment screening is done in all schools, Lori Collins stated that ESGI is used all over the country, but that the other assessment in the packet is an internal document used by AVS for placement purposes. Alan Villeneuve stated that this policy has been in effect for a number of years and to his knowledge has never been waived.

Questions arose regarding the language in Policy JEB which addresses transfer students entering into Kindergarten from another district.

Derek Berger asked if, when notified of the error in registration, parents were notified of available spaces in the Pre-K program. Lori Collins stated that they were. Ms. Pratt said that was not discussed at the time.

Alan Villeneuve asked for the tech team to make a deadfall date on the online form so that this type of thing does not happen again. Lori Collins said she would assure it.

Ms. Pratt stated that while she understand the policy, she hoped the Board would allow her child to enter Kindergarten. If other parents want the same waiver, they would have to go through the same process as this. She hoped the Board recognized that he is a smart child and is ready for Kindergarten.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Janice Baker at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Derek Berger, 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 7:18 p.m.

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

Motion by Derek Berger, seconded by Adrian Newton, to uphold Auburn School District Policy JEB and to deny admission of the student as requested. With all in favor, the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

No participation.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jason Tyburski, seconded by Derek Berger, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

The Auburn School Board's next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
School Board Recording Secretary