

AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
April 15, 2026 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 Derek Berger, Michelle Gilbert, Anthony Piascik, Michelle Dressler and Adrian Newton (6:15 p.m.). Also in attendance was Principal Lori Collins, Assistant Principals' Lindsay Murray and Jennifer Barnhill, Director of Student Services Meredith Davine, Curriculum Coordinator Jaclyn Karabinis, Maintenance Director Scott Dube, Interim Assistant Superintendent Heather Cummings, and Business Administrator Cindy Bourgeault.

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

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Michelle Dressler, to nominate Derek Berger as Board Chair, and the motion carried unanimously.

Derek then presided over the meeting.

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

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Michelle Gilbert, to nominate Michelle Dressler as Board Clerk, and the motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Derek Berger introduced 7th graders and members of the Coder Z team, Nico Fiore and Austin Streuding, who led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROOF OF POSTING

Bill Rearick provided proof of posting.

PINKERTON LIAISON

Cooper Morrison updated the Board on events at Pinkerton which included:

- SATs and PSATs
- Early Release
- Day of Giving
- NHS Inductions
- Class Officer Inductions
- ROTC Award Night
- Jr. Prom

When asked by Derek Berger if there was any topic the Board should ask at the Pinkerton Sending Town Meeting, Cooper replied they might ask about security, as there was a recent issue with the bathrooms overflowing due to freshman mischief.

The panel introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to approve the March 10, 2026 Board meeting minutes, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING to expend from the Trust Fund

Derek Berger opened the public hearing to expend from the Trust Fund.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Resident Alisha Robinson (Freedom), thanked the Board for their action in the past by adding an additional grade 5 teacher. Is concerned with cutting the current grade 2 class to 3 sections. Did the district look at data when adding or omitting grade levels?

Allison Blais (Saddle Hill) Appreciates AVS staff. Has ongoing concerns with grade 2 going into grade 3. The

same cohort has been reduced in the past and has experienced repeated reduction in support. It is unfair to ask that cohort to be affected again. Reducing kindergarten is not beneficial, either.

Danielle Girardo (Copely) Thanked AVS staff. This year has been different. Child now talks about daily interruptions as the focus of their day. Understands budget constraints, but please consider other options and rotate cohort who gets the cuts.

Adam Diorio (Rattlesnake Hill) Where are we with principal search. Derek Berger said this topic will be addressed later in the meeting. Mr. Diorio asked what the repercussions were for the deficit a couple years ago; what has changed; what disciplinary action was taken. Derek Berger said that the SAU Board hired an outside accounting firm to audit purchasing, tracking expenses and controls and the SAU Board was updated on the progress. Staff protocols have been adjusted and the finance department provides monthly reports of where the district is financially. A number of controls were implemented and the district is now in a position to put money back into the trust fund which was drawn down due to the over expenditures. Bill Rearick stated that they have a new system to verify spending and that he and the business administrator meet with the special education director twice a month. Everything is reported to the Board. Derek said they couldn't speak to personnel issues regarding disciplinary repercussions.

Jeffrey Barrientos (Wildwood) Loves the school, faculty and the PTA offers great opportunities. Supports the first three speakers this evening. Child has lost 'zeal' and the focus is not on what they are learning in school.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES

Bill Rearick reported that the Assistant Superintendent Interview Team met on 4/13/26 and came up with two finalists who will be interviewing on 5/5/26. He will bring one or both to the four Board Chairs and hopes to bring the finalist to the SAU Board at their meeting on May 21.

Bill said that the Principal Interview Team interviewed six candidates and narrowed it down to three. The interview committee will meet again with recommendations after which time Bill will bring them to the Board. The goal is to have the principal start on July 1. Bill reviewed items being discussed for legislation. He said major changes have been made to discussions regarding open enrollment and that he will continue to follow all changes being discussed at the state level.

Adrian Newton asked the Policy Committee to look at policies on class size.

REPORTS

Reports of administrators were reviewed.

Lori Collins summarized how class size for 26-27 looks at this point. She said 7th grade will remain at 3 sections. Areas of concern are kindergarten and grades 3 & 4. She said developmental age and behaviors are considered in the process and realistically there is no room for four sections for each grade. Second grade behaviors are becoming a challenge. Considerable discussion ensued. Funding for an additional teacher was discussed as was adding teaching assistants to highly populated classrooms. Space is limited. The world cultures classroom could be used, though it is smaller than most other classrooms. Lori Collins said they will use data to make informed decisions and Bill Rearick said they will make that decision in May.

Adrian Newton acknowledged the band/chorus teacher and said the Stockbridge Theater at Pinkerton was completely full last night for the Auburn-only presentation. Lori Collins said she will put Stockbridge rental into her budget next year, to which Adrian suggested waiving the fee could be a topic to address at the Sending Schools meeting.

Meredith Davine reviewed her report and Derek Berger summarized the Board's reasoning for adding a Pre-K program at AVS. What once meant to save the district funds by providing in-district services, is now without enough students to support the program.

Jaclyn Karabinas' report updated the Board on the Strategic Plan.

PTA events included:

- Teacher Appreciation (May)
- Student Appreciation (June)
- Summer Camps considerable interest
- Board nominations next meeting
- Will establish new board in May

NEW BUSINESS

New Morning contract

Bill Rearick said the New Morning contract is up on June 30. The district's attorney reviewed and approved the

draft and asked the Board if they wanted to enter into another three year agreement.

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to approve the New Morning contract as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

November 3, 2026 Election

Responding to concerns over parking during the November 3 election while parent/teacher conferences are in session, it was decided that staff and parents will be asked to park at the safety complex that day.

2026/2027 Board Meeting Schedule

The 26/27 Board Meeting schedule was reviewed. There were no conflicts.

Retreat Date

The Board will meet on June 4 from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Safety Complex. Items on the agenda will include State of the Schools update, Technology, Special Education and Financials.

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Adrian Newton, to amend the agenda to discuss trust fund/window, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bill Rearick said they got a quote from Pentucket Glass to replace 15 windows on the first floor. He said this was in the operating budget in July, but have since found out it can be funded by the trust fund. Scott Dube said they are 19 weeks out, so the work wouldn't be done until April 2027 vacation. Bill said they are still waiting for a reply from the trustee of the trust funds who can determine what other items for the project can be funded with the trust.

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Adrian Newton, to authorize Scott Dube to notify Pentucket that the district will move forward with the purchase of 15 windows, and the motion carried unanimously. The Board will decide on how to fund this at a later date.

Topics for Pinkerton Sending Town's May 28 Meeting

Waiving Stockbridge fee

School security

Requesting tuition numbers earlier than November.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Adrian Newton, to approved the amended staff nominations, omitting Meghan Garcia, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michelle Dressler, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to approve the administrator nominations as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piasik, to accept the resignation of Anita Lombardo and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to accept the resignation of Meghan Garcia, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Adrian Newton, to accept the Superintendent's nomination as presented, and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL

Manifest Approval

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to approve the manifest in the amount of \$2,507,968.73 and the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Summary and Expenditure Reports

The summary and expenditure reports were in the packet for review.

Cindy Bourgeault explained that the district recently got a finding by the auditors as there is currently no deputy school district treasurer. Though not mandated, they felt the district should have that provision.

Motion by Anthony Piascik, seconded by Adrian Newton, to appoint Becki McCarthy as deputy school district treasurer, and the motion carried unanimously.

Derek Berger swore Becki in.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Michelle Dressler, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to close the public hearing at 8.25 p.m., and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Adam Diorio asked about the upcoming principal Meet and Greet now that the third candidate is not part of the discussion. Bill Rearick stated that he will update the Board on new revelations regarding this topic.

Allison Welch (Donald Dr.) Disappointed that the Board isn't considering an additional 7th grade classroom in 26-27. Would love to hear ideas how we can support these students with subject matter experts; find creative options for teaching foundational skills.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollments

At 8:30 p.m., motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, to enter into a non-public meeting under RSA 91:A 3 Section II b. A roll call vote was taken. With all in favor, the motion carried.

The Board re-entered a public session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion by Adrian Newton, seconded by Anthony Piascik, 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 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auburn Village School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Rebecca SJ McCarthy
School Board Recording Secretary