AUBURN SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 6:00 p.m.
Auburn Village School Media Center

Approved

CALL TO ORDER – Derek Berger, Board chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Those in attendance were school board members Adrian Newton, Michelle Dressler, Michelle Gilbert, superintendent William Rearick, business administrator Cindy Bourgeault, administrators and principal Rebecca Noe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Tom Edelman, Mason Costello and Emma Grant, members of the Recycling Club led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance. Madame Pope leads the club and the students love her. They gather the recycling daily prior to 3:00 p.m.

PROOF OF POSTING – William Rearick, Superintendent of Schools provided the proof of posting.

PINKERTON LIAISON – Cooper Morrison:
Athletics: Pinkerton Academy has successfully secured another victory in the annual Mack Plaque competition.
Community Engagement: Student ambassador volunteers will be providing outreach visits to local kindergarten classes.
Performing Arts: Preparations are underway for the upcoming theatrical production of *Queens*.
Current Status: Community feedback regarding the proposed transition to a later school start time remains divided.
Recommendation: Mr. Morrison noted that adjusting the daily start time to 8:00 AM is what he is hoping for.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by Michelle Dressler seconded by Adrian Newton to approve the Auburn School District Board Meeting Minutes dated September 8, 2026 and the motion carried unanimously.
Motion by Adrian Newton seconded by Michelle Dressler to approve the Non-public Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026 and the motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD –
Speaker: Monica Watson (*462 Hooksett Road*)
House Bill 1300 Concerns: Inquiry was raised regarding the status and potential ramifications for the district should HB 1300 pass.
SRO Framework and Training: Clarification was requested regarding the operational logistics of a potential School Resource Officer. Specifically, the inquiry sought details on:
Day-to-Day Role: The exact daily responsibilities and integration of an SRO within the school environment.
Chain of Command: Whether the SRO would report directly to the School Principal or the Police Chief. (Note: It was specified that the position would report to the Auburn Police Department).
Specialized Training: The explicit, school-specific SRO training certifications required to operate within an educational facility.

Speaker: Jen Anderson (*41 Lilac Drive*)
House Bill 1300 Ramifications: Highlighted the fiscal impact of HB 1300, referencing the proactive steps taken by the Londonderry School District. If passed in Londonderry, the legislation could force budgetary reductions, possibly including the elimination of high school busing, high school elective courses, field trips, athletic programs, and co-curricular activities.
Community Engagement: Emphasized the critical need for rapid, transparent communication across the district to ensure the community is fully informed of the potential impacts.
Speaker: Crystal Diorio (*5 Rattlesnake Road*)
AVS Volleyball Program: Provided an update on the Auburn Village School (AVS) volleyball program, which has been operating successfully for five years.
Program Evolution: The program initially launched as an intramural team but has experienced significant growth.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES –**HB 1300**
Tax Cap Calculation Model: Under the drafted model for HB 1300, the proposed tax cap is determined by multiplying the tax levy by 1 plus the inflation rate, divided by property tax growth (specifically new construction growth, rather than total valuation).
Regulatory Ambiguity: The Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) is currently experiencing difficulties providing definitive guidance to school districts. The DRA has not yet specified the exact data source for these calculation variables. Legal counsel is actively looking into this.
Structural Risks: Preliminary estimates indicate the tax cap figure may fall below the district's default budget. While legally mandated expenses and contractual obligations remain protected, a prolonged tax cap may cause compounding fiscal deficits. Because it requires a two-year voting cycle, an approval in 2026 would return to the ballot in 2028.
Potential Operational & Service Reductions
If the bill passes, the school board will face budgetary restrictions, requiring a comprehensive review of non-mandated operational areas. Compounding annual cuts may force the evaluation of:
Personnel & Instruction: Possible increased class sizes.
Transportation: The potential elimination of high school busing and/or the restriction of busing services for students living within a two-mile radius of their school.
Co-Curricular Programs: Possible defunding or eliminating student clubs, athletic programs, and extracurricular activities.
Community Communication & Public Relations Strategy
Messaging Framework: Approved informational materials will be distributed via direct email and posted to the district website. They will also be submitted to the *Town Crier* prior to the election.
Public Engagement Forums: An informational session is scheduled for October 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM, immediately preceding the 6:30 PM PTA meeting. Administration is currently configuring a simultaneous Google Meet broadcast to maximize community access.
Speaker: Kevin Watson (*462 Hooksett Road*)
Digital Access: Requested that the upcoming informational session be recorded and published to YouTube immediately following the meeting to ensure maximum community access.
Speaker: Jen Anderson (*41 Lilac Drive*)

Content Transparency: Expressed support for the board's decision to pivot from vague messaging to an explicit outline of potential operational impacts.
Long-Term Accountability: Noted that comprehensive, proactive communication is essential prior to the election, as the long-term consequences of this legislation could negatively impact district students for decades.

REPORTS

A. Reports of Administrators –

Homelessness Set-Aside Allocation: In response to an inquiry regarding local youth homelessness percentages, it was clarified that the Title I homelessness "set-aside" funding allocation remains a strict federal compliance requirement.

Athletic Department Report & League Realignment

Current League Affiliation: The district currently competes within the Tri-County League.

Proposed Transition to NHIAA: Administration is evaluating a transition to the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA**)**, as more than half of the current Tri-County member schools are migrating to the NHIAA.

Operational Advantages: While the annual fee would increase from $1,300 to $1,425, the NHIAA provides established policy frameworks, reliable communication channels, and superior digital platform accessibility.

Timeline: The formal decision deadline is scheduled for Spring 2027. The change would still permit scheduling regular-season games against non-league opponents.

Special Education (SPED)

Personnel Expenditures: The department reported an increase in expenditures due to the necessary procurement of six contracted paraprofessionals while also noting savings on busing.

Work-Study Practices Evaluation: A discussion ensued regarding whether Work-Study Practices should factor directly into a student's course grade. A work study practice is responsibility, empathy, collaboration, integrity and critical thinking.

Communications Platform Review: The technology department is actively researching alternative software options to replace the current **Bloomz** parent-teacher communication platform.

Facilities & Grounds Maintenance: The onsite storage container is almost done being filled. Following the removal of the gaga ball pit, the maintenance team is researching a dedicated recreational asset tailored for kindergarten students.

B. Standing Committees –The budget committee will meet on 10/29. Start time committee meets 10/14/26

OLD BUSINESS

SRO Update – last month Becca and I met with chief Chabot. He is in favor of the idea.

Keven Watson - What does the training for an SRO entail? Addressing public inquiries raised by resident Kevin Watson, administration clarified that the specialized, school-specific SRO training is managed and executed entirely by the police department, and the officer must be fully certified before starting on campus. Furthermore, while executing their daily responsibilities on school grounds, the officer will remain in full uniform and will wear a body-worn camera in compliance with standard department protocols.

Financially, the baseline salary for an SRO is estimated between $60,000 and $70,000, with the total gross expenditure projected at $120,000 once a full municipal benefits package is factored in. Because the officer would only be stationed at Auburn Village School (AVS) for the 180-day academic year, administration is currently calculating the district's exact pro-rated financial share.

NEW BUSINESS

2025/2026 NHSAS Results –During the presentation, administration distributed the updated NHSAS (New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System) results alongside a comprehensive PowerPoint briefing. The data indicates that the district overall continues to perform above the New Hampshire state

average. Specifically, performance metrics in the third and fourth grades are exceptionally high, while seventh-grade students consistently demonstrate strong proficiency in mathematics. The eighth-grade results will be reviewed.

The assessment highlights steady, long-term growth across multiple cohorts, validating the school's ongoing instructional initiatives and confirming that teacher consistency directly correlates with stronger student performance. In particular, science scores have shown a continuous upward trajectory. Furthermore, targeted reading initiatives have yielded measurable success; the implementation of the UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Initiative) program, which launched in 2022, is now yielding clear data-driven evidence of success. Ultimately, these NHSAS metrics will be utilized to strategically guide future professional development opportunities for faculty.

A. Field Trip Request – Motion by Adrian Newton seconded by Michelle Gilbert to approve the field trip request for North Shore Music Theatre, Beverly, MA on 12/23/26 and the motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL

A. Manifest Approvals – Motion by Adrian Newton seconded by Michelle Dressler to approve the manifest dated September 9 – October 13, 2026 in the amount of $4,584,984.98 and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
B. Financial Summary and Expenditure Report – Cindy Bourgeault, business administrator provided the Auburn School Board with a current expenditure report.

POLICIES

A. First Reading of policies JJJ Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter and Home Educated Pupils, DGA/DJG/DBJ/DJF/DJE/DJ/DK Purchasing and Payment Procedures, IKB Homework, JLDBA Behavior Management and Intervention, LDA Student Teaching. Policy IKB and JLDBA were tabled. Motion by Michelle Gilbert seconded by Adrian Newton to approve the first reading of the policies as presented with IKB and JLDBA tabled and the motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL

A. Co-Curricular Nominations – Motion by Adrian Newton seconded by Michelle Dressler to accept the co-curricular nominations for Jennifer Cheatham, Amanda Joaquin and Andrea O'Neil as presented and the motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS and/or MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION – Enrollments: provided in the packet. The next ASB meeting will start at 5:00 pm on November 10, 2026. SAU board meeting is October 29, 2026.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 Section II (a-h)(if necessary)

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Adrian Newton seconded by Michelle Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Auburn Village School Media Center.

The SAU Board will meet at the Auburn Village School on Wednesday, October 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. This will be a Public Hearing on the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jobin-Carey
Covering School Board Recording Secretary