

**MINUTES**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Location: 5 West Street, School Committee Room**

**April 10, 2024 6:00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:**

**Absent**

**Zoom**

Jessie Harrington

Meghan McCrillis

Samantha Raphael

Brooke Wrenn

Stef Parker

Beth Chamberland, Superintendent

Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent

Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager

Joe Fahey, Director of Facilities

Gregory Walton, Director of Pupil Services

Eric Bouvier, Director of Technology

Jennifer Stanick, Pakachoag Principal

Brooke Beverly, Bryn Mawr Principal

Susan Lopez, Swanson Road Intermediate School Principal

Gregg Desto, Middle School Principal

Daniel Delongchamp, High School Principal

Arnold Lundwall, Executive Director of SWCEC

Toni Sylvester, Kindergarten Teacher at Bryn Mawr

Karen Ballway, AEA Vice President

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Jessie Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Meghan McCrillis read out loud the Auburn Public School Vision & Commitment.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None

Jessie Harrington asked if we had any citizens here to comment either in the audience or on Zoom. There were no comments.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

Dr. Chamberland recognized Aviana Germano, a first-grade student in Mrs. Giamei's class at Pakachoag Elementary School. On Wednesday, March 27th, Aviana was at home with her mother when she suffered a medical emergency. Aviana was so responsible and brave and was able to call 911 to get her mother the help she needed. Additionally, she called her grandmother to alert her to the situation. Her grandmother was trying to get off the phone to call for help, however, the police were already arriving because of Aviana's quick action. Mrs. Stanick awarded her with a certificate of bravery and responsibility and we want to recognize her again this evening. We are all so proud of her and glad her mom is feeling better!

Dr. Chamberland and the School Committee presented Aviana with a certificate and a pencil for her bravery.

**Minutes:** 3/27/24

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to accept the minutes from 3/27/24.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to accept the minutes from 3/27/24. Brook Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Student Spotlight:**

Dr. Chamberland introduced Bryn Mawr Elementary School Principal Brooke Beverly. Ms. Beverly introduce Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Gillette-Sylvester and two Kindergarten students, Theo Yanka and Vivienne Farese. They talked about what a BeeBot is and how it works. The presentation Ms. Beverly shared is in the packet.

**New Business:**

Dr. Chamberland: This evening's public hearing is in regards to the FY 2025 proposed school district budget amount totaling \$31,487,276. Following my overview of the FY

2025 budget process, each member of the leadership team will read aloud the budget request for their school or department. If there are questions regarding a school's or department's request, we will entertain those questions prior to moving to the next presenter.

Madame Chair, would the committee entertain a motion to open tonight's public hearing on the FY' 2025 budget?

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to open tonight's public hearing on the FY'2025 Budget.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to open tonight's public hearing on the FY'2025 Budget. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

### **Public Hearing on the FY'25 Budget**

Dr. Elizabeth Chamberland opened the public hearing by reviewing the district's mission, vision & commitment to the community. Dr. Chamberland then thanked the leadership team for their commitment and hard work to bring this forward. This district and our students are the beneficiaries of this effort.

Dr. Chamberland then took a moment to recognize Joseph Fahey, Director of Facilities and Maintenance.

Dr. Chamberland: Joe Fahey, the Director of Facilities and Maintenance, will be retiring effective December 28, 2024. Joe has served the Auburn Public Schools for approximately 20 years. During this time, Joe has helped to maintain our buildings in a manner that has ensured our students and staff have clean and safe facilities within which to learn and to work. Joe has been instrumental in the construction projects for both Auburn High School and Auburn Middle School along with numerous other major projects across the District. Joe has also led the District Wide Safety Team for a number of years, helping to ensure that we have the best possible safety plans, processes and tools in place in our schools. Joe has also been a huge resource to the Town of Auburn, as he is always ready to step in and lend a helping hand, no matter the project. Joe's easy going manner, high level of expertise and his generous spirit will be hard to replace. Thank you Joe, for all you have done and all you will continue to do to support the Auburn Public Schools.

Dr. Chamberland then reviewed:

- The district's strategic plan.
- No new positions
- Used October 1st student enrollment
- Supplies are level funded
- Emphasis on student social/emotional well being

- Level funded all grant money
- Projected Medicaid reimbursement to be \$140,000.00
- Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursement is anticipated conservatively at 70%
- Continue to maximize the use of offsets from our revolving accounts
- Participating in school choice with 85 seats for 2024-2025 school year
- Have budgeted for 11 regular education school buses
- Have anticipated a 5% increase in special education private school tuition
- Will continue staffing social/emotional and mental health positions to help decrease the number of students that would need an out of district placement
- Increase in electricity, fuel and contracted services
- This budget may result in 2 positions being unfilled. On recommendation from town leadership, we are leaving them in the budget with a value of \$1 in the event we are able to fund the positions.
- State funding for our newly arrived students will be used to offset costs Anticipate additional offset is \$267,583
- Ongoing negotiations with the AEA and ABA's have yet to be finalized. Final state numbers are still unknown.
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We present to you tonight a raft budget of \$31,487,276.00. This reflects an increase of \$1,355,00.00 over the FY'24 Budget of \$30,132,276.00. This number also includes the use of Projecte offsets from grants, evolving accounts, solar credits, program revenues and fees totaling \$3,651,644.00. This equates to a 4.5% increase over the FY'24 Appropriated Budget.

Stef Parker asked for clarification regarding the two open positions.

Dr. Chamberland: By leaving the positions in the budget, if the need is there and the money is available we can fill these positions without having to ask the town's permission to add them to our budget.

Meghan McCrillis thanked Dr. Chamberand and the leadership team for their hard work to get us where we need to be.

Jessie Harington introduced Alan Keller:

**Mr. Alan Keller, Assistant Superintendent/Preschool Principal**

- **Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, and Preschool = \$714,868.35**

Jessie Harington introduced Cecelia Wirzbicki :

**Mrs. Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager (Central Office)**

- **Central Administration Salaries = \$1,571,052.00**
- **Central Administration Support Costs = \$2,146,443.91**
- **Central Administration Total Budget = \$3,717,495.91**

Jessie Harington introduced Gregory Walton :

**Mr. Gregory Walton, Director of Pupil Services**

- **Pupil Services' Salaries = \$1,479,909.19**
- **Pupil Services' Support Costs = \$914,642.37**
- **Total Costs for Pupil Services = \$2,394,551.56**

Jessie Harington introduced Joseph Fahey :

**Mr. Joseph Fahey, Director of Facilities**

- **Director of Facilities' Costs = \$310,907.79**

Jessie Harington introduced Eric Bouvier :

**Mr. Eric Bouvier, Director of Technology**

- **Director of Technology Costs = \$209,473.00**
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Jessie Harington introduced Booke Beverly :

**Mrs. Brooke Beverly, Bryn Mawr Elementary School**

- **Bryn Mawr Salaries = \$2,509,339.78**
- **Bryn Mawr Support Costs = \$102,645.00**
- **Bryn Mawr Total Budget = \$2,611,984.78**
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Jessie Harington introduced Jennifer Stanick :

**Mrs. Jennifer Stanick, Pakachoag Elementary School**

- **Pakachoag Salaries = \$2,300,955.65**
- **Pakachoag Support Costs = \$122,917.30**
- **Pakachoag Total Budget = \$2,423,872.95**

Jessie Harington introduced Susan Lopez :

**Dr. Susan Lopez, Swanson Road Intermediate School**

- **SWIS Salaries = \$4,637,932.11**
- **SWIS Support Costs = \$221,081.25**
- **SWIS Total Budget = \$4,859,013.36**

Jessie Harington introduced Gregg Desto :

**Mr. Gregg Desto, Auburn Middle School**

- **AMS Salaries = \$5,652,979.44**
- **AMS Support Costs = \$324,825.17**
- **AMS Total Budget = \$5,977,804.61**

Jessie Harrington introduced Daniel DeLongchamp :

**Mr. Daniel DeLongchamp, Auburn High School**

- **AHS Salaries = \$7,186,706.02**
- **AHS Support Costs = \$ 480,711.55**
- **AHS Total Budget = \$7,667,417.57**
  
- **Athletics & Fine Arts Total Costs = \$599,886.12**

Elizabeth Chamberland, Closing Comments: She ended with a quote. "History will judge us by the difference we make in the lives of everyday children". She thanked everyone again for their hard work and promised that this budget would be used responsibly to make sure that we do the best we can by our kids.

Madame Chair, would the committee entertain a motion to close tonight's public hearing on the FY 2025 budget?

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to close tonight's public hearing on the FY 2025 budget.

Samantha Raphael made a motion to close tonight's public hearing on the FY 2025 budget. Brooke Wrenn seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

**SWCEC Capital Fund Surplus Materials**

Dr. Chamberland introduced Arnold Lundwall, Executive director of Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative to present information to the Committee related to the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative's creation of a Capital Surplus Fund to assist with the potential for growth and also to be prepared for any unexpected large capital expenditures that may arise in the future.

Arnold Lundwall, spoke about the collaborative that has been in existence for 49 years. Currently have just shy of 130 students from ages kindergarten through age 22. There is a letter from the collaborative in the packet explaining more.

Jessie Harrington made a motion to approve the SWCEC's request for the creation of a Capital Surplus Fund.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to approve the SWCEC's request for the creation of a Capital Surplus Fund with a limit of \$2 million. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **Superintendent's Goal/Summative Evaluation Update**

Dr. Chamberland: Chairperson Jessie Harrington will provide an update on the Superintendent's evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year.

Jessie Harrington: I am still working on it and more to come next meeting

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT:**

Alan Keller: I am excited tonight to report Auburn's grant application to implement Investigating History next year in grades 5, 6 and 7 has been approved. Investigating History is a comprehensive, inquiry-based, culturally responsive social studies curriculum for grades 3 through 7. Created by DESE in collaboration with scholars, educators, and local organizations, Investigating History was pilot tested in several schools across the Commonwealth over multiple school years and is fully aligned with the 2018 History/Social Science framework.

The grant provides professional development and materials for our teachers. Of the seven certified professional development providers districts could choose from, we selected Primary Source, given their well-established track record serving teachers since 1989, their roots in Massachusetts (Watertown), and the fact that they authored the grades 5-7 units of Investigating History. Primary Source is a non-profit whose mission is to educate global citizens through their work with teachers focused on fostering students' knowledge, skills, and dispositions for thoughtful and engaged citizenship. As you know, connecting our students to High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM), is one tenet of our Student Opportunity Act Plan and we are beyond excited to begin implementing this exciting curriculum.

## **BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORT:**

### **Year to Date Budget Report**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a year to date budget report dated April 3, 2024 for review.

### **Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Wirzbicki provided a listing of Budget Transfers dated April 3, 2024 between the same series and between different series for which she is sought approval.

Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to approve the *list of Transfers dated April 3, 2024, as presented by the Business Manager.*

Brooke Wrenn made a motion to approve the *list of Transfers dated March 21, 2024, as presented by the Business Manager, Meghan McCrillis seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.*

**Executive Session** - Yes

At 6:58p.m. Jessie Harrington entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session and not return to open session.

Meghan McCrillis made a motion to adjourn for the evening. Samantha Raphael seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 6:58pm

**Roll Call Vote**  
***Adjournment***

Respectfully submitted,

Mandy Williams

Recording Secretary

Referenced Documents:

Meeting Minutes: 3/27/24

Enrollment/24-25 School Choice recommendation

Student Spotlight Presentation

Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget Presentation

SWCEC Capital Reserve Fund & Capital Plan Presentation, Letter to Superintendent, Capital Improvement Plan Details, Capital Plan Approval Letter

Year to date budget report dated 4-3-24

Transfers date 4-3-24

**Approved 5-22-24**