

**AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES from Wednesday, October 2, 2019**  
**School Committee Room, 7:00 p.m.**

**In attendance:**

Jessie Harrington  
Gail Holloway  
Dottie Kauffman  
Meghan McCrillis

**Absent:**

George Scobie

Maryellen Brunelle  
Cecelia Wirzbicki

Alli Schoenfeldt and Aaron Zheng

**Call to Order and Pledge:** At 7:00 p.m., Mrs. Harrington called the meeting to order and asked if anyone else was taping the meeting; there being none, she asked that everyone join her in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

In Memoriam: Jacques Blais

Dr. Brunelle asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence in memory of Jacques R. "Jake" Blais, 88, of Auburn, formerly of Rhode Island, who died peacefully on Monday, September 2, 2019 surrounded by his loving family. Jake served as a custodian in the Auburn Public Schools, working at both Auburn High School and Pakachoag Elementary School for a total of 31 years.

In Memoriam: Patricia Kopka

Dr. Brunelle asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence in memory of Patricia A. (Sherry) Kopka, 80, who passed away on Thursday June 20, 2019 after a brief illness. Patricia lived in Auburn her entire life, graduating with the AHS Class of 1956. She also served as an elementary teacher in the Auburn Public Schools from 1960 to 1968. She returned to the APS as a substitute for approximately 20 years once her son had reached school age.

Student Representatives' Report

The students reported on the many activities taking place at AHS currently and in the near future: Unified basketball practice; Haunted Hallway and Trick or Treat; Breast Cancer Awareness: Trunk or Treat, Curriculum Night and the Blood Drive; NHS volunteering at the Major Brodeur Foundation race; Homecoming Weekend is being held on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>; the Math team's first meet (they have moved up a division); Marching Band is performing at the Home Show and starting to participate in a new circuit – NESBA; and lastly, NHS peer tutoring is going well.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:**

September 18, 2019

Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18th meeting; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S MEMO:**

### SWIS Band and AMS Strings Update

Mrs. Krissy Caruso, SWIS Music and AMS Strings teacher, was in attendance and provided an update on the SWIS Band and AMS Strings programs. She was thanked for doing a super job.

### CIP Review

**Recommended motion...**Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the FY 2025 CIP as presented; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment

An October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment count by school was provided at the meeting.

### John E. and Ethel E. Riley Award Committee

Having been asked by Mrs. Deb Gremo, Town Clerk, to appoint an educator to serve on the John E. and Ethel E. Riley Award Committee, Dr. Brunelle asked for volunteers from the AEA to serve in this capacity and the following teachers responded that they would be willing to serve.

They are listed in the order in which we heard from them: Vincent Benacchio, AHS Social Studies Teacher; Doreen Guittarr, Grade 2 teacher at Pakachoag; Andrew Caswell, AMS Grade 8 English teacher; Erika Bushe, AMS Grade 7 English teacher; and Gloria Rivera, AMS Foreign Language teacher. It was noted that only Doreen and Erika are Auburn residents, the others are not, but all volunteers were greatly appreciated.

**Recommended motion:...**Mrs. Holloway made a motion to appoint Erika Bushe to serve as the educator representative on the Riley Award Committee; Mrs. Kauffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### Kopka Scholarship

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Kopka family, long-time residents of Auburn, would like to honor Patricia Kopka, wife and mother who passed this past spring, by starting a scholarship in her name. Mrs. Kopka was a teacher in the Auburn Public School District and the family will reward one student in the amount of \$200 for the next five years, the caveat being that this scholarship, the Patricia Ann Kopka Scholarship, go to an AHS graduate who is planning on furthering their education specifically in the teaching profession. Both Pat and her husband, "Chick," have been long-time and dedicated supporters of the Auburn Public Schools, particularly our athletic program.

**Recommended motion:...**Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to accept the Patricia Ann Kopka Scholarship funds with gratitude and sympathy to her family for their loss; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### Donation from the Class of 2008

Dr. Brunelle shared that we have received a donation in the amount of \$1,863 from the Class of 2008 towards the "Helping Our Own Fund." She thanked the Class of 2008 for their kind generosity and recommended that the Committee accept it with gratitude.

**Recommended motion:**...Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to accept with gratitude the donation in the amount of \$1,863 from the Class of 2008 to the "Helping Our Own Fund;" Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### Fall Special Town Meeting Reminder

Dr. Brunelle reminded the members that the School Committee meeting prior to the Fall Special Town Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 in the Auburn High Guidance Office.

### Explanation Regarding Stage Upgrades

Dr. Brunelle shared that as notified by Mr. Kazanovicz, the Board of Selectmen requested additional information regarding Article 6 and provided a copy of the memo that was sent to Ms. Jacobson on September 26<sup>th</sup> to be included in the Selectmen's packet.

### MASC/MASS Conference: November 6-9, 2019

Dr. Brunelle reminded the Committee that the MASC/MASS Joint Conference will take place in Hyannis from Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. She noted that a delegate needs to be nominated to represent the Committee at the Delegate Assembly on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

In the Chairman's absence, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

### FY 2021 Budgeting Priorities

As reported at the previous School Committee meeting, the Committee and Leadership Team's priorities for the FY 2021 budgeting season were student safety, student achievement, class size, technology, textbooks, educator evaluation, professional development, Strategic Plan implementation, along with ensuring students' social-emotional needs are met. Mrs. Harrington stressed class size as a priority for her and Mrs. McCrillis added that additional iPads for the elementary schools is a priority for her. As requested, Dr. Brunelle passed along to Mr. Desto the suggestion about potentially adding some recess/free time into the AMS daily schedule, as noted by Mrs. Holloway. There were no other priorities shared at this time.

### The Reserve at Ashworth Hill

It was noted that the "wish list" that was to be shared with the Committee had not been; however, Dr. Brunelle highlighted the District's priorities that were submitted. Dr. Brunelle will have Mrs. Zautner share it with the Committee on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. As noted by Ms. Jacobson, this is for discussion purposes only with the Board, however, Dr. Brunelle will continue to keep the Committee apprised.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Vaping

Dr. Brunelle share that in recent communications around this serious concern, prior to Governor Baker's ban on the sale of all vaping products through January 25, 2020, the Leadership Team had internally been discussing efforts to educate students. She noted that on October 17<sup>th</sup>, prior to the 6:30 p.m. Curriculum Night, high school parents are invited to attend a presentation in the Auditorium by a representative from the District Attorney's Office. Dr. Brunelle gave special thanks to Eileen Donahue, Assistant Principal, for coordinating this.

Dr. Brunelle shared that at Auburn Middle School, during their curriculum nights on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, they had scheduled the District Attorney's office to set up a station in the lobby with the "Hidden in Plain Sight" promotion, noting that it gets a lot of attention because of its location. Also, in discussions with Sean Dunn, Health Teacher, they intend to do a student led "Healthy Choices Fair" that will include stations on vaping, this instead of a formal presentation for parents. It is their belief that with the students doing the research and then being the ones to share their findings with their parents, it might be more beneficial for them in that they will learn from the research and the parents tend to get more involved when their children have an active role.

#### Homecoming Weekend, October 18-20, 2019

Dr. Brunelle shared the schedule for Auburn's Annual Homecoming and Fall Festival weekend which is scheduled for Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>- Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, with a full calendar of games and activities for all.

#### Fall Marching Band Preview Show

Dr. Brunelle shared that the Friends of Auburn Music Education (FAME) Booster Club sponsored a MICCA Fall Marching Band Preview Show on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Auburn High School. She noted that the weather was fantastic and it was a great afternoon for all.

#### Upcoming Events

Dr. Brunelle highlighted some of the upcoming events and encouraged their attendance at those of interest.

### **TEACHING/LEARNING REPORT:**

#### October 11<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day

Dr. Chamberland shared that teachers and staff will participate in a variety of professional development offerings on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, which is a full day of professional development. Some are PAX-The Behavior Game-a DESE sponsored free training to support the development of positive classroom culture and respect in the primary grades. Easter Seals will provide training on the effective use of communication devices for special needs students, teachers will dig deeper into MCAS data that is now available and teachers at the high school will receive training on Nearpod, a new technological teaching tool. Dr. Kusiak will also provide training on Trauma and its effect on the brain for staff at SWIS and AMS.

#### Strengthening Families Update

Dr. Chamberland shared that "Strengthening Families" is scheduled to start on October 17<sup>th</sup> at Auburn Middle School, with seven families now enrolled.

#### STEM Week Challenge

Dr. Chamberland shared that this corresponds with the DESE Stem Week Challenge. Mass STEM Hub and Project Lead The Way have teamed up with the State to provide an engaging, deeper learning STEM Week opportunity open to all K-12 schools that allows students to see themselves in STEM by connecting their classroom experience to the real world. The focus of this challenge is Zero Waste. Mrs. LeBreton, Mrs. DiMeglio, from the elementary schools, and Mrs. Robbins from Auburn Middle School all attended a free training that provided all of the resources necessary for students to explore real community issues by applying STEM knowledge and skills.

#### Blackstone Valley Education Foundation Manufacturing Visits for AMS

Dr. Chamberland shared that in recognition of Massachusetts Manufacturing Month during October, Blackstone Valley Education Foundation (BVEF) will be organizing STEM career exploration visits to four large international advanced manufacturers for middle school students and teachers from BVEF full member and affiliate member school districts. Previous visits have been excellent learning experiences that focus on the education and skills necessary for success in multiple STEM careers within the global 21st century workplace. Participating companies are Lenze Americas, Dell Technologies (EMC), Omni Control Technologies, and Waters Corporation. AMS students have been invited to visit Waters Corporation on October 28th with students from the Young Engineers Club lead by Mrs. Christine Robbins.

#### Preliminary MCAS Report

Dr. Chamberland shared that Auburn demonstrated some solid overall gains as evidenced by the 2019 MCAS results.

#### Overall Progress Toward Improvement Targets:

District 2018 32%

District 2019 77%

She noted that all schools are showing Substantial Progress Toward Targets and she let the Committee know that a more comprehensive report will be provided at the meeting of October 30<sup>th</sup> but wanted to share the above impressive news with you right away.

#### POLICIES:

The following policies were provided for review and approval, many with no changes and others with minor.

GA-E, Hiring Procedure

IHAMA, Parental Notification Relative To Sex Education

IHAM-R, Health Education (Exemption Procedure)

IK, Student Progress Reports to Parents/Guardians

JICH, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use By Students Prohibited

**Recommended motion:**...Mrs. McCrillis made a motion to approve the above-named policies as presented; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

For approval on First Reading:

IJ-R, Reconsideration of Instructional Resources

KEC, Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

**Recommended motion:**...Mrs. Holloway made a motion to approve the above-named policies on First Reading; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

For elimination:

KEC-E, Request for Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

KE-E Public Complaints

IHAM-1-E, Sample Notice to Parent/Guardian

IKAB, Student Progress Reports to Parents/Guardians

**Recommended motion:**...Mrs. Holloway made a motion to eliminate the above-mentioned policies from the School Committee Policy Book, as they are no longer recognized/recommended by MASC; Mrs. McCrillis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

As there was no further business to be discussed, at 7:43 p.m., Mrs. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ailaine Zautner  
Recording Secretary

**Referenced Documents:**

September 18<sup>th</sup> SC Minutes

CIP 2025

October 1<sup>st</sup> Enrollment

Memo regarding Warrant Article #6

Wish List for Eastland Partners (provided after meeting)

Policies