

AUBURN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
AUBURN, MAINE

REPORT OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Auburn Middle School

June 7, 2006

Tour of New Elementary School – 5:30 PM

Members Present: Ms. Kathy Constantine
Dr. Ted Belitsos
Mr. Justin Leary

Mr. Ross Leavitt
Mrs. Jane Williams

Others Present: Tom Morrill, Assistant Superintendent; Katy Grondin, Principal, Carin Eisenstein, Moneca Landry and Victoria Tanous, Student Representatives.

David Das, Barbara Eretzian and Jude Cyr were present for the tour of the New Elementary School then returned to Auburn Hall for the City Council meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Introductions

Ms. Constantine called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Committee members introduced themselves and stated which ward they represent. Katy Grondin, Sherwood Heights Principal also introduced herself noting that she is assisting Tom Morrill with the Superintendent Report tonight as part of her Superintendent Internship.

B. Communications

Cathy Cutler, AMS principal, welcomed the School Committee members and expressed appreciation to the students for their demonstration of projects on the laptops. She also expressed appreciation to the staff members who assisted in setting up for these presentations.

Ms. Constantine stated that she has received something from David Das who had contacted a person who lives in the Lake Street School neighborhood and has information regarding the use of the building for the Renaissance Program.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2006

C. Employment Nomination

Laurie Lemieux, Special Education System Coordinator - System

It was moved by Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Dr. Belitsos and voted unanimously to table the Freshman Orientation and the Budget items listed on tonight's agenda until the June 21st meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Dr. Belitsos and voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda for tonight's meeting with the addendum.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

IV. STUDENT INFORMATION

The students reported that Project Graduation and Prom were both recent successful events. Mentor training day and preparations for the end of the school year are in full swing.

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Planning and Development

1. Freshman Orientation Program – TABLED UNTIL 6/21/06

The Superintendent and Steve Galway, Edward Little High School Assistant Principal will present information about the new freshman orientation program on June 21, 2006.

2. Video Surveillance Installation at Edward Little High School

Tom Morrill, Assistant Superintendent and Jim Miller, Principal, presented information about the installation of video surveillance equipment at Edward Little High School. Mr. Morrill noted that the primary mission has been to maintain the rights to privacy that students have. Mr. Miller outlined the historical piece, what the school is looking for with regard to the placement of the cameras, and what the goals are for the use of these cameras. Mr. Morrill provided a letter from students, a list of vandalism incidents, as well as examples of camera styles and proposed placement of these cameras for the interior and exterior of the building. He noted that EL is a large building that is open from 6:30 AM until 11:00 PM with easy access to the building.

Mr. Leary stated that in order to be faithful to the policy, he feels that the School Committee needs to document when these incidents are happening. Because the number of administrators patrolling the hallways affects us, perhaps we do not need to have the cameras during the school day.

Mr. Miller suggested that the student comments provide further documentation that the use of cameras during the school day is warranted.

Mr. Leavitt suggested that we target the areas that are of high risk as documented by the student comments and the list of prior incidents.

Victoria stated that she feels the use of the cameras during the day could prevent the incidence of student violence and assist the administration with investigation of the incident.

Mr. Shaw noted that the cameras used on the buses have helped to provide assistance with the investigation of an incident and also as a preventative measure. He noted that reconstructing an incident takes a great deal of the administrators time; however, if the incident is caught on tape, the administrators could make better use of their time and it is a proactive use of the cameras.

Mr. Morrill stated that he knows of one violent incident that could have been aided by the use of surveillance cameras.

Mr. Leary stated that he would like an update at a later meeting to document incidents that would merit the use of cameras during school day. He noted that he feels the school is very safe and use of the cameras during the day is not necessary based on the information that he has tonight.

It was moved by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Dr. Belitsos and voted unanimously to approve the installation of video surveillance equipment at Edward Little High School. One student, Moneca Landry, abstained.

3. Technology Update

Ms. Grondin introduced Carl Bucciantini and Peter Robinson. They presented information about the use of funds to purchase the Auburn Middle School laptops for the schools. Mr. Robinson noted that the current inventory is 671 iBooks with 647 of those in use by students at this time, 16 are damaged and out of warranty, 8 are missing with 6 that were missing at the beginning of the school year and 2 more that were stolen this school year. He reported that the state has offered to allow us to purchase these iBooks at \$48.00 each without a warranty. The MLTI software that is on the laptops now would be taken off and we would install our licensed software. The request is that we buy all of these laptops at the price requested by the state.

Mr. Robinson reported that we will use the damaged machines for parts, and most of those remaining will be put into use on mobile carts in elementary schools. He also noted that the daycare program will purchase four carts with their own funds and the remainder will be purchased with e-rate funds. Mr. Robinson recommended that a bank of iBooks remain at Auburn Middle School for students to borrow to take home for use with homework. He noted that this would allow students who do not have computers at home to borrow a computer after they download their information from their iBook at school, upload it to the borrowed iBook, and reverse the process when returning to school. Mr. Robinson noted that the \$48.00 price provides a comfort level when allowing students to take computers home.

Mr. Robinson reported that the technology department is currently sending any machines that they know have problems out for repair while they are still under warranty. Mr. Robinson noted that many of these laptops are in constant use by students; however, they will be well used in the elementary schools although not used in the same manner that they are currently used. The technology department feels that we can get several more years of use from these iBooks by using them in the elementary schools and allowing a certain percentage of them to be available for AMS students to borrow for take home use. Ms. Grondin noted that there are still some details to be worked out prior to the actual implementation of the program throughout the schools.

It was moved by Mr. Leary, seconded by Mr. Leavitt and voted unanimously to approve the purchase with the use of e-rate funds of the iBooks through the program offered by the State of Maine.

4. Summer Calendar

The School Committee discussed the summer calendar for meetings. Ms. Constantine recommended one meeting in July and two in August. The committee agreed to schedule meetings beginning at 6:00 on July 12th and again at 6:00 on August 2nd and at 7:00 on August 23rd. All meetings will be held at Auburn Hall.

B. Business

1. Lease Agreement

Ms. Grondin presented information on an addendum to the lease agreement between the Auburn School Department and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center for the Renaissance Program.

Mr. Leary reported that he has received comments from constituents that the playground has been a gathering place; however, they have heard that the playground will no longer be available to neighborhood residents. He noted that he would like to negotiate with them regarding use of the premises for the community, particularly use of the playground after school hours and on weekends.

Mr. Morrill noted that there is a concern with regard to moving students out of Webster School and establishing use of the mobile unit.

Mr. Leavitt expressed concern with regard to liability issues for the playground by community members. He noted that this issue would need to be clarified.

It was moved by Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Leary and voted to approve the addendum to the lease agreement between the Auburn School Department and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center for the Renaissance Program pending approval of community use of the playground after school hours and weekends and clarification of liability issues.

2. Approval of Budget for 2006-2007 School Year – TABLED UNTIL 6/21/06

The Superintendent will present information regarding the new budget figure with reductions and requested approval of the new budget figure on June 21, 2006.

VI. INFORMATION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- City Council Update

Ms. Constantine reported that the Mayor is currently at Auburn Hall in a meeting.

- Student Representatives Nominating Committee Update

Mrs. Williams reported that Victoria Tanous and Tanya Gagne were interviewed and selected as the student representatives for the 2006-2007 school year.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Retirement and Recognition Celebration – June 14th — 6:00 at Auburn Middle School in the Cafeteria.
- Regular School Committee Meeting – June 21st — 7:00 at Auburn Hall

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- Finalization of School Committee Goals – June 21st
- Facility Master Plan data collection update – June 21st
- CDS/Auburn Pre-K Pilot
- Policies on Student Wellness and Naming of Facilities – June 21st
- Video Surveillance Cameras – Use of cameras during school hours – June 21st

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Leary and voted unanimously to adjourn from regular session at 9:03 PM.

Attest, a true record,

Tom Morrill, Secretary
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

TM/rmw