

AUBURN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
AUBURN, MAINE

REPORT OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Edward Little High School

October 4, 2006

Members Present:	Mr. Robert Baskett	Mr. Norm Guay
	Ms. Kathy Constantine	Mr. Ross Leavitt
	Mr. David Das	Mrs. Tara Paradie
	Mr. Justin Leary	Mrs. Jane Williams

Others Present: Barbara Eretzian, Superintendent; Tom Morrill, Assistant Superintendent; Victoria Tanous and Tanya Gagne, Student Representatives.

**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A. Introductions

Ms. Constantine called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Committee members introduced themselves and stated which ward they represent.

B. Communications

Ms. Constantine reported that the Portland Press Herald did an article on an event celebrating the National Anthem and it had pictured a Sherwood Heights student.

The officers of the ELHS Senior Class reported on events happening during Spirit Week which includes class competitions, theme days, a bonfire, a pep rally and a dance.

The officers also noted that members of the Senior Class attended a Driving Challenge hosted by AAA and WCSH. There were competitions in which schools could win money for project graduation. Although ELHS did not win, Mr. Miller received a call from AAA stating that ELHS was voted Best School Character.

Mr. Morrill reported that he received a phone call from an individual noting that the minutes from the last School Committee meeting only referenced one individual that expressed appreciation to the Committee for listening to their comments. Other parents spoke that evening as well and expressed their appreciation. The caller requested that this be noted.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2006

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following certificated personnel nomination pending appropriate certification:

1. Charlotte Howard, Special Ed. Teacher – AMS
2. Jill Allen, Teacher - Washburn

It was moved by Mr. Leary, seconded by Mr. Das and voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda for tonight's meeting.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**IV. STUDENT INFORMATION**

Ms. Gagne reported on the different fall sports stating that the season is coming to an end.

Ms. Tanous reported that the National Honor Society held its first meeting and elected officers. She also noted that she received a list of food items offered for hot lunch and read off the menu, noting that everything is prepared on site with the exception of Italians brought in from Sam's.

## V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

### A. Planning and Development

#### 1. NWEA Presentation and Update

Mr. Clark presented a Powerpoint Presentation on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). He stated that in the past, such assessments as the Iowa testing, MEA's and SAT's were used. These types of assessments would be administered in the fall, with results coming back in the spring. They were useful for looking at curriculum and may have been used as placement; however, researchers wanted a different type of assessment.

Mr. Clark continued by explaining that the NWEA uses an assessment called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). It is an untimed, computer based exam that levels itself to the student. It would start with a question at grade level. If the student answered correctly, the next question would be more difficult, or easier if the student was incorrect. Other assessments were based on grade level, so you may have some students find it too easy and other students struggle. With this assessment, the exam finds the level of the student.

Mr. Clark stated that the student receives a score immediately. All scores are aligned with a list of specific skills the student possesses as well as skills that should be worked on. The score is also aligned with Maine Learning Results. Within 24 hours, teachers can pull reports, than School and District reports can be pulled once the testing is complete.

Mr. Clark explained Auburn's plan with this assessment stating we have purchased this program for grades 6-9. Testing will begin in late October and should take about two weeks to complete. A second testing is planned for the Spring. Currently, staff development is ongoing. A letter informing parents about the new testing will be sent shortly.

#### 2. Update on Substitute Portion of Contract

Mr. Morrill presented an update on the Substitute portion of the Negotiated Teacher Contract. He stated that there was a provision of the ratification regarding a cost savings measure when using substitutes for teachers who are out due to illness. Administration has been meeting with the Association to establish a goal that will serve all parties. Looking at past expenditures, approximately \$245,000 was spent in 2004-05, and \$212,000 in 2005-06. The budget for 2006-07 is \$240,000.

Mr. Morrill stated that they came to an agreement that a healthy target to meet would be \$212,682. Mr. Morrill explained that if the expenditures for substitutes for illnesses came in below this targeted figure, the School Department and the Association would split the difference between the budget and expenditure. The Association would determine its rules for distribution, rewarding teachers for having perfect attendance, or only one sick day in the year. The number of teachers that fall into the definition would determine the reward.

Mr. Morrill noted the \$212,682 figure is what they determined this year; however that will be revisited and adjusted in future years depending on the results.

#### 3. Revision of Procedure IJNDB-E1

Mr. Morrill presented the revised procedure IJNDB-E1 – MLTI Laptop Home Use. He stated that the previous Guideline 8, sentence 2, which stated that Parents may choose to purchase insurance from the School Department, has been removed. The State will be providing the Insurance. He requested endorsement of the revised procedure.

It was moved by Mr. Guay, seconded by Mr. Das and voted unanimously to endorse the revised procedure IJNDB-E1 as presented.

VI. INFORMATION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Wellness Committee

Mrs. Eretzian stated that Michelle McClellan and David Das are co-chairing the Wellness Committee and it is well represented. The first meeting will be scheduled soon.

- Naming of New School Subcommittee

Mrs. Eretzian stated that Justin Leary and Ross Leavitt are co-chairing the sub-committee to Name the New School. Mr. Leary stated that a vote will be held at the New School on November 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be set up with booths like a regular election, and both residents and students can vote. The website will have a place where residents can place suggestions for the new name. Each class in the New School will nominate a name, the School will vote for the top 5, and the Subcommittee will choose 3 from that list. This process will give teachers a chance to teach about the government process and the history of Auburn.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Joint Lewiston/Auburn School Committee Meeting to discuss TABOR – October 18th - 6:00 at Auburn Hall
- Regular School Committee Meeting – October 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 at Auburn Hall
- Regular School Committee Meeting – November 1<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 at New Elementary
- Executive Session – Superintendent’s Goals – November 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 at Auburn Hall

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- National Anthem Project - November
- Infectious Diseases

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Guay, seconded by Mr. Das and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Attest, a true record,

Barbara J. Eretzian, Secretary  
Superintendent of Schools

BJE/jlm