

AUBURN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

AUBURN, MAINE

REPORT OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Edward Little High School

October 3, 2007

Members Present: Mr. Raymond Berube Ms. Bonnie Hayes
Mr. David Das Mr. Thomas Kendall
Mr. Lane Feldman Mr. Ross Leavitt
Dr. Susan Gaylord Ms. Tara Paradie

Others Present: Tom Morrill, Interim Superintendent and Jude Cyr, Business Manager, Tanya Gagne, Student Representative.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Introductions

Ashley Gallagher, sophomore at ELHS, sang the National Anthem.

Mr. Das called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Committee members introduced themselves and stated which ward they represent.

B. Communications

Mr. Das showed the Spirit magazine put out by the Volunteers of America noting that an ELHS student was featured on the front cover.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda and addendum.

B. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2007.

C. Certificated Employment Nominations

The superintendent recommended the following certificated employment nominations for the 2007-2008 school year pending appropriate certificate and/or license:

1. Laura Skowronski, ELL Teacher – Park Avenue
2. Jessica Carrier, Teacher – East Auburn

Mr. Das proposed an amendment to the agenda to move the CIP Review to the first item on the agenda.

It was moved by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Leavitt and voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda for tonight's meeting including the addendum and the amendment as noted.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. STUDENT INFORMATION

Tanya Gagne reported that class officers presented very nice speeches recently. She also noted that the sports teams are all doing very well and next week is Spirit Week with a theme of "Around the World".

Ms. Gagne also reported that Chelsea Martin is interested in applying for the position as student representative to the School Committee. Mr. Das encouraged Ms. Gagne to have Ms. Martin submit her application as soon as possible.

V. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

A. Planning and Development

1. CIP and Performance Contract

Mr. Cyr presented information regarding the fiscal year 2008 C.I.P. and the Performance Contract with Siemens. He provided a revised CIP Request for the 2007-08 School Year.

Mr. Cyr reviewed the specifics of the Performance Contract noting that a Request for Qualifications was initiated and two companies were interviewed. After the interviews, a review of our buildings was conducted and critical issues were investigated to address energy cost saving measures.

Brent Dudley of Siemens, corrected information that was incorrectly reported in the newspaper noting that Siemens does not manufacture boilers, but they do take care of them. Mr. Dudley noted that Performance Contracting requires that a Request for Qualification be made, which the School Department has done. He also corrected another inaccurate statement reported by the local newspaper noting that Siemens does not refund money to the district if heating costs increase.

Mr. Dudley defined Performance Contracting noting that Performance Contracting is a process where Siemens installs energy efficient facility improvements, with no up front costs, paid for out of guaranteed energy savings from the existing operating budget. He noted that Performance Contracting does not fix all the problems; however, by correcting lighting issues a savings can be realized that could be used to address other issues.

Mr. Dudley reviewed the process followed by the Auburn School Department, the proposed energy conservation measures recommended, and the annual savings potential noting that the savings is realized in a reduction of energy consumption not energy costs. Mr. Dudley provided a list of Siemens projects to confirm a proven track record of performance.

Mr. Kendall requested information for the process used to evaluate the gym lighting project. Mr. Dudley responded that a pre-measurement and post-measurement of wattage was performed.

Mr. Dudley summarized that Siemens Performance Contract services noting that they seek a low cost provider, co-author solutions, build technology enhancements, provide a conducive learning environment, provide a fiscal year savings guarantee, and have a proven track record with Auburn schools. He provided a spreadsheet indicating the costs, rebates, and savings for the proposed contract for the Auburn School Department.

Mr. Cyr noted that the Auburn School Department has forged a relationship with Siemens over many years, noting that they powered our schools during the ice storm with a generator. He also noted that they live in the area and have a vested interest in Auburn.

Mr. Morrill expressed appreciation to Mr. Dudley for his presentation tonight and also for the prompt answers to our inquiries throughout the process.

Mrs. Hayes stated that she needed to see figures indicating cost mark-ups and savings prior to making a decision with regard to this proposal.

Mr. Cyr reviewed the CIP Requests for the fiscal year 2007-2008. He noted that throughout the form there is a column indicating the cost for the CIP and a column indicating the Matching Grants/Funds that allow for decreasing the total costs of the CIP. Mr. Cyr noted that these items have not gone out to bid because that doesn't happen until we are issued a bond and know that we have the funds available to complete the project.

Mr. Das stated that once the final figures are available for review by the School Committee members, the request would be placed back on the agenda for a vote.

Mr. Morrill expressed appreciation to Mr. Cyr and Mr. Dudley for their efforts in improving our facilities and the learning environments for our students.

2. Lewiston Regional Technical Center (LRTC) and Aspirations Program

Mr. Morrill introduced Jim Miller, Paul Boucher, Jim Horn and Don Canaan, representatives from the LRTC and Aspirations Programs. Information and handouts were provided to the School Committee members regarding these programs noting that each school is allowed a certain number of slots and the programs are full. They answered questions from School Committee members noting that culinary arts, health care, law enforcement, and the automotive programs are the most popular courses. A career fair was organized recently so students could meet company representatives and know what would be available to them as they completed this education. The representatives answered questions from School Committee members and clarified how the programs work, how students enroll, and the indicators of success with these programs.

3. MEA Test Results

Shelly Mogul, Assistant Director of Office of Learning and Teaching, reviewed the MEA results data from grades 3-8. Ms. Mogul provided a PowerPoint presentation and handouts regarding the MEA test results and the Auburn trend data in several areas. She noted that the data came out in July and was reviewed by the Office of Learning and Teaching, keeping in mind the goals set by the School Committee for increasing student achievement. Ms. Mogul stated that the goals were then updated for the 2007-2008 school year. She noted that when reviewing the results, there were achievements to be celebrated and areas of concern to be monitored. Ms. Mogul also reviewed results from economically disadvantaged and identified disability subgroups. She and Katie Grondin, Principal of Sherwood Heights answered questions from School Committee members, clarified data presented and methods used for improved data collection and assessments throughout the district as well as the incremental steps put in place to address deficiencies throughout the district.

4. Creation of Position

The Interim Superintendent recommended the creation of a Fairview Pre-K Ed Tech II position, which will be paid with Maine Care and Child Development Services (CDS) funds. Mr. Morrill noted that while we create the position, we would only continue the position as long as the need is there and reimbursement is available for the position.

It was moved by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Mrs. Paradie and voted unanimously to approve the creation of a Fairview Pre-K Ed Tech II position paid for by Maine Care and CDS funds.

VI. INFORMATION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

- City Council Update

Mr. Berube stated that Auburn Housing Authority is very interested in purchasing Webster School. He stated that he would like to make a motion to request that Mr. Cyr look into the possibility of turning over Webster School to the City for the purpose of resale to the Auburn Housing Authority.

Mr. Das stated that the Facilities Master Plan would be discussed next week and suggested that this issue be brought back for discussion and vote after that date.

There was no second on Mr. Berube's motion and the members agreed to bring the issue back for discussion and a possible vote after the Facilities Master Plan is reviewed.

- Wednesday Early Release Subcommittee Update

Mr. Morrill reported that members of the Wednesday Early Release Subcommittee met last Thursday evening and will meet again tomorrow night. He noted that assignments were given and Elaine Dow, Director of Office of Learning and Teaching, has done a wonderful job of facilitating that project.

- Fairview and AMS Traffic Update

Mr. Morrill informed the School Committee members that Chief Crowell, Billy Hunter, and Mr. Cyr have made plans to alter the travel path at Fairview School. He reported that the crosswalk had been moved, but is now back to its original site. There is a plan to put a sidewalk across the front lawn going to the sidewalk at the street noting that this will keep students from traveling in an unsafe area and provide a more controlled situation and travel path.

Mr. Morrill reported that there was an accident at Auburn Middle School involving a bus that hit a student on a bicycle. He reported that the student is home now with a broken leg, but his spirits are good until he uses the leg and is reminded of the pain. He noted that the School Department is providing tutoring for the child until he gets back to school. Mr. Morrill reported that the traffic parking enforcement officer is at the AMS location and will be there in the morning and afternoon. He noted that part of the problem before was that while APD had that location as one of their assignments, they were pulled for other activities in the area and on the day of the accident, they were attending to other crisis situations. He reported that the problem continuously came back to the fact that the Police Department is shorthanded. The engineer from the City has contacted the State to discuss installation of a traffic light and learned that apparently there is a traffic light available from some of the renovations to the traffic in the mall area. Mr. Morrill reported that as a safety measure we have advertised for a crossing guard/traffic controller who will be trained by the Auburn Police Department to become educated in the requirements for this position.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Regular School Committee Meeting – October 17th — 7:00 at Auburn Hall
- Regular School Committee Meeting – November 7th — 7:00 at Park Avenue
- Regular School Committee Meeting – November 28th — 7:00 at Auburn Hall
- Regular School Committee Meeting – December 5th — 7:00 at Washburn
- Regular School Committee Meeting – December 19th — 7:00 at Auburn Hall

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- Joint Lewiston/Auburn School Committee Meeting – Early in November
- Master Plan – Workshop on October 17th at 5:30 at Auburn Hall

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Gaylord, seconded by Mrs. Hayes and voted unanimously to adjourn from regular session at 9:52 PM and enter executive session to consider contract negotiations between the Auburn School Department and the Auburn Education Association pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D).

It was moved by Dr. Gaylord, seconded by Mrs. Hayes and voted unanimously to adjourn from executive session at 11:00 PM and enter regular session with no further business.

X. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Paradie and voted unanimously to adjourn from regular session at 11:01 PM.

Attest, a true record,

Thomas Morrill, Secretary
Interim Superintendent of Schools

TM/rmw