

**Auburn Budget Committee Meeting
November 21, 2019
Auburn Village School
Minutes**

Members Present: Peter Miles, Chairman; Mary Beth Lufkin, Vice-Chair, Paula Marzloff, Dan Carpenter, Alan Villeneuve, Kevin Downing and Keith Leclair

Others Present: Doug Proctor, Brenda Beer, Michael Rolfe, School Board Chair Alan Villeneuve, School Board Vice Chair Janice Baker, Jim Headd, Superintendent William Rearick, Assistant Superintendent Marge Polak, Principal Lori Collins, Business Administrator Amy Ransom, Special Education Coordinator Deena Jensen, Maintenance Director Scott Dube, Technology Director Robert Strobel, Technology Director

Facility Tour

The tour of the new addition and other improvements began at 5:30 PM in the Media Center led by Mr. Villeneuve.

Mr. Villeneuve began by noting the floor replacement in the hall and new tile as the group moved along to the original main entrance and administrative offices, which will now have timed double doors and a buzzer with a drop box, a new exam room, conference room, testing area, waiting area, new insulation.

Mr. Villeneuve indicated the large new nurse's office and traveled to the next area noting all construction attempted to blend the new wing with the existing wing, some of which was original, and others built in the late 80s. There were large storage cabinets throughout and a very large walk in storage closet which will hold the election booths. Pipes that used to run along the hallway ceilings were no longer visible. There was a new refillable water station in the hall.

The cafeteria has a new trophy case, with lost and found cabinets underneath and capacity for seating 280 students with stadium seating, some of which can convert to lunch tables. Furniture is being reused where possible as the budget provides for replacement furniture each year as needed. The entire kitchen was remodeled. The food service director cut back on equipment. There is a delivery door to the storage room and lunches are streamlined to take less than one hour. The windows are higher up for safety with the adjacent parking lot and there is a new family restroom which is ADA compliant.

Mr. Villeneuve gave a tour of the water storage tanks which have a 7,200-gal.capacity and increased water pressure. New safety cameras were installed throughout. The exit on the side of the building is graded upward to the softball and soccer fields, and an upper field for baseball which will have a staircase.

Mr. Villeneuve showed some of the newer classrooms and science labs, some of which have connecting bathrooms and a connecting space so teachers can monitor the adjacent classroom if the teacher has to step away for a moment.

Mr. Villeneuve noted the project allowed for addition in the future with four classrooms able to be added on as the site is not overbuilt. Two classrooms can be added downstairs and two up.

There is a new sixth grade science room and Team room which is open and inviting and has windows and natural lighting echoed through many of the stairways and new hall. The new hall has modern naturally lit skylights which are reflective of the skylights existing in the adjoining wing built in the 80s. The art room has more new display cases and there is a larger meeting room. There is a resource room, two new staff restrooms and a staff kitchen.

Mr. Villeneuve noted all roofs have been replaced and most of the windows, although there are still some windows in the gymnasium that need replacing. Mr. Villeneuve noted he would like to see bathrooms upgraded in the future and the bubbling stair treads replaced, as well as moving the two old sinks in the halls.

Mr. Proctor discussed how they were able to reflect a savings with bids coming in lower which Mr. Villeneuve added was how the school was able to get new fields. Mr. Villeneuve thanked the teachers and staff for tolerating 45 moves.

Vice-Chair Lufkin asked the anticipated completion date and Mr. Proctor noted when school opens in January, although Mr. Villeneuve added there would still be a number of punch list items.

Auburn School District 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget

Chair Miles called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:40 PM in the Media Room and introduced the Board members, School Board members and Staff.

Superintendent Rearick presented the proposed Auburn School District FY2020 proposed budget in the amount of \$15,682,541.

Superintendent Rearick indicated some of the drivers of the new budget included a Fourth-Grade teacher's position, class size concerns with the three Third Grade classrooms and Guidance potentially changing to full-time; a full-time custodian's position, tuition at Pinkerton Academy, SPED transport costs and tuition and a full-time School Psychologist. The Curriculum Coordinator's position would be removed.

Superintendent Rearick explained there are three third grade classrooms with 77 students averaging 26 students per class. Guidance would change to full-time to address social/emotional issues. The school building has added 26,000 square feet with construction and is being heavily used at night with only Mr. Dube and one other custodian to do maintenance with three previous positions which are having difficulty being filled.

Superintendent Rearick advised the stakeholders would like to see the school's investment maintained. Tuition at Pinkerton Academy, per Dr. Powers, is anticipated to be a four percent increase. There are more students requiring transport and a difficulty in finding SPED transport providers, which results in having to pay a premium rate. SPED tuition at private schools and

high schools is also high. The school Psychologist can change to full-time with no increase in the budget.

Vice-Chair Lufkin asked if the school would be able to retain the existing Guidance staff while changing to full-time and Superintendent Rearick indicated affirmatively.

Vice-Chair Lufkin asked if Principal Collins was in favor of removing the Curriculum Coordinator's position and Principal Collins explained the budget has other needs so this position can be absorbed.

Vice-Chair Lufkin asked what the vision was for the school year and how the new budget would support those goals and Superintendent Rearick explained the goal of the district is to support its students and an 18-22 class size is ideal. The goal of increasing social/emotional support is one that is shared across the country and with families. The staff has done a fabulous job adapting to the chaos of construction with 45 moves and the custodian maintains the new addition and other improvements we have just invested in.

Principal Collins added that the guidance schedule would be Tues, Wed, and Thursday as it stands now, and she is finding students feel anxiety heading off for the weekends or returning on Mondays and also that having a full-time position reduces turnover. Staff turnover is detrimental to the student/counselor relationship.

Mrs. Marzloff asked if there was any update to the teacher salary negotiations and Mr. Villeneuve noted there was still no update. Negotiations were still at an impasse and he feels a generous offer was made. Vice Chair Lufkin noted mediation could be the next step.

Mr. Villeneuve advised that as he did not know about the Curriculum Coordinator's position, so he added \$7,500 in the first line in case that went to outside services.

Mrs. Marzloff questioned the asterisks on the top two lines of page two and Mrs. Baker indicated those were for the buying, leasing software programs such as PowerSchool, etc.

Mr. Villeneuve noted \$1,500 was cut on Line 1200. Services are up for specialists and testing.

Deena Jensen noted out of district placement and contracted services are separated.

Mrs. Marzloff asked about the number of students with SPED services and whether the numbers were consistent entering and exiting. Ms. Jensen noted there are four out of district placements, with a total of 10, and 86 in elementary level, an increase in pre-K and 35 in high school. Mr. Leclair noted one student aged out.

Line 1260 is for English Language and that line decreased by the number of students.

Line 1270 Advanced Math has 10 students at \$1,900 each. Mr. Leclair asked about the Advanced Math program student enrollments and placement. Mr. Villeneuve opined he believes Pinkerton Academy could improve with their offerings in Advanced Math and

Superintendent Rearick noted higher learning is reflected with student's placement into advanced sciences such as Physics and Chemistry.

Line 1410 reflects Cocurricular programs afterschool such as Sewing in the fall and spring and two or three sessions of Robotics. Robotics has been very popular with the students, so enrollment is by drawing. There is a late bus offered to support the program. Vice-Chair Lufkin asked if there was a revenue portion to this – no; and pointed out that there is a potential after care service being offered to parents. Ms. Jensen noted the program does not have the daily schedule consistent with an aftercare program.

Vice-Chair Lufkin discussed the athletic program and adding funds to keep positions with 641 students and 28 sports, including Cross Country and Lacrosse.

Vice-Chair Lufkin indicated the Nurse account line was decreased. Mrs. Marzloff noted it was self-funding, contracted two days per week

Mr. Leclair noted OT had a large increase, which doubled from \$8,000 to \$16,000 and the PT contracted had tripled.

Vice-Chair Lufkin noted the SAU line also increased by \$25,000 which Assistant Superintendent Polak noted was due to a change in staff, insurance elections, a full-time Payroll Coordinator and upgrades to the SAU office/phones. Mrs. Baker explained the formula which is driven by the number of students and valuation.

Vice-Chair Lufkin asked about Tuition Reimbursement and Principal Collins noted she had a new Assistant Principal who would be taking some classes and she plans to take one or two herself.

Mr. Leclair asked about incentives and bonuses to attract more applicants to the vacant custodial positions. Mr. Leclair noted adding to salaries in this manner would be beneficial if the economy tips the other way. Mr. Leclair recommended \$3,000 for bonuses for three people at \$1,000 each and one retention bonus of \$1,000. Mr. Villeneuve recommended making it \$5,000 to have more room. Vice-Chair Lufkin noted she would also like to see \$1,000 added to sports to retain those positions. Mr. Leclair questioned whether the same difficulties may arise with paraprofessional positions and recommended the Board review and monitor those regularly throughout the year.

Ms. Jensen noted Medicaid reimbursement is low and spoke to the challenges and uncertainty in projecting this budget line.

Vice-Chair Lufkin asked about the Technology lines and Mr. Strobel noted the schools have a five-year replacement purchase program with repairs typically seen after three to four years. Mr. Leclair asked about the number of machines and Mr. Strobel indicated there were 150 @ \$220 each with licenses, hardware, filtering and Wi-Fi fees. Mr. Leclair asked if there were a shortage of Chromebooks now and Mr. Strobel noted there are many needing parts and a shortage of those.

Mr. Villeneuve noted teacher salaries would become a warrant article and Superintendent Rearick noted they would see those numbers reflected in the following year's budget.

Mr. Villeneuve noted in addition to teacher contracts, three other items that would likely be updated are the Curriculum Coordinator position affecting the first line of \$7,500; mowing contracts which are still out to bid, and high school tuition increase which has a verbal estimate currently from Dr. Powers. The Board will meet again in three weeks and likely have all of these numbers.

Superintendent Rearick noted the Maintenance of Facility line dropped a lot due to construction and commented it was uncommon to see a construction project be done within budget and Alan and Janice did a great job and were able to add a lot of other improvements and get things done timely. He thanked both of them for their hard work and thanked the Budget Committee for its support.

Mr. Leclair updated the progress Board of Selectmen was making with its budget reviews and noted the Health Officer came in last week about whether or not spraying should be included in the budget and the Selectmen decided to find funding for that somewhere else if it comes up next year; Road Reconstruction was cut by \$150,000 and the Animal Control Officer has not come back concerning her budget request for maintenance and repair of the vehicle she uses.

Lines 11-**1100**-1-01 Includes:

5109-5431 Regular Education

5610 Supplies

5641 Textbooks

5643 Access Fees

5645 Practice Books

5650 Software

5733 Furniture

5739 Other Equipment

5810 Dues & Fees

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 1100 of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$3,909,463.47. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1105:

5561 Regular Education High School – Tuition Other LEAs

5563 Regular Education High School- Tuition Public Academies

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 1105 of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$3,704,830. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1200 SPED

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 1200 SPED of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$3,263,908.25. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1230 ESY

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Lines 1230 ESY of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$40,840.39. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1260 ELL

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 1260 ELL of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$13,282.94. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1270 ADV Learner Tuition Public Academies

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Line 1270 ADV Learner Tuition of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$19,364.28. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1410 Cocurricular

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 1410 Cocurricular of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$25,978.25. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1420 Athletics

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Lines 1420 Athletics of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$38,844.71. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 1430 Summer School

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 1430 Summer School of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$9,608.75. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2120 Guidance

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2120 Guidance of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$174,717.16. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2130 Nurse

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to increase Line 2130 Nurse to \$102,471.82 (with no second, motion failed).

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Lines 2130 Nurse of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$101,471.82. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2140 Psych. Services

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2140 Psych. Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$78,300. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2150 Speech Services

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2150 Speech Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$183,937.97. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2160 Therapy Services

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2160 Therapy Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$154,918.16. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2190 Other Support Services

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Lines 2190 Other Support Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$1,800. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2210 Staff Development

Mr. Villeneuve noted this line, which could have been a \$129,000 expense, was eliminated in conjunction with the removal of the Curriculum Coordinator's position.

Line 2200 Media

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2200 Media of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$167,664.88. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2310 School Board Services

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Lines 2310 School Board Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$43,101.06. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2320 SAU Services

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2320 SAU Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$327,826. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2410 Principal Services

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2410 Principal Services of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$484,489.58. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2600 Maintenance

Mr. Villeneuve noted the mowing contract is currently out to bid and expects an increase to this line as the fields were added. A \$5,000 increase was recommended to the Custodial Salaries line to assist with filling vacancies and supporting retention of the existing staff.

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2600 Maintenance of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$639,593.52. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 2840 IT (Technology)

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Lines 2840 IT of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$195,469.04. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Lines 5114 Paraprofessionals

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Lines 5114 of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$20,160. Vice-Chair Lufkin seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Line 5910 Principal of Debt

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Line 5910 Principal of Debt of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$640,000. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Line 5830 Debt Service - Interest

Vice-Chair Lufkin motioned to approve Line 5830 Debt Service of the FY2020 Auburn School District budget in the amount of \$537,552.50. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 12, 2019 – Town Hall – 7:00 PM

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Lufkin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM, seconded by Ms. Marzloff. A vote was taken; all were in agreement, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary