

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Schools Board of Education of August 22, 2022

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge Allegiance

All Board Members were present.

Acknowledgement of Visitors and Hearing of Public

There was no public comment.

22-167

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 25, 2022, were approved

Moved by: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mrs. Conner

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Mehallis

Mr. Zayas, Mr. Acomb

No: None: motion carried

Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Reports

Mr. Roberto reported on this year's Opening Day message which was shared with all of the staff last Monday at the Convocation Day and the Community Nights which will be held during the month of September to allow feedback on the three potential models for the construction of a new school. The Opening Day message discussed the fact that in the Aurora City Schools "Kids Come First" and emphasized the importance of building relationships. Staff was encouraged to follow the strategic vision with its six competencies and five design specifications for learning environments when making decisions. There was an emphasis on the importance of doing this together through the Professional Learning Communities. Mr. Roberto pointed out the need to balance each of the competencies and this is especially true for being empathetic with that of building resilience. Over the last two full school years, both staff and administrators have been encouraged to error on the side of empathy given the conditions at the time. Staff and administration took this to heart and excelled to the point where young people and their families felt much supported by the Aurora Schools. Learning was not sacrificed by this shift in focus. Under the cloud of a pandemic the last two years, an environment which called for a little more consideration for the social emotional needs of young people was necessary. As we approach this year we are dealing with yet a different set of circumstances which will call for another change in the environment in order to provide ideal conditions for individuals to grow. This change was recognized by the staff this past spring as demonstrated through feedback from the end of school year survey. Many staff mentioned their hope of returning to a school environment this fall which emphasized the academic expectations and culture we have established prior to the pandemic. So similar to last year when staff and administrators were encouraged to error on the side of empathy, Mr. Roberto encouraged all staff to strive for more of a balance between nurturing resilience and empathy. That is not to say that empathy should be forgotten, just like resilience was not forgotten last year, as demonstrated by the growth and learning that took place. However, staff was encouraged to design learning environments that are more intentional in nurturing resilience within both the classrooms and schools as a whole. Building resilience starts with putting young people in situations to struggle but with support. The brain develops according to how it's used and therefore learning environments should promote active reflection and productive struggle by giving young people meaningful practice in iterating through failure, even at the cost of efficiency. The key adjectives here are being productive and meaningful. Such environments not only promote productive struggle, but also routinely put young people in situations that help them to build a tolerance to uncertainty. Young people shouldn't be afraid to fail or to make mistakes and that the value is in the process and not the product.

These are all important concepts for young people to understand if they are to grow as learners. Providing the opportunity for a proliferation of options is allowing the time for young people to come up with a number of different alternatives for a given situation or problem. By not encouraging young people to think more deeply and come up with multiple options we send the message that it is about the product rather than the process. “It’s a good habit not to commit to the first solution” and important to remember that “innovation requires a number of dead ends.” The point is that we, as educators, have the opportunity to nurture young people’s creative roots through bending, breaking, and blending. If we want to continue to promote a growth mindset we must remember it goes deeper than not being afraid to fail. It is promoting the expectation to fail through a proliferation of options, many of which will fail, but some of which will be creative, innovative, and perhaps even profound. By doing this, we will provide more of a balance between empathy and resilience which will allow young people to become more innovative in their approach to thinking as they start to be able to “know what to do when they don’t know what to do.” This action alone is the hallmark of a LEARNER who is becoming more future ready. Mr. Roberto also discussed the Community Nights for feedback on the potential models for the construction of a new school. As a reminder, the three most popular models based on feedback from the Community and Staff are a new High School housing 9th-12th graders, a new K-3 elementary school, or a new Intermediate School which would be for 4th and 5th graders. Each Wednesday in September we will share specifications of our current buildings as compared to the potential new buildings. As an example, for the high school the community would be able to compare the size of the current auditorium with the proposed size of the new auditorium and provide comments, suggestions, and other thoughts. After each of these nights is complete, Mr. Roberto will report back to the Board in October with the goal of not only sharing the feedback, but also the next steps which he would anticipate being getting an architect involved to provide a general estimate of each of the proposed school buildings. Dr. Milcetic reported on the Advanced Placement examination results for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Milcetic included overall data for AHS since 2012 to provide a longitudinal perspective.

Totals	2012	2103	2014	2015	2016	2017
5	147	207	205	195	189	238
4	163	249	301	301	256	265
3	143	205	246	239	216	246
2	84	95	95	89	147	116
1	31	13	18	26	63	58
Total	568	769	865	850	871	923
% Pass	79.8	86.0	86.9	86.5	75.9	81.1
Mean	3.55	3.70	3.67	3.65	3.41	3.55
Tests Passed	453	661	752	735	661	749

Totals	2018	2019	*2020	*2021	2022
5	183	170	160	149	223
4	266	247	233	223	266
3	246	274	227	219	227
2	137	176	136	173	107
1	47	52	80	106	44
Total	879	919	836	870	867
% Pass	79.1	75.2	74.2	67.9	82.6
Mean	3.46	3.33	3.31	3.16	3.60
Tests Passed	695	691	620	591	716

Note the highlighted years, as we could consider those to be banner years in terms of student achievement. When reviewing the summary, it is important to focus on total numbers of test takers, passage rate, and the numbers of tests passed. Certainly, the mean is important as well, as it is a good indicator of not only passage but also the numbers of 4’s and 5’s, illustrating the highest levels of achievement. Using that lens for 2022, one can see that 867 students taking AP tests was second highest to 2017, the 82.6% passage was the highest since 2015, and the 716 tests passed (translating to college credits earned) was the highest since 2017. So not only did AP scores bounce back, the students accessed this rigorous curriculum

in large numbers and performed at historic levels. This information was extremely exciting to see and provides great confirmation of our approach of focusing on the learning environment (nurturing the roots), which will then produce these types of outcomes.

Treasurer's Report/Recommendations

For the month of July, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$3,960,088. This increases the general fund cash balance to \$17,951,901 after the first month of the fiscal year. For the month of July, revenues were 2.82% less than projected while expenditures were 0.55% greater than projected.

The initial revenue and expenditure projections for FY23 were developed by utilizing the budgeted line items and the average percentage of receipt or expense in the appropriate line item from previous years. The monthly figures were then adjusted based upon known parameters such as three pay months, payment for capital projects, etc.

On the revenue side, four real property tax advances totaling \$7,764,640 were received from the Portage County Auditor. Last July, the tax advances totaled \$9,022,739.

On the expenditure side, all of the categories exhibited some variance but at this point there is nothing of any magnitude to be concerned with. The major cause of these variances at this stage is the timing of making payments. July was a three pay month increasing the Personnel Services costs.

Thus far for the fiscal year, revenues are \$239,452 less than projected and expenditures are \$23,643 greater than projected. Overall, this results in an unfavorable variance of \$263,095 after the first month of the fiscal year.

The total cash balance for all funds is \$20,884,847.51 with the general fund having a cash balance of \$17,951,901.11. This overall cash balance is \$4,062,448.75 greater than that at the end of June which can be accounted for by:

- *The \$3,960,088 excess of revenues over expenditures in the general fund.*
- *Real estate tax advances to the Bond Retirement Fund (Fund 002) of \$289,889 and to the Permanent Improvement Fund (Fund 003) of \$176,402.*
- *Expenditures over revenues of:*
 - o *\$53,886 out of the Food Service Fund (Fund 006)*
 - o *\$37,825 out of Student Activity Funds (Fund 200)*
 - o *\$47,353 out of the Athletic Funds (Fund 300)*
 - o *\$138,841 out of the Federal Program Funds (500 Funds)*

The Appropriation Amendments resolution is based on a recommendation from the State Auditors to advance funds to those funds which have a negative cash balance during the course of the fiscal year. As these are advances, the funds will be paid back to the general fund. The Then and Now Statement resolution is needed to make payment/reimbursement to Jessica Swartz for costs incurred for Cheer Camp and to Portage Turf Specialties LLC for fertilizing services for the District's grounds for which purchase orders had not been processed.

22-178

Approve Financial Statements and Reports

WHEREAS the financial statements and reports (including revenues, disbursements, and balances) for the funds herein specified have been presented to the members of the Board at least two days prior to the meeting:

General Fund	Dated: 7/31/22
Student Activity Fund	Dated: 7/31/22

Categorical Funds	Dated: 7/31/22
Investments	Dated: 7/31/22
Debts	Dated: 7/31/22

WHEREAS the members of the Board have had an opportunity to inquire about any revenue, disbursement, balance, or report;

WHEREAS the public may review such documents in the treasurer's office and the annual financial statements and reports are part of the permanent records of this school district; and

WHEREAS disbursements are prohibited by statute from exceeding the amount appropriated by the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED under the provisions of ORC 3313.18 and ORC 3313.47, the financial statements and reports are approved as presented insofar as the disbursements are legal expenditures within the appropriated amounts.

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky, Mr. Acomb

No: None: motion carried

22-179

Approve Ten and Now Statement

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approve a then and now statement for the purchase order(s) listed below. The amount necessary to meet these obligations was then (at the time of the order or contract) and is now lawfully appropriated for such purpose and was then and is now in the treasury and free from previous encumbrances.

The Board of Education approves the issuance of a warrant in payment of the amounts due upon these contracts or orders.

<u>Purchase Order #</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
23000588	Jessica Swartz	\$ 4,202.40
23000806	Portage Turf Specialties LLC	\$9,953.75

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mrs. Mehallis

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb, Mr. zayas

No: None: motion carried

22-180

Approve Appropriation Amendments (Transfers and Advances)

WHEREAS funds must be formally appropriated into items ("accounts") by the Board before funds are permitted to be expended; and

WHEREAS when an appropriations item ("account") has insufficient funds to meet future expenditures an advance/transfer of funds is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that under the provisions of ORC 5705.40, the appropriations measure heretofore adopted is hereby amended as set forth below or on the attachment;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the amended appropriations measure shall be prepared and distributed by the treasurer in such form as the auditor of state prescribes.

ADVANCES:

Advance from:

Amount:	Fund SCC:
\$140,000.00	001-0000

Advance to:

Amount:	Fund SCC:
50,000.00	300-901A
50,000.00	516-9223
10,000.00	572-9223
10,000.00	584-9223
10,000.00	587-9223
10,000.00	590-9223

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mrs. Mehallis

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Mehallis,
Mr. Acomb, Mr. Zayas

No: None: motion carried

22-181

Accept Resignation

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education accepts the **resignation/retirement** of the following staff members and/or positions.

Kimberly Kocianic
LES Cafeteria

Resignation effective August 3, 2022
Fifteen years of service to the district

Mark Bugara
HMS Para-educator

Resignation effective July 26, 2022
Twelve years of service to the district

Kristina Vidzunas
MES Para-educator

Resignation eff. end of the 2021-22 school year
One year of service to the district

Catherine Rodhe
MES Para-educator

Resignation eff. end of the 2021-22 school year
One year of service to the district

Tyler Thoren
General Laborer

Resignation effective August 10, 2022
One year of service to the district

Elizabeth Rankin
MES Para-educator

Resignation effective August 5, 2022
One year of service to the district

Robert Palma
Supplemental

Resignation of Boys Basketball Asst. Coach

Kimberly Newbauer
LES Para-educator

Resignation eff. end of the 2021-22 school year
Three years of service to the district

Jacqueline Brown
AHS Para-educator

Resignation effective August 24, 2022
Three years of service to the district

Robin Quaranto
Bus Driver

Resignation of bus paraprofessional position only

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-182

Award Supplemental Contracts (District Personnel)

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education awards **supplemental and extended time contracts** to district personnel for the **2022-23** school year as follows, contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria, and paid from General Fund unless otherwise noted.

Lauren Barker

MES Preschool Department Head

Amount: 5%

Megan Watt

AHS Freshman Class Advisor

Amount: 2%

Athletic Department

Jeffrey Stenger

AHS Cross Country Assistant Coach

Amount: 6%

Michelle Blaser

AHS Volleyball Assistant Coach

Amount: 6%

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-183

Employ Licensed Substitute Teachers for the 2022-23 School Year

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education awards **supplemental and extended time contracts** to district personnel for the **2022-23** school year as follows, contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria, and paid from General Fund unless otherwise noted.

Goza, Denise

Brettrager, Henry

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-184

Approve Introductory Appointment of Support Staff

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education appoints the following **support staff members** as indicated for an introductory period of 100 work days' contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria:

Melanie Reger

Effective: August 15, 2022

CES Para-educator Amount: Para-educator, EL 6
Fund: General

Shelley Kachenko Effective: August 15, 2022
AHS Para-educator Amount: Para-educator, EL 3
Fund: General

Michelle Blaser Effective: August 15, 2022
HMS Para-Educator Amount: Para Educator, EL 3
Fund: General

Adelaide Schweickert Effective: August 15, 2022
MES Para-Educator Amount: Para Educator, EL 1
Fund: General

Lindsay Siebold Effective: August 15, 2022
MES Para-Educator Amount: Para Educator, EL 1
Fund: General

Mackenzie Ullrich Effective: August 15, 2022
LES Para-Educator Amount: Para Educator, EL 1
Fund: General

Zachary Madden Effective: August 15, 2022
AHS Para-Educator Amount: Para Educator EL4
Fund: General

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-185

Award Supplemental/Pupil Activity Contracts (Non-District Personnel)

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education awards **supplemental/pupil activity contracts** to non-district personnel for **2022-23** school year as follows, contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria, and paid from the General Fund unless otherwise indicated:

Rachele Kelly AHS Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach Amount: 6 of 8%

Craig Murray AHS Boys Golf Assistant Coach Amount: 6%

Tuesday Slomovitz AHS Auxiliary Advisor Amount: 1 of 12%

Sydney Prusha AHS Drumline Advisor Amount: 2%

Sydney Prusha AHS Percussion Instructor Amt: Intramural Hrly Rate

Shaun Flynn AHS Auxiliary Advisor Amount: 5.5 of 12%

Cara Houck AHS Girls Tennis Assistant Coach Amount: 6%

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb, Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-186

Approve Step Increase of Classified Staff Member

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approves the merit increase for the following staff member effective September 1, 2022:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION/PAYSCALE</u>	<u>OLD</u>	<u>NEW</u>
Mohan, Hannah	IT Support Technician	Step 3	Step 7

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb, Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-187

Employ Support Staff Substitutes for the 2022-23 School Year

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approves the employment of the following in Board approved **support staff substitute positions** (bus driver, custodian/maintenance, secretary, paraprofessional, cafeteria/courier, media clerk, health/instructional assistant) for the **2022-23** school year effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, on an as needed as assigned basis contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria.

Elizabeth Forpaugh

James Biro

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb, Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

22-188

Employ Long-Term Substitute Teacher

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education will employ **the following** long-term substitute teacher for **2022-23** school year contingent upon proper certification and full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria. In the event that this assignment continues longer than sixty (60) days in duration, the Board chooses to exercise its discretion and continue the daily rate of remuneration at \$115.00 per day for the first 60 days, increasing to BA, Step 0 daily rate on the 61st day with the applicability of perquisites governed by state statute effective the 61st day.

Erika Wolford

LES Fifth Grade

Effective Starting Date: August 15, 2022

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky
No: None: motion carried

22-189

Approve Bus Stops for the 2022-23 School Year

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approve the school bus stops for the 2022-23 school year as presented

Moved by: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Zayas, Mr. Acomb,
Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Conner

No: None: motion carried

22-190

Approve the Final Budgets for Activity Accounts for 2021-22

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approve the budgets for activity accounts, as per the attached, for Aurora High School, Harmon School, Leighton Elementary School, Craddock Elementary School, and Miller Elementary School for 2021-22

Moved by: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mrs. Conner

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Mehallis,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Acomb

No: None: motion carried

22-191

Approve the Statements of Purpose and Budgets for the Activity Accounts for 2022-23

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approve the "Statements of Purpose" and budgets for activity accounts, as per the attached, for Aurora High School, Harmon School, Leighton Elementary School, Craddock Elementary School, and Miller Elementary School for 2022-23

Moved by: Mr. Zayas

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Conner,
Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb

No: None: motion carried

22-192

Approve Overnight Trip

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approve the overnight trip listed below:

Event	Soccer Team Retreat
Destination:	Athletes in Action Campus
Date(s):	August 5-August 8, 2022
Participating Students	Boys Soccer Players
Supervisors:	Soccer Head Coach
Lodging	Athletes in Action Campus
Transportation:	Charter Bus
Cost:	\$275.00

Moved by: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Sabulsky, Mr. Acomb, Mrs. Mehallis,
Mr. Zayas
Abstain: Mrs. Conner
No: None: motion carried

22-193

Approve Overnight Trip

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approve the overnight trip listed below:

Event	Band, Choir and Orchestra Trip
Destination:	Orland Florida
Date(s):	March 23-March 29, 2023
Participating Students	Band and Orchestra Students
Supervisors:	Band, Choir & Orchestra Directors
Lodging	TownePlace Suites by Marriot
Transportation:	Charter Bus – Nowak Tours
Cost:	\$1313.00

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Zayas, Mrs. Mehallis, Mr. Acomb,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Sabulsky

No: None: motion carried

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Board Items

There were no Board items.

22-194

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mr. Sabulsky, Mr. Acomb, Mrs. Mehallis,
Mrs. Conner, Mr. Zayas

No: None: motion carried

Board President

Treasurer