

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Schools Board of Education of December 19, 2022

Call to Order:

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

All Board Members were present.

Acknowledgement of Visitors and Hearing of Public

The following individuals addressed the Board in support of Aurora High School volleyball coach, Tyler Price:

Pam Roche – 615 Hardwick Dr., Aurora
Lori Gecina – 10254 Redbud Dr., Aurora
Tera Mitter – 230 Club Dr., Aurora

22-257

Recognize Excellence

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education is proud to recognize and congratulate the following students for being selected by Rotary International of Aurora as **Students of the Month**:

Maya Volf	Harmon School
Reid Arnold	Harmon School

Moved by: Mr. Zayas

Seconded by: Mrs. Conner

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-258

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Special Meeting of November 12, 2022, and the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2022, were approved

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Reports

Dr. Milcetic District K-8 Reading Coach, Jen Miller, reported to the Board on the District's approach to teaching reading at the elementary level, and how the District has evolved in the last couple of years. There is typically not a shortage of views of the "best" way in which students should be taught how to read, and this picture has become more complex and yet also more enlightened with recent research, including the Science of Reading. This report will focus on our District approach, and how we have adjusted our practices based on new information and legislation regarding teaching reading and multi-faceted approaches to ensuring all students learn how to crack the code.

Over the past few decades, there have been multiple conflicts between opposing views of teaching reading, but the most recent is the balanced vs. structured literacy dynamic. Balanced literacy espouses teaching multiple methods of learning how to read where students are taught strategies in mini-lessons using grade level model texts and then practice those strategies in guided reading groups where students practice reading at their level to self,

reading to others, listening to reading, working their teacher on specific skills, and also word work which involves letters, their sounds, and spelling. Students have instruction and reading materials, which are differentiated to meet their needs and help with comprehension and an enjoyment of reading. Structured literacy takes an opposing view of reading in which students are taught different aspects of reading in a whole class manner with more rote and structured lessons targeting phonics and phonemic awareness along with “read aloud” of books at grade level. Decodable readers are provided to help students practice their skills with little emphasis placed on comprehension or other aspects of reading. There can be positive aspects of both approaches, but in Aurora we have subscribed to a balanced approach along with adding some structured phonics components at the K-2 level. This Guided Reading approach transitions into the Workshop approach when our students are in late 5th grade and moving into middle school/high school, which allows for choice reading and has sparked a greater interest in reading for our students.

Recently, many factors have been injected into this equation of reading instruction, including new insights from a body of research called the Science of Reading, as well as Dyslexia Legislation in Ohio. Dyslexia Legislation was passed in Ohio 2021 and now requires a number of actions by districts, including screening, intervention, training, and professional development. All K-3 teachers must complete 18 hours of ODE provided training modules with or without a state facilitator by the start of the next school year for K-1 teachers and the following year for Grades 2-3 teachers. The following year Grades 4-12 Special Education teachers will be required to complete training. The 22-23 school year was supposed to have been the beginning of official Dyslexia screening and intervention, but the delayed release of the Dyslexia Guidebook, along with a lack of approved screeners has pushed this action until next year.

Additionally, the Science of Reading research has provided new information on the process of teaching reading and the multiple aspects that need to be incorporated into instruction. It takes a combination of word recognition with language comprehension in order for students to reach reading comprehension. The Science of Reading research and available brain scans have truly illuminated the importance of a structured approach to teaching reading at the phonics, phonological awareness, and fluency levels, which can then help students reach the next level of comprehension.

Based on previous success with a balanced literacy approach, along with new information and insight from the Science of Reading and Dyslexia Legislation, we are moving to a “Blended” Approach to teaching reading. This change means an adjustment of practices and including more structured and systemic approaches to teaching the basics of reading, including phonics and phonological awareness, especially at the K-2 grade level. We will continue to use a Guided Reading approach and mini-lessons to teach strategies, but our framework will include a portion of time each day for direct instruction and corrective feedback as our youngest learners are mastering this essential skill. Additionally, our screening, intervention, and remediation for our struggling readers will be modified to allow us to understand what aspects of reading need to be strengthened with increased use of phonics based interventions.

Mr. Zayas asked if dyslexia screening was performed prior to the current legislation. Mrs. Miller responded that previously, there was no specific screening performed for dyslexia.

Treasurer’s Report/Recommendations

For the month of November, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$3,301,904. This decreases the general fund cash balance to \$15,133,439 after the fifth month of the fiscal year. For the month of November, revenues were 0.85% less than projected while expenditures were 2.02% greater than projected.

On the revenue side, all of the categories are within normal variances and typical timing of receipts.

On the expenditure side, the District's annual principal payment in the amount of \$419,000 was paid on the Leighton Certificates of Participation (COPs). The last payment on the COPs is December 1, 2024.

Thus far for the fiscal year, revenues are \$3,921 less than projected and expenditures are \$74,432 greater than projected. Overall, this results in an unfavorable variance of \$78,353 after the fifth month of the fiscal year.

The total cash balance for all funds is \$16,961,310.92 with the general fund having a cash balance of \$15,133,438.86. This overall cash balance is \$4,859,884.85 less than that at the end of October which can be accounted for by:

- *The \$3,301,904 excess of expenditures over revenues in the general fund.*
- *\$1,045,000 principal and \$131,595 interest payment to Huntington Bank from the Bond Retirement Fund (Fund 002 SCC 9208) for payment of the 2008-2010 Building Project Bonds. The last payment on these bonds is December 1, 2033.*
- *\$366,000 principal and \$12,044 interest payment to Huntington Bank from the Permanent Improvement Fund (Fund 003) for payment of the Leighton Certificates of Participation (COPs).*

The Appropriation Amendments (Advances and Transfers) 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. The resolution is to approve:

- *An advance from the General Fund to the Bond Retirement Fund. Tax receipts into the Bond Retirement Fund are received fairly evenly in the fall and spring of the fiscal year. The debt service payments, however, are 80% due on December 1 with the remaining 20% due on June 1. As this is an advance, the funds will be paid back to the General Fund.*
- *A transfer of the carryover funds from IDEA-B (Fund 516) from FY22 to FY23.*

22-259

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: 11/30/22
Student Activity Fund	Dated: 11/30/22
Categorical Funds	Dated: 11/30/22
Investments	Dated: 11/30/22
Debts	Dated: 11/30/22

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: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-260

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.

TRANSFERS:

Transfer from:

Amount:	Fund SCC:
\$16,132.99	516-9222

Transfer to:

Amount:	Fund SCC:
\$16,132.99	516-9223

ADVANCES:

Advance from:

Amount:	Fund SCC:
\$90,000.00	001-0000

Advance to:

Amount:	Fund SCC:
\$90,000.00	002-9208

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mrs. Conner

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-261

Accept Gift and Contributions

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education accept the following donations and in so doing hereby acknowledges the positive and supportive activities of those listed:

The Aurora PTO donated \$5000.00 to Miller School and \$7866.00 to Craddock School

The elementary schools received over 1600 coupons for students from the Streetsboro Dairy Queen

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-262

Employ Licensed Substitute Teachers for the 2022-23 School Year

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approves the employment of licensed **substitute teacher** for the **2022-23** school year as follows, pending proper licensing and contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria:

James Eller
Ashley Lange
Megan Ritchie
Cassandra Marotta
Emily Cremer
Corinne Henderson
Erin Gill
Acacia Etheridge
Ashley Miller

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-263

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.

Abigail Milner
Andrea Hazel

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-264

Introductory Appointment of Support Staff

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education appoints the following **support staff member** 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:

Bridget Sable
MES Paraeducator

Effective: December 5, 2022
Amount: Paraeducator, Step 3
Fund: General

Shelly Penza
MES Paraeducator

Effective: December 12, 2022
Amount: Paraeducator, Step 3
Fund: General

Lauren Donoho
MES Paraeducator

Effective: December 14, 2022
Amount: Paraeducator, Step 3
Fund: General

Linda Dengate
AHS Athletic Secretary

Effective: January 3, 2023
Amount: Building Sect, Step 15
Fund: General

Amy Mulligan
MES Para-professional

Effective: January 9, 2023
Amount: Paraprofessional, Step 1
Fund: General

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Mr. Acomb Mr. Sabulsky, Mr. Zayas,
Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Mehallis
No: None: motion carried

22-265

Employ Support Staff

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education employs as indicated the following support staff members having successfully completed a 100 work day introductory period, contingent upon full and complete compliance with all State of Ohio and Aurora Board of Education employment eligibility criteria:

Magdalena Himmel
Bus Driver

Effective: November 29, 2022
Amount: Bus Driver, EL1
Fund: General

Nancy Rouru
Bus Driver

Effective: November 29, 2022
Amount: Bus Driver, EL1
Fund: General

Peter Conces
Bus Driver

Effective: November 29, 2022
Amount: Bus Driver, EL1
Fund: General

Gregory Best
Bus Driver

Effective: November 29, 2022
Amount: Bus Driver, EL1
Fund: General

Melinie Burick
HMS Paraeducator

Effective: November 30, 2022
Amount: Paraeducator, EL2
Fund: General

Kevin Dobson
District Laborer

Effective: November 29, 2022
Amount: Laborer, EL12
Fund: General

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Mr. Acomb Mr. Sabulsky, Mr. Zayas,
Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Mehallis
No: None: motion carried

22-266

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

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:

John Gattozzi	AHS Softball Assistant Coach	Amount:
Volunteer		
Greg Unverferth	AHS Softball Assistant Coach	Amount:
Volunteer		
Timothy Rooney	AHS Wrestling Assistant Coach	Amount: 2 of 9%
Curtis Barker	AHS Softball Assistant Coach	Amount: 8%
Joseph Nowak	AHS Boys Basketball Head Coach	Amount: 15%
Timothy Keyes	AHS Boys Basketball Assistant Coach	Amount: <i>Increase Current Contract from 9% to 10%</i>

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-267

Award Supplementals (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.

Nicole Franchini	AHS Boys Track Assistant Coach	Amount: 7%
Megan Watt	AHS Boys Track Assistant Coach	Amount: 9%
Betsy Hamilton	AHS Saturday School Supervisor	Amount: \$23.18/hr

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-268

Accept Resignation

RESOLVED THAT

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

Greg Rodi	Resignation of 10 of 15% Head Boys Basketball Coach Contract
Deion Morrison	Resignation of 7 of 10% Asst. Boys Basketball Coach Contract
Dominic DeMartini	Resignation of 7 of 10% Asst Boys Basketball Coach Contract

Moved by: Mr. Acomb

Seconded by: Mr. Sabulsky

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-269

Approve AHS Program of Studies for 2023-24

Resolution to Approve Aurora High School’s 2023-24 Program of Studies as discussed at the November Board Meeting

Moved by: Mr. Zayas

Seconded by: Mrs. Conner

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-268

Approve 2023-24 School Calendar

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education approves the 2023-24 school calendar as discussed last month.

Moved by: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-269

Approve Overnight Trip

RESOLVED THAT

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

Event	KSA Events Softball Spring Training
Destination:	Orlando Florida
Date(s):	March 26, 2023 –March 30, 2023
Participating Students	Varsity Softball Players
Supervisors:	Varsity Head Softball Coach & additional coaches
Lodging	Hotel to be determined
Transportation:	Airplane
Cost:	\$2000.00

Moved by: Mrs. Conner

Seconded by: Mr. Zayas

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-270

Approve Overnight Field Trip

RESOLVED THAT

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

Event	KSA Spring Training Baseball Tournament
Destination:	Orlando, Florida
Date:	March 25, 2022 – April 1, 2023
Participants:	JV and Varsity Baseball Players
Supervisors:	Head Coach & additional coaches
Lodging	Tournament Sponsored Hotel to be determined
Transportation:	Parents will choose travel

Moved by: Mr. Sabulsky

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-271

Set Date for Organizational Meeting

RESOLVED THAT

the Aurora Board of Education pursuant to O.R.C. 3313.14 establish its annual Organizational Meeting for January 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Aurora Board of Education Office.

Moved by: Mr. Zayas

Seconded by: Mrs. Mehallis

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

22-272

Nomination and Election of Office (ORC 3313.14)

I, William Volosin, Treasurer, called for nominations for president pro tem.

Mrs. Mehallis placed the name Mrs. Conner in nomination. There being no further nominations, Mrs. Mehallis moved that the nominations be closed and that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Mrs. Conner and Mr. Acomb seconded the motion.

Moved by: Mrs. Mehallis

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None: motion carried

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Board Items

See above – 22-271

22-254

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Zayas

Seconded by: Mr. Acomb

Roll Mrs. Conner, Mr. Acomb, Mr. Zayas,
Mr. Sabulsky, Mrs. Mehallis

No: None: motion carried

Board President

Treasurer