

Auburn School Committee
Regular Meeting Agenda (Park Avenue Library)

June 06, 2018 5:30 PM

5:30 PM

I. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance

- A. Introductions
- B. Communication

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes for May 16, 2018
- C. Certificated Contract Renewals

The Superintendent recommends the following certificated contract renewal pending appropriate certification and/or license:

- a. Second Probationary Teacher Contracts - September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019:
Caroline Tufts, Teacher - Washburn

D. Certificated Nominations

The Superintendent recommends the following certificated contracts pending appropriate certification and/or license:

- a. Justin Croteau, Math Teacher - ELHS
- b. Amanda Cyr, Teacher - Washburn
- c. Olivia Duym, Teacher- Washburn
- d. Nora Jarvis, Teacher- Washburn
- e. Emily Manahan. Teacher- Walton

_____ Moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

_____ Seconded

_____ Motion passed/defeated _____ to _____ approve the Consent Agenda.

III. Executive Session prior to regular meeting to discuss personnel issue pursuant to MRSA 405 (6) A.

If the School Committee makes a motion to enter executive session, the precise nature of business to be considered will be indicated in the motion. The items, which may be discussed, by law, may include one or more of the following:

1. To discuss personnel.
2. To discuss or consider the suspension or expulsion of a student.
3. To discuss or consider the condition, acquisition, or the use of real or personal property only if premature disclosure would prejudice the competitive or bargaining of the body or agency.
4. To discuss labor contracts, proposals and/or meetings related to negotiations.
5. To consult with the School Committee's attorney concerning legal rights, pending litigation, and settlement offers, when premature public knowledge would give the School Committee substantial disadvantage.
6. To discuss records made, maintained, or received by the School Committee or department, of access is prohibited by statute.

IV. Public Participation

The School Committee asks the Public to remember our System-Wide Code of Conduct and the six core values of Respect, Honesty, Courage, Compassion, Fairness, and Responsibility while directly addressing the group. Our policy JIC states that we expect people to 'Treat others as you would like to be treated, Use language that is appropriate and kind, and be truthful and forthright in speech and actions.' Per our policy, BEDH - Public Participation at School Committee Meetings: Citizens may comment on any general topics related to the school system during this portion of the agenda. Comments related to specific agenda items may be held until the appropriate time. Please be succinct and speak once for less than three minutes.

Other limitations may be necessary. The School Committee may respond to your concerns at a later date by answering through the administration or by placing the item on a future agenda. It is requested that comments related to specific personnel be channeled privately to the appropriate administrator.

V. Upcoming Meeting

- School Budget Referendum - June 12, 2018- Go Vote!
- Regular School Committee Meeting - June 20, 2018, 7:00 PM

VI. Adjournment followed by Retirement/System Dropout Prevention Awards in Cafeteria

_____ Moved to adjourn at _____ P.M.

_____ Seconded

_____ Motion passed/defeated _____ to _____ adjourn at _____ P.M.

AUBURN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
AUBURN, MAINE

REPORT OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE AUBURN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Auburn Hall

May 16, 2018

Members Present: Ms. Faith Fontaine Mr. Robert Mennealy
 Ms. Patricia Gautier Mr. Daniel Poisson
 Ms. Bonnie Hayes Ms. Jenna Scrivner
 Mr. Thomas Kendall Ms. Alfreda Fournier

Others Present: Katherine Grondin, Superintendent; Michelle McClellan, Assistant Superintendent; Adam Hanson, Business Manager; Olivia Roth and Kiara Fournier, Student Representative.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Introductions

Mr. Kendall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He led the pledge of allegiance and members introduced themselves noting the ward they represent.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes for May 2, 2018 and May 10, 2018
- C. Administrative Nomination

The Superintendent recommends the following administrative nomination pending appropriate certification and/or license:

- a. Robert Griffin, Principal - AMS
- b. Lila Mitchell, Principal - Park Avenue

D. Certificated Nominations

- a. Allison Smith, Teacher - Walton
- b. Gabriella Joy, Teacher - Walton

E. Certificated Contract Renewals

The Superintendent recommends the following certificated contract renewals pending appropriate certification and/or license:

- a. Second Probationary Teacher Contracts - September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019:

Balis	Jane		Liacos-Dix	Suzanne
Breau	Erin		McAdam	Elizabeth Nancy
Bruce	Richard		McCamish	Danielle
Cote	Amy		Mcintire	Anne
Cummings	Stephen		Ogden	Scott
Czlapinski	Mercedes		Palazzetti	Libby
DeRoche	Erin		Parker	Catherine
DesHayes	Jesse		Petrisor	Aniela
Drew	Whitney		Pinkham	Kelsey
Dyer	Emily		Ramsdell	Gary

Gagnon	Michelle		Rea	Brittany
Gillis	Mikaela		Rodriguez	Alejandra
Graffam	Kristin		Smith	Marni
Gray	Jocelyn		Stubbs	Mark
Jeffcoats	Andreaska		Teta	Jeanette
Jurewicz	Ryan		Thayer	Annah
Kravetz	Jamie		Tozier	Peny
Lamontagne	Shannon		Underwood	Victoria
Leonas	Linda		Watson	Brent
Leunig	Warren		Wilkins-Bishop	Abigail

b. Third Probationary Teacher Contracts - September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019:

Asselin	Katie		Hayes	Mary (Molly)
Blaisdell	Karen		Hinkley	Danielle
Blaisdell	Therese		Lepage	Marc
Boyd	Jaclyn		Lutick	Zachary
Brooks	Sarah		Marris	Peter
Cassidy	Lana		McLean	Alyssa
Close	Jillian		Morris	Jeffrey
Cloutier	Victoria		Morrison	Erin
Cossey	Desiree		Mutombo	Ilunga
Davin	Aime		Rothwell	Brittany
Ellis	Elizabeth		Rowe	Meghan
Fox-Teixeira	Leandra		Scott	Kelly
Frost	Sarah		Smith	Cynthia
Gallant	Meredith		Viscardi	Alexa
Groves	Lori		White	Loni
Hansen	Margaret		Woodhead	Beth

c. First Continuing Teacher Contracts - September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019:

Berry	Elena	Mains	Timothy
Caruso	Jessica	Masse	Rebecca
Chasse	Dustin	Nadeau	Kathryn
Collin	Karen	Peck	Angela
Donovan	Holly	Pelletier	Diane
Etienne	Deanna	Perez-Febles	Bethany
Guay	Kimberly	Richardson	Heidi
Johnson M.	Jennifer	Rogers	Courtney
Kimball	Kayla	Sweetser	Jessica
Knights	Nicole	Watson	Tamara
Kochis	Lucy	Welch	Jacie
McMellon	William	Whitcomb	Todd
Lyons	Timothy		

It was moved by Mr. Mennealy, seconded by Ms. Fournier and voted 6 to 1 to approve the Consent Agenda for tonight's meeting including the addendum, with Ms. Hayes abstaining.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Grondin introduced the new principal of AMS, Mr. Bob Griffin. Mr. Griffin stated that he has spent his entire career in the middle school at various positions beginning as an Ed Tech. He has 3 sons and lives in Saco, but his wife's family lives a couple towns north of here. He stated that he has heard for many years about the exciting work being done here in Auburn and is excited to be joining this school department. He noted that he will work tirelessly to ensure AMS is a great place to attend.

Ms. Grondin stated that Lila Mitchell was not able to be here tonight, but is also excited to be joining the Auburn School Department as principal at Park Avenue Elementary School.

Ms. Stacey Fournier and her son, Andrew of Cherryvale Circle in Auburn spoke against PBL. She shared that her statements are in no way against AMS or the teachers. She reported that her son is disappointed with the maximum achievable score because he feels it isn't fair. Ms. Fournier stated that she feels Mr. Kendall is out of touch with the community and she has heard that citizens are overwhelmingly disappointed with the program. She noted that citizens feel their children are giving up. She explained that she does not have time to come to meetings every week. She noted that it never seems to matter what people say when administration doesn't listen or make changes when asked to do so. She stated that she had to pull her son from karate tonight to be sure that he came with her to this meeting. She noted that it is not a handful of parents that take issue with PBL, as Mr. Kendall stated; but a handful of parents who speak for the majority to say they very much dislike PBL and she is grateful to them for speaking up.

Corin McWilliams of Turner St. stated that she truly believes each student is exceptional in their own way and should be encouraged to learn in their own way. She expressed that in theory she supports PBL, but does not agree with the way Auburn is implementing it. She reported that just last week her daughter achieved a scholarly award at AMS because she exemplifies a leader in and

out of the classroom. She noted that her daughter exceeds expectations all the time, but then has to wait for other students to catch up and has been told that she will only ever earn a 3. She stated that her daughter deserves better and she expect better from the School Committee.

Barabar Howoenic of Nottingham Rd. stated that recently this group of parents was referred to as a dozen or so parents who had a knee jerk reaction. She provided a definition for the knee jerk reaction and clarified that nothing this group has expressed is without thought and she resents being thought of as someone who doesn't think through her thoughts. She noted that we have been told change is hard, but it doesn't have to be hard. She stated that our world is constantly changing and we adjust. She wondered if institutional change is really that different, noting that she doesn't think so. She reported that changes were made at her employment with clear precise direction using evidence based change. She expressed that she feels the administration and school board have failed us miserably for four years. She stated that it is time to repeal the 1-4 grading system and Empower. She noted that we can set precise, achievable goals that have no limits. She stated that she has seen where all the money is going and would rather see it go toward teachers, guidance counselors, etc. She expressed that there are still more options left to the taxpayers and we can visit those next week.

Jen Jorge of Carson Street stated that she came to the meeting tonight to voice her concerns against PBL. She expressed that she moved here years ago when the place she lived stated PBL. She reported that her kids are only in 1st and 3rd grade now, but her 1st grader is beyond his grade level and they can't teach him in classroom, so they gave her work to take home. She reported that he gets 3s in everything and won't get a 4 because he is working above grade level. She stated that she is a physical therapist and has students job shadow with her often. She stated that she has heard a number of times that students are not motivated, have no guidelines and no time limits for assignments. She noted that she does not feel that this prepares them for college because they won't get those options at that level. She stated that this gives students false hope and she hopes PBL changes.

Jessie Bell stated that he has heard countless times that the system doesn't work and people don't like it. He noted that he has held leadership positions in the marines and in government jobs and as a leader he would always step back and get feedback from people involved. He asked how many schools have members personally been to and how many students, teachers, and parents have they spoken with.

Mr. Kendall noted that we do not typically respond during public session. He stated that the administration has gathered feedback and will be examining the feedback.

Patricia Gauthier stated that the system has been working since 2011 with PBL methodology; however, it has taken much of that time to train teachers and this system is not fully implemented.

Jessie Bell stated that he would like to see the results of the feedback.

Ms. Gauthier stated that at previous meetings there was feedback from people who have positive comments.

Ms. Fournier stated that the public comments in favor of the PBL came from a particular school and grade level. She noted that there was nobody representing AMS at that meeting. She stated that she has also spoken with teachers and there is a mix of teachers who are comfortable with PBL. She noted that she is finding that in the elementary level it is accepted by some, but the high school and middle school are not in favor of it. She explained that there is a survey available, but we need people to complete the survey. She expressed that she has received letters from students, parents, and citizens and feels we need to be honest about what is working and what is not working. She stated that if we don't listen to the parents, there is something wrong with our system. She stated that we are also listening to those who are happy with it. She stated that our task force needs to bring this to a place where people are happy with it, students are learning, and this is the opportunity for us to make a big difference. She stated that if we don't fix it, we will continue to hear the

negatives and there are some positives. She stated that she has spent 37 years in education and had to move to standards based education, noting that she also doesn't believe in holding students back and making them wait for others to be on the same level. She stated that she wants to see how teachers teach and wants to see our students get to where they want to be. She stated that she hears everybody and wants to do something about what people are saying. She noted that she appreciates people coming forward.

Ms. Gauthier reported that we have had successes in the classrooms and she has talked with parents who are happy knowing where their student is and where they need to go. She ask for some patience and suggested giving time for the task force to get their feet off the ground.

Jessie Bell asked if there has been any thought given about other districts that have left PBL behind.

Marnie Dubois of Fairview Avenue expressed appreciation to Ms. Fournier for her transparency. She stated that her child was in the pilot class and at the elementary level there are many positives. She stated that she has other friends who feel the same. She stated that she is extremely happy with the Auburn schools. Her daughter was allowed to fly at AMS and is at high school now and is extremely motivated and does very well. She stated that her other daughter is now at AMS and has to wait for others to catch up and she is seeing her experience as vastly different from her daughter who is now at high school. She feels students need to have accountability. She reported that her brother is a Superintendent in Massachusetts and PBL isn't in his district, but he has researched it and said that he wouldn't want to gamble with PBL if it were his children.

Ms. Gauthier asked if there were two different successes with the program. She expressed that it feels like people are disappointed with the grading. She feels that the methodology is alright but the implementation is what needs to be changed.

Ms. Dubois stated that when students get to middle school they need to have deadlines, accountability and consequences.

Dan Moreno of Burbon St. stated that he came previously to address adding teachers and discuss adequate pay. He asked members how many of them have children in the school department and asked if they were given a link to the survey. He stated that he has voting power in Auburn, but couldn't take the survey because he took his daughter out of the Auburn system because he feels Auburn is minimalizing education. He stated that members are kidding themselves if they think PBL works. He stated that even the statistics show that it fails. He wondered if they wanted to know why he sends his child to St. Doms. He also wondered why is it that the demographics for the survey is only to parents with kids in Auburn schools. He stated that this is wrong. He reported that the survey didn't ask about competitiveness, etc. and the School Committee didn't know about the survey, but pushed it out, without even knowing anything about it.

Ms. Hayes reported that the task force was formed by the Superintendent and the Director of OLT. She stated that at some point you have to trust what is happening in the system.

Mr. Moreno stated that he has seen on facebook that the survey and task force is a farce and the time to do this is useless. He noted that he feels there is nothing supportive about PBL and he refers to it as pretty bad learning. He wondered where the learning is when a teacher doesn't interact with a student noting that he can't take the gamble with his daughter so he took her out of the public schools. He stated that students are falling through the cracks in a system that removes the teacher student relationship, requires no homework, has no way to assess the student, and tests repeatedly until the student gets it right. He expressed that the divide will be felt further than you think. He noted that SATs will address their issues, colleges will address their needs with remedial classes which cost students time and money, and when you throw obstacles in front of students, they quit. He stated that it boggles his mind when teachers don't speak up. He suggested that the cost of PBL could have been spent on more teachers and reducing student/teacher ratios. He stated that the School Committee represents all and in the interest of fairness, he did not feel that the

members could state tonight that we need to be patient. He stated that the members need to be patient and hear the citizens because it is their kids on the line and he can't believe members are buying into this. He reported that only a small number of citizens spoke, but they came out in numbers. He noted that they are all residents, but some don't feel they can fight the big demon. He stated that citizens were present when Mr. Kendall spoke at the City Council meeting and he never spoke about anyone in favor of it, but only those against it. He noted that this is the job members chose and they have an obligation. He requested that members have objectivity and stated that he gives Mr. Kendall a vote of no confidence. He stated that citizens deserve to hear the unbiased analysis of their opinions at meetings with City Council. He stated that the school department has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to implement this and are spending more money on a system that is failing and expect citizens to buy into it. He stated that he has every intention of using his vote to vote against the budget because he won't vote to support a system where students around us are going to excel over Auburn students. He stated that the future graduates in Auburn will have an asterisk near their name because of the PBL program. He stated that someone is going to go after your jobs and make a system that works. He stated that he hopes his honesty tells you that he didn't want to take his daughter out of this system, but felt he needed to do so. He stated that he intends to vote no on the budget and encourage those who agree that this system is wrong, to also vote no.

Suzette Cyr of Sixth St. stated that this is not just about academics, but is about the educational psychology and emotional well being of our children. She reported that as technology plays a role in learning, we need to know how this impacts children. PBL concepts may be able to enhance our children's learning if implemented in a balanced way. She stated that in elementary school the 1-4 grading system may make sense, but as students grow up they need to take responsibility and this grading system doesn't translate well. She reported that there has been a lot of marketing for PBL which is all tied to big tech company money and we need to not be fooled by this. She stated that they have an agenda and a lot of it is about making profits. She noted that it doesn't balance with educational psychology. She reported that she is concerned about students not getting their social, emotional, and cognitive processes needs met. She expressed that humans are relationship dependent and all the computer stuff is new. She stated that we need to recognize that there are things about the technology that are not beneficial to young brains. She reported that all the use of technology creates isolation and frustration. She stated that members need to listen to this feedback and find a middle way. She stated that the kids have been giving us feedback about their stress and the pressure they are given to use technology. She noted that we are all vulnerable and growing up in the digital age is difficult, but we need to protect their mental health, stress level, and psychosocial development. She noted that it is not just about academics, it is about the whole child. She wondered if anyone had been listening or researching what psychology has to say. She reported that clinical research shows that kids spend 6.5 hours per day on devices and that doesn't include homework time; noting that screen time makes real changes in their brain. She reported that evidence shows that when kids are on screens, their brains don't have regulations and there is a lot of direct relation between screen time and addiction. She stated that increased screen time also increases aggression, sleep deprivation, etc. She stated that the book *Inevitable* doesn't consider any of this and it bothers her because we need to weigh the risks and benefits of technology. Her daughter doesn't like PBL because her natural curiosity is not sparked. She stated that kids need social relational forms of learning and we can't replace that with technology. She reported that the transmission of knowledge cannot be done by removing teachers and replacing them with screens where students having learning take place on the computer. She implored members to look at the global picture.

Tizz Crowley of University Street stated that she was here to support those against PBL. She expressed that Ward 1's representative is open to change. She stated that she came in opposition to PBL for many reasons. She reported that her child had to move from the State of Maine to make a

living and she'd like to see that stop. She stated that she is opposed to PBL because of how other people look at it, but noted that you can convert me if you show me that the graduation rate has improved. She stated that she has been excluded from the survey and the only way she gets to give input is to vote no on the budget. She reported that she is over 50 years old and doesn't have children in school, but she does pay taxes. She encourage members to tell us how and demonstrate how this system improves graduation rates. She stated that it doesn't matter if a student gets a 4 in Maine when they go to college, but you are sending our graduating seniors off without the proof of their proficiency or their exceptionality. She stated that she hears that people are doing a full level higher and can't get more than a 3. She stated that she supported the idea of MCL when it was introduced, but stated that you have to keep the grading system that exists in other districts. She noted that this is not appropriate in our community at this time. She stated that she doesn't expect any of the members to change their mind, but is hoping someone will be listening.

Laura Gilpatrick of Court St. stated that her daughter graduated ELHS and she now has a daughter at AMS. She noted that she was alarmed at the commentary by Mr. Kendall. She stated that all one needs to do is look at the task force documents to see that the school department is well educated in PBL, and then for Mr. Kendall to say he can't define it makes me question his position as a chair of this committee. She stated that he owes citizens an apology. She stated that she believes we want what is best for our students, but to say that comments are made by a dozen or so citizens is not right. She noted that at the time MCL was introduced, she had some reservations and many have been asking questions and trying to understand. She stated that now she is more vocal because she fears for her son entering ELHS in the fall. She stated that she worries we are all wasting our time trying out a flawed process. She noted that we heard it best when we heard that the Mayor moved his daughter out of public school and it speaks volumes when our Mayor says to add him to the list of concerned citizens. She reported that clearly other districts are struggling and there needs to be a middle ground. She implored members to make this as a lesson learned, keep what works and throw out the rest.

Mr. Mennealy stated that nobody is questioning PBL more than he is. He pledge nobody will ask more questions than he does. He noted that he has a grandson in school and would ask questions.

Ms. Hayes noted that she has sat here since April and has kept her mouth shut. She stated that she has listened, had questions, doesn't like change, and hear what you are saying; however, she feels we are far beyond just changing the grading system. She stated that if that would work, we should do that; however there are other issues we need to look at but we need to begin by changing the grading system and ensure our staff are on target with this. She stated that she has always questioned what are we doing and how much it is costing. She reported that we have had only one opportunity to talk amongst ourselves except for one workshop.

Mr. Kendall stated that it is against the law to meet and discuss unless it is in a public meeting.

A citizen stated that they moved here from Georgia because she thought her children would have a good education. She noted that they are in grade school and PBL is not working for them. She stated that her youngest just wants to please her, but her other child just wants to sit and play on his tablet. She expressed that she doesn't want her children having screen time all day. She stated that she thinks kids should have technology, but the majority of their education should not be through technology. She stated that her daughter can't get a 4 no matter how hard she tries and wondered what do these students have to look forward to. She stated that there is no competition and low expectations. She stated that her son has an IEP in place and teachers are confused about what targets he is supposed to meet and how he is supposed to meet them. She stated that if you can't afford to pay teachers to educate, how do you have money to roll out a new ways of learning.

Violet (8th grader at AMS) expressed that she thinks she and her peers struggle with motivation and Empower. She stated that they want to know how PBL affects their future.

Theresa Day of Dillingham Rd. stated that when she leaves these meetings, she wonders how we got to this point. She wondered why are we spending thousands of dollars going on a path we know nothing about and what was wrong with the system.

Mr. Kendall explained that the motivation for change is from the graduates needing remedial classes when they get to college. He noted that the failure was that we needed to change because it wasn't a successful system. He explained that we researched, evaluated, talked with experts and began almost 8 years ago to implement slowly. He stated that the effect of its realization has hit a good number of people square in the face but it is because it was not presented well.

Ms. Grondin explained that we put into place the learning targets and giving students voice and choice to shift the classroom to a more student focused classroom. She reported that a teacher evaluation system model was required and Auburn chose Marzano's framework because it aligned with the district's work. She stated that next came the proficiency based diploma and we went to the 1-4 scoring platform. She reported that last year teachers were starting to use targets and we discussed using a dual system, but made the decision to move to proficiency based system.

Ms. Day stated that if it is 7 years in and it is not successful, she wonders why we are still on this path.

Ms. Grondin stated that all data is going to the task force, it will be evaluated, and the School Committee will make a decision after the task force meetings. She noted that since November we have had meetings and discussions and we understand the concerns. She stated that we have a taskforce to get feedback on what is going on and there will be change next year. She reported that we are being transparent, collecting the survey information, and there will be change next year. She stated that she wants what is best for staff and students but we are doing it in a thoughtful way to ensure people are given an opportunity to speak. She reported that she goes to classrooms, has compassion and cares for this school department, and wants what is best for students.

Ms. Day stated that it sounds confusing to me, it is uncertain, and we've spent seven years on it and she doesn't know how much money we have spent.

Ms. Grondin replied that we know where we are, we know what we've spent, and we are hearing you.

Ms. Fournier stated that the more who respond to the survey, the more we will know. She stated that we will tweak what is not working, and we will change what needs to be changed. She expressed that the more we hear from citizens the more data we will have to analyze and asked that people please spread the word and have people do the survey.

Ms. Grondin stated that you don't need to worry about the survey results because it will support citizens and noted that we have 350 surveys returned now.

Ms. Gauthier stated that this is the first time she has had an opportunity to dialogue at a meeting and appreciates the opportunity to share her thoughts.

Ms. Day stated that she appreciates the feedback.

Page, a student at ELHS, stated that she was motivated to get good grades until she stated the PBL system. She stated that in 8th grade teachers couldn't answer her questions about scores or the website. She noted that she is not as motivated to work hard anymore.

Mary Tucker stated that she is just getting into all this over the past week. She stated that she has 9 grandchildren in the system. She reported that when she first got into this she understood that the Proficiency Based Standards were mandated by the state, but that is far from the truth. She reported that students without internet at home are being left behind and there needs to be some drastic changes. She reported that the state recommends a personal learning process for each child, and she believes there is plenty of money to provide teachers with a better salary and promote better

teaching. She reported that she knows of two students going to high school and they can only read at a 3rd grade level. She stated that she feels that is bad teaching and someone should be held accountable. She expressed that the bullying policy needs to be placed on the internet and needs to be enforced by teachers. She reported that students go to the alternative school because of bullying and something needs to be put in place to stop that. She stated that it would be sad to hear about any more students committing suicide at the middle school. She noted that the broad based system doesn't work for every student and putting more computers into the school system is a bad idea. She expressed that she would like to see the school follow the law at the high school, middle school, etc. and hoped that is taken into consideration when the new building is built. She stated that her children went through Auburn system and did well, but her grandchildren are not doing well at all. She stated that it is sad to see a teenager who can't sign her social security card and there needs to be a change so each student can learn individually because nobody learns the same. She noted that it is a statewide problem.

Mr. Morneau of Bourbon St. stated that remedial classes is what you think is the reason to do PBL, but the student teacher ratios need to be smaller. He stated that trained professionals should be dealing with other issues, not the teacher. He stated that he would encourage members to spend one semester in a classroom and get a full snapshot of what happens in the classroom. He noted that he feels the survey is lacking and needs relevant data and students need their part in the survey too. He stated that he lost faith in Mr. Kendall because he expected him to be impartial. He stated that when you talk about transparency, it is out in the open now that you don't know about PBL, don't know about the survey, and that is enlightening. He stated that the statistics are flat so you can't say this will help you when you get into college. He stated that sometimes he agrees there is too much technology use and it is bad, but also that not enough technology can be bad. He stated that we are in a fast moving society and need some technology. He stated that when it comes to where you measure things; there are countries that have higher reading scores than America and we can address some things with time and contact between teacher and student. He stated that he was impressed with what is going on with those students who presented tonight. He encouraged members to be transparent and share how much time and money has been spent on this and are we moving forward. He stated that when you let a student take a test over and over until they get it right, there is no drive to get them motivated. He also restated that he feels ELHS should be converted to a Regional Vocational Tech Center like the one in Lewiston so we didn't have to send our students there.

Ms. Hayes stated that we are addressing the technical piece, however there are 20 technical schools in the state. She noted that we can have a satellite program, but we need to respect that Lewiston already has one.

Mr. Morneau expressed that you can be an advocate to change policy so we aren't supporting Lewiston's Vocational Center. He noted that just like PBL, it can be changed and he wants members to be advocates for Auburn to have its own Technical School.

Pam Hart of Lake Street stated that she feels there is a disconnect and disdain toward parents. She has been to several of these meetings, volunteered in the schools, raised money for schools and been a huge advocate of the schools. She stated that she has come to every City Council meeting to defend the school budget and was on the task force for half day Wednesdays. She stated that it bothers her that members talk about us attacking you, noting that this has nothing to do with attacking you. She stated that she is a mother and will advocate for her children, noting that this is very personal for her. She stated that it frustrates and bothers her that her daughter has had so many opportunities and has taken advantage of these opportunities, but they aren't there for her son. She is grateful that she is in classes where the students are go getters, striving, and want to do their work. She stated that her son has gone from MCL to PBL since he was in 5th grade and he has been in tears when she picks him up from school. She stated that he feels he is stupid now and he used to think he was smart noting that he has gone from tons of confidence to feeling stupid.

She stated that at AMS he was your average teen and wasn't motivated to do more than necessary. She noted that he loved being on the high honors, but with this kind of learning he had to take math in the summer to finish what he should have done during the school year and now I am finding out that he has been getting As and still needs to work during the summer. She stated that she is concerned, she comes to the meetings, she might be a pain in the side, but she is concerned for her child. She noted that she has a huge stake in this and the disdain toward parents is hard to swallow. She stated that these parents have volunteered and are still volunteering in our schools and we appreciate the work that goes into teaching our children. She stated that she appreciates that a lot of people have put a lot into this system, but we need to look at it closer because it is not working. She wondered if this is supposed to work for this system, why is it not working for her kid. She reported that she addressed this way back when it first started, but the teacher has since retired because she didn't like the system. She stated that the fact we keep hiring people to teach teachers who are adequately and proficiently taught, is a travesty. She feels that she is wasting her time, but because she is a mother and will advocate for her child. She noted that it saddens her that the trust has been broken. She applauded the fact that we have technology, but feels that now we are paying so much for technology that we can't pay enough for teachers. She stated that we need to look at why we want the technology, because it is not helping her kid. She stated that every child in Maine should have same educational opportunity. She stated that her children have had wonderful teachers and it hurts her to see her son struggle so much. She stated that with no accountability, stress levels are rising, self esteem issues are increasing. She stated that she hopes teachers who are afraid to speak up are able to fill out the form, but the teachers can tell by the way the form is worded that it is not really anonymous.

Matthew Kovacevich stated that he never used Empower and never used PowerSchool. He noted that he uses computers 6-8 hrs per day and for him the most meaningful reports he get about his children's' progress is from them. He expressed that the most meaningful things we get are notes from teachers or substitutes. He stated that those notes mean more than the 3 or 4 in a system that was originally for this model. He noted that he helped shape this thing and then you all screwed it up and turned someone who was pro into a foe and he feels sorry about that.

A freshman at ELHS stated that she uses Empower daily and there are a lot of flaws and glitches. She noted that some students don't know how to use it, log in, or check their grades, and teachers are confused and struggling to use it. She stated that a poll on Twitter for freshman students showed 97% of students liked the grading system of 1-100 on PowerSchool. She stated that the foreign language classes have mixed grades, and only the freshmen use Empower. She noted that she personally finds it hard to use, but had to teach herself what she does know. She reported that her teachers just said click this, click that and nobody knows how to use it. She stated that if we are going to use this system for long, we need to train people better or go back to 1-100 grading and PowerSchool.

Pam Morgan stated that she agrees with everything people have said and is fearful about the lack of motivation, the current grading system, and competition which is healthy. She noted that she went to a rigorous program and if you failed 3 times you are out. She expressed that when you are in the field, you have to pass a board exam which you can only take a certain number of times. She stated that you are not preparing students for a situation like that. She stated that we have been patient and we don't see positive progress and we need to see statistics to show that the money is bringing progress. She stated that we need to see change or scrap the idea and go back to something else. She stated that after 7 years she doesn't see anything positive, but she does thank members for their hard work and hopes they are listening. She stated that we are the taxpayers who are providing the money.

Amy Hesby of Shepley Street stated that in March we had a petition saying we'd like a public forum. She noted that there is a lot of dialogue that needs to happen and she thinks it would help to have

that forum. She stated that she feels there is no need to speed ahead on this path and she supports a public forum to work things out further.

Laura Garcia of Skillings Corner Rd. stated that she spoke at City Council on Monday and noted that she can appreciate Ms. Grondin's frustration. She stated that Ms. Grondin said, "They don't want to listen" but how can we feel listened to or our opinions carry any weight when Mr. Kendall says the concerns are those of a dozen parents. She stated that this is why people are here tonight. She reported that Mr. Annear sent her an e-mail and they had some good discussion and then the public forum was off the table. She reported that after that she spoke with Ms. Grondin and expressed that to get buy-in you need to hear the issues, Ms. Grondin ended the conversation by saying you need to trust me. Ms. Garcia stated that she has only been in Auburn for 2 years and if you watch the March 14th meeting you will see that at that time I said there is a lot of discussion going on in Augusta and this is the time to open up discussion, have a public forum, and see if this is what is best. Mr. Kendall you said it was the law and we were not going to change until the law changes; however the laws have changed and the 1 to 4 grading system is not required. She noted that on March 14th we could have determined that anything above an 80 is proficiency, or we could give an exam in their junior year and assess. She stated that it is not the law and that is why there is pushback in Scarborough, York, and other districts. She stated that one of her concerns is that we have focused so exclusively on this that we have not looked at other avenues. She stated that the people pushing this haven't discussed neuroscience, yet this is absent from the conversation. She noted that all of us have concerns about screen time for our children. She noted that the people pushing this keep citing a survey saying 50% of students graduating have to take remedial classes. She stated that the survey asked participants why they felt they were not ready and many responded that there was no homework, they had no study skills, etc. She expressed that we are not going to develop those skills they need to help them get ready for college with this system. She noted that we can look at data, but sometimes it does us a disservice because computers can't replace the voice of the people. She stated that she wants her students to be a part of a community of learners. She noted that the task force will address some issues but even the way the task force was put together and the failure to communicate to the people asking for a forum were not informed about how the task force was being done. She noted that teachers can look at all the data from the survey, but she is on the task force and can't see the data. She stated that she hopes members are listening, hopes trust can be rebuilt. She expressed appreciation for listening to the people who came tonight, noting that there are many who were not here who share our sentiment.

IV. STUDENT INFORMATION ITEMS

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Planning and Development

1. Student Leadership Club

Craig Latusha and Craig Jipson were in attendance with students from the Student Leadership Club who shared information about the mission of the club and what the students have accomplished so far this year.

Students noted that the Cultural Student Council meets at 7 am and advisors help students promote a better culture, embody the spirit of what it means to be a part of the classroom, and a part of the community outside of the classroom. They noted that this group provides everyone experiences they can't get in the classroom.

Students reported that they noticed a lot of separation and wanted to see everyone join together. They participated in events, went to conferences, held youth leadership day, saw how many other schools have implemented this, and learned a great deal.

Students shared details about events they have participated in noting that they have collected bottles, toys, clothes for homeless shelters, and volunteered at food pantries. They expressed that people were grateful and it was nice to see the impact. They reported that the winter carnival with teacher

teams and student teams ending with a bonfire brought the school together as a community and brought realization that this is a wider community than just their individual classrooms. They reported that they noticed at the winter carnival that everyone was cheering others on and not just cheering for their friends. They noted that the events appealed to a variety of students.

Students reported that they held a teacher appreciation breakfast and presented awards to staff followed by a lot of positive feedback. They noted that it is important to appreciate others who help you.

Students reported that the cultural Thanksgiving was a powerful experience and opened up to a lot of information about new cultures. They noted that their group represents 23 cultures, spreads knowledge about cultures, holds events that create great times, great conversations, and discover variety of foods and ideas from around the world.

Students reported that they also had an event featuring oral history, a fashion show and had a request from LA Museum to have an ELHS cultural night. They noted that these events take us all year to plan, but there will be new leadership next year. They encouraged all staff, citizens, and community to join them at the events.

A. Business

1. Finance Report - April 2018

Ms. Hayes presented the Finance Report for April 2018. She expressed that some line items are being watched, but we are on target for this time of year.

It was moved by Ms. Gautier, seconded by Ms. Meneally and voted unanimously to approve the Finance Report for April 2018.

VI. INFORMATION/SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEES	
Finance Subcommittee-B. Hayes, F. Fontaine	Policy Subcommittee-T. Kendall, B. Meneally

SUBCOMMITTEES	
City Council Update-A. Fournier	Wellness Subcommittee-F. Fontaine, J. Scrivner
Communications Subcommittee-TBD	Audit Subcommittee-B. Hayes, F. Fontaine
Curriculum Subcommittee-P. Gautier	Transportation Appeals-D. Poisson, J. Scrivner
Community Learning Center-P. Gautier	SHARECenter-P. Gautier
New ELHS Building Committee-T. Kendall	Negotiations - T. Kendall, B. Hayes

Ms. Fournier reported that Council is still working on budget.

Ms. Fontaine reported that the wellness group is putting together a one page form that will be sent to parents so all will be on same page regarding wellness in the community.

Ms. Scrivner stated that she was please to learn that all schools provide an opportunity for healthy snacks for students.

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Honor Retirees and System Dropout Awards - June 6, 2018, 6:00 PM
- School Budget Referendum - June 12, 2018
- Regular School Committee Meeting - June 20, 2018, 7:00 PM

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Hayes seconded by Ms. Fournier and voted unanimously to adjourn from regular session at 9:59 PM.

Attest, a true record,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Grondin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Grondin, Secretary
Superintendent of Schools

KG/rmw