

# AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Patrick Clark Drive · Avon, MA 02322 · (508) 588-0230 · fax (508) 559-1081

## THE MISSION STATEMENT:

To educate all students to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens in a global society.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

*February 28, 2024*

**Regular School Committee Meeting 5:30 AMHS Media Center/ Zoom**

#### AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Tracy Sheehan, Chair  
Anne Hagberg, Vice-Chair  
Maria Piccirilli, Secretary  
Claudia Lucia, Member  
Paul Chapman, Member

#### STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Brynn Gaynor and Gianna Rosa

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

Christine Godino

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- I. Meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair, Tracy Sheehan at 5:31pm
  - II. **Student Advisory Update**

#### **Butler**

The Butler School ASA is hosting a Bingo Night for families on March 8 from 6:30-8:00 in the Butler School cafeteria. Admission for all attending must be registered in advance and money will be collected at the door. (Tickets will not be sent home; there will be a list at the door.)

Kindergarten registration packets have been mailed to all Avon families on record with Town Hall as having students *of* age for Kindergarten. Please contact the Butler School office if you have any questions or are in need of forms for registration.

Family/Teacher conferences are coming up on March 14. Families should look for notifications from their child's teacher regarding registering for a conference time.

#### **AMHS**

Our Middle School teachers and students have been focused on incorporating RACE Writing into all Middle School content areas. Mr. Desmond and Mrs. Louko have been visiting classrooms and compiling feedback that will be shared with teachers and used to continue to improve writing instruction in the classroom. One large takeaway is that it is clear students have a solid understanding of using the RACE Writing structure in their writing. The structure has provided students with a valuable tool and there have been vast improvements in writing throughout the middle school grades in all content areas.

ACCESS Testing for all of our English Language Learners was completed at the end of January. The test evaluates English proficiency in the areas of Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. We want to thank the building administration, guidance staff, Laura Louko and Lori Jodoin for their assistance in ensuring that ACCESS Testing was conducted so smoothly for all students.

On February 16th, the National Honor Society hosted the Term 2 Honor Roll Breakfast. We had 172 students recognized for the academic achievement of achieving Honor Roll and High Honor Roll along with students recognized for exemplifying one of the five Panther PRIDE Traits of Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Empowerment. It was a great event and we look forward to seeing students continue to achieve academic excellence.

On February 17th, the Student Council hosted the annual Polar Plunge. This year, the students and staff raised 5, 787 for the Special Olympics! The passion and dedication shown by our students to raise that much money for the Special Olympics is commendable. We are excited to see what we can raise next year!

The Varsity Boys Basketball Team played in their first home playoff game since 2015 last night in the AMHS gym. The Panthers defeated Atlantis Charter with a score of 74-51. The Panthers advance to Round 2 of the Tournament on Thursday night at 6:00pm where they will face Granby Junior Senior High School.

All Winter Sports will be recognized at the Winter Sports Awards Night coming up on March 20th at 6:00pm. We invite everyone to come support our student athletes and their hard work this winter season.

### **III. Update on AEA Contract Negotiations -Tracy Sheehan**

[www.avon.k12.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif4136/f/uploads/revised\\_collective\\_bargaining\\_update.pdf](http://www.avon.k12.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif4136/f/uploads/revised_collective_bargaining_update.pdf)

### **IV. Superintendent Report**

Principal Desmond was nominated for the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils "Administrator of the Year" Award by the AMHS student council. Letters of recommendation were written by Amanda Pyne, Bee Jackson, and Maeve Hagberg. He was not selected as the award winner, however, I think we can all agree Mr. Desmond should have won.

Second grade students will have the opportunity to learn essential water safety skill through the Water Wise program at the Stoughton YMCA. This is a program we participated in before COVID. The program will run for 5 weeks on Tuesdays from 4/30-5/28. Kim Bothwell and the grade 2 team are hosting a parent information night on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. We are excited to get it back up and running.

Just to give you some more information about ACCESS testing, the test measures academic

English proficiency in the areas of writing, reading, listening and speaking for students across the state. This year 56 students participated in testing at the Butler, and 42 students participated at AMHS. Individual student scores will be released in May.

In the past we have discussed a Shared DEI coordinator with members of the North River Collaborative. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest at the time but now more districts would like to become involved. North River is going to explore this option again. More information to come.

Currently we have three teaching positions open in the district Computer Science and ESL at Avon Middle High School and we now have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher position to fill at the Butler.

## **V. AMHS Handbook Changes-Shaw Desmond**

Handbook changes were proposed to the Cell Phone Policy to reflect the rollout of the Yondr Pouch. Students at AMHS have all been assigned a Yondr pouch and will lock their cell phones in them daily while in school. At the end of the day, students will unlock their pouches and they will bring them home. The pouches are the responsibility of the student and must return to school every day.

## **VI. Town Hall Feasibility Committee Update- Paul Chapman**

Member Paul Chapman attended the Town Hall Feasibility Meeting held February 5, 2024. This meeting discussed the possibility of either renovating the current Town Hall or building new Town offices on donated land on E. Main street. In the event of a new build the design includes space for the school offices.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS:**

A request from the ASA to host a Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse to raise money for ASA events. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Member Chapman

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Lael, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

A request to approve a Scholarship Agreement with Connectivity Activities Program of MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Member Chapman

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Lael, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

A request to approve the changes proposed for the AMHS Handbook. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Member Chapman

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Lael, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Motion to appoint Interim Superintendent for Fiscal Year 25, subject to a negotiated agreement. Vote Item.

Chair of Committee, Tracy Sheehan made a motion to table vote until next meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Member Chapman seconded. All in favor, Aye Paul, Aye Lael, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Tracy. Vote table until next meeting.

Motion to appoint negotiation authority to engage in contract negotiation with Lori Jodoin for the position of Interim Superintendent. Vote Item.

Chair of Committee, Tracy Sheehan made a motion to table vote until next meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Member Chapman seconded. All in favor, Aye Paul, Aye Lael, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Tracy. Vote table until next meeting.

**VIII. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Subcommittees:**

**C. Budget Subcommittee: FY24, FY25**

**D. Personnel Subcommittee:**

a) Collective Bargaining Agreement between Avon Education Association (AEA) and the Avon School Committee.

**E. Maintenance Subcommittee:**

**F. Policy Subcommittee:**

a) Policy Manual Review with MASC

**G. Insurance Subcommittee:**

**IX. VOTE ON THE MINUTES OF:**

Motion to waive the reading of the Regular School Committee minutes of January 17, 2024

Motioned by: Member Chapman

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Lael, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Motion to approve Regular School Committee minutes of January 17, 202

Motion to waive reading of the Joint Meeting minutes of School Committee Meeting and Select Board, February 1, 2024.

Motioned by: Member Chapman

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Lael, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Motion to accept the Joint Meeting minutes of School Committee Meeting and Select Board, February1, 2024.

Motioned by: Member Chapman

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Lael, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

**X. UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Policy Subcommittee Meeting at 5:00pm Thursday, February 29, 2024

Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30pm Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Budget Hearing Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30pm Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Annual Town Meeting at 6pm Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at AMHS

Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30pm Wednesday, May 15, 2024

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A SESSION PURSUANT TO MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21, QUALIFICATION #3, TO CONDUCT A STRATEGY SESSION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE AEA, AS THE CHAIR DECLARES AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Motion to go into Executive Session.

Roll Call:

Paul, Maria, Anne, Lael, Tracy

**XII. ADJOURN:**

Motion to Adjourn.

Moved: Member Chapman Seconded: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Paul, Maria, Lael, Anne, Tracy. Vote Passes.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40pm

*The Avon Public Schools is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, gender, gender identity, homeless status, or sexual orientation.*