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

#### September 21, 2022

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

**This meeting is being recorded by local cable. It will be shown multiple times on channel 9. Links to view this meeting can also be found on Avon Cable Access’s website, avontv.org, as well as, the Avon Public School’s website,** [**www.avon.k12.ma.us**](http://www.avon.k12.ma.us)**. Anyone wishing to record this open session must inform the committee so that such recordings can be properly announced.**

**Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themselves by name and address and shall speak for no longer than 3 minutes. No citizen may speak more than once without permission of the Chair. All citizens shall speak to the full committee through the Chair and shall not address individual members or administrators. Individuals may address topics on the agenda, items specified for public comment, or items within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee.**

**AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tracy Sheehan, Chair**

**Anne Hagberg, Vice-Chair**

**Maria Piccirilli, Secretary**

**Claudia Lucia, Member**

**Paul Chapman, Member**

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Brynn Gaynor & Gianna Rosa

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Christine Godino

CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, TRACY SHEEHAN.

1. **THE SIGNING OF WARRANT/PAYROLL:**
2. **STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Brynn Gaynor presented on a new committee this year in the student advisory council. The committee will consist of 6 members. There will one student from each grade, 9-12 and head chairs Brynn Gaynor and Gianna Rosa. The goal of the committee will be to hear more voices, discuss goals for the school and matters that need more attention and bring to school committee for feedback, while continuing to learn and grow in their social environment.

Giana Rosa presented on updates for the Butler Elementary School. This Friday 9/23, the Cares Course Run, our biggest fundraiser will be held. The goal of $25,000 has already been exceeded. There is a new instrumental music program being offered for grades 4-6, learning to play the Ukulele. Lessons will be held during the school day and instruments will be provided by the school. Lessons will be taught by Mr. Lester from the Music Department. The Butler open house was a great success. Students and families from grades K-6 were able to all attend at the same time and the parking lot was able to accommodate everyone. Student Advisory Council provided a slush cart and it was a big hit.

Brynn Gaynor presented on updates for Avon Middle High School. Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball have a game today, 9/21. Girls Soccer had a game against Holbrook yesterday and lost 6-2. Boys Soccer also had a close game against Holbrook winning 2-0. Picture day is Friday, 9/23. All students must have photo taken to receive an ID badge.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this time
2. **INFORMATION:**
3. Superintendent Report

Last week, Shawn Desmond and Superintendent Godino attended a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Norfolk district attorney’s office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss fall programs and trainings. Topics discussed were Team Rival Peer Leadership Conference, Mandated reporter training, Handle with Care and data analysis of youth health surveys. The Norfolk County Sheriff’s department youth task force has a meeting next Monday at 6:30- Senator John Keenan will present (6:45pm) on bills pertaining to Youth Substance Use and Mental Health currently before the State Senate, and bills recently passed. As well as a representative from the Samaritans with information on services they provide. Ashley Lawson has taken the position of Administrative Assistant at Central Office. She started on Monday and has accepted the stipend position of School Committee Secretary. She will be at the next meeting. Clara Bernadino also started Monday as the AMHS secretary. We are happy to welcome both Ashley and Clara. We currently have an opening for a school psychologist at the Butler.

Equipment for the hybrid meeting has been ordered. Superintendent will keep everyone informed of when it arrives. Superintended thanked the DPW for their work on the soccer field behind the Butler. Field looks fantastic and it makes such a difference for our student athletes.

**B**. Request to approve an amendment to the Dress Code Expectations in the AMHS Handbook

Shawn Desmond-Discussion regarding the request to approve an amendment to the Dress Code Exceptions in the AMHS Handbook. Discussion was had due to concern from students and teachers about the ability to wear head coverings for hair protection and religious and cultural purposes. The Diversity club brought up the Crown act that was passed this summer to protect student’s ability to wear head coverings. The proposal is to simplify the wording in the handbook around head coverings to just no hats or hoods. Principal discussed students were in agreement that hats and hoods should not be worn, mainly for safety reasons. Students will be able to wear head coverings that are for hair protection and religious or cultural purposes. Principle Desmond discussed the important thing is for students to be dressed and appropriately covered in a way that it does not interfere with health, safety, and distraction of education.

1. **FINANCIALS:** None at this time
2. **ACTION ITEMS:**
   1. Upon the Superintendent’s recommendation, a request to approve an amendment to the Dress Code Expectations in the AMHS Handbook. Discussion- Moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Piccirilli. Discussion-Member Lucia addressed concerns about removing the language around wearing head coverings for religious or cultural reasons. Removing the language makes it subjective and stating it shows the students their rights are protected. If vote passes will be put on agenda for handbook subcommittee to review wording. All those in Favor-Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Ann, Aye Tracy, Aye Claudia. Vote: Passes.
   2. Upon the sub-committee recommendation, a request for a second reading and approval of policy JF- School Admissions, policy JFABE- Educational Opportunities for Military Children, policy JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster care, and policy JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services into Policy subcommittee. Proposal made by Member Sheehan to waive second reading policy JF- School Admissions, policy JFABE- Educational Opportunities for Military Children, policy JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster care, and policy JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services into Policy sub-committee. Seconded by Member Chapman. All those in favor –Aye Chapman, Aye Maria, Aye Ann, Aye Tracy, Aye Claudia. Vote: Passes
   3. A request to approve an addendum to the Superintendent’s contract. All those in favor –Aye Chapman, Aye Maria, Aye Ann, Aye Tracy, Aye Claudia. Vote: Passes
3. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
4. Subcommittees:
5. **KEEP THIS IN ALL AGENDAS**
6. Budget Subcommittee: FY23
7. Personnel Subcommittee:

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

1. Maintenance Subcommittee:
2. Policy Subcommittee
3. Insurance Subcommittee:
4. VOTE ON THE MINUTES OF:
   1. Upon the Superintendent’s request to waive the reading of the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes Aug 31, 2022. Moved by member Chapman, seconded by member Piccirilli. All those in favor –Aye Chapman, Aye Maria, Aye Ann, Aye Tracy, Aye Claudia. Vote: Passes. Motion to vote on the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes Aug 31, 2022 Abstained by Member Chapman, moved by Member Piccirilli, Seconded by Member Hagberg. All those in favor –Aye Chapman, Aye Maria, Aye Ann, Aye Tracy, Aye Claudia Vote: Passes
   2. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Any business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

1. **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
2. Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm Wednesday, October 19, 2022
3. Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm Wednesday, November 16, 2022
4. Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm Wednesday, December 21, 2022
5. Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm Wednesday, January 18, 2020

**XI ADJOURN: -** – Motion to adjourn, Member Chapman. Seconded by Member Piccirilli. All those in favor, Aye Paul, Aye Maria, Aye Anne, Aye Tracy.

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