

AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

THE MISSION STATEMENT

To educate all students to be life-long learners and responsible citizens in global society.

MINUTES SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 18, 2017

Regular Meeting
Avon Middle High School Media Center

Monday Evening
7:00 p.m.

Avon School Committee:

Jeanne Martineau, Chair
Tracy Sheehan, Vice-Chair
Sharon Marble, Secretary
Anne Hagberg, Member
Rebecca Lundgren, Member

Student Advisory Committee:

Fred Dupree - Present

Superintendent of Schools:

Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services:

Jodee Frias, Andre Siqueira

School Attorney

Paul A. Zinni

Christine Godino

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the Regular School Committee Meeting to order at 7:00pm. At this time she requested that the meeting be taken out of order to allow the students to report first and get home to do their homework. All were in agreement and the meeting continued accordingly.

II. SIGNING OF WARRANT/PAYROLL

III. WELCOME TO VISITORS:

Ms. Kathleen Sheehan and a small group of parents were in attendance. Ms. Sheehan stated that the School Committee is supposed to act as the voice of the parents, as our advocates, and address our concerns. We feel you have done nothing except contradict this statement, contradict our own purpose. When parents come to the school committee concerned about the safety of their children they should not have to file a complaint with the Department of Education to get questions answered. We shouldn't have to file a complaint about open meeting law to have you follow the law that governs these meetings. We shouldn't have to post things on facebook to get the attention our concerns deserve. Ms. Sheehan stated she sincerely hopes things will change. The school committee is to be the public voice and support the public. If the committee is not going to do this then perhaps it is time for the committee to step down. Another visitor asked if the committee would have a back & forth conversation regarding this topic. The Chair stated not typically, the meetings are public. Ms. Sheehan spoke again asking about the agenda and notes that stated the superintendent's evaluation was done and she wished to review it. A copy of the Superintendent's evaluation was made available to the public at the meeting.

IV. FINANCIAL:

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Welcome back to Jodee and Andre.

- Student Council orientation for 15 new members. They handed out cookies and cards to new teachers and left messages on all the lockers of new students for encouragement.
- ACES provided an ice cream social to introduce all the clubs available to students. They also provided shirts for student council members.
- The fall sports are all underway; football, JV/Varsity volleyball, and soccer.
- Drama Club's first performance is 11/3 & 11/4; "Most Likely to...The Senior Superlatives Monologue".
- AMHS Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017.
- Boosters will be sponsoring the high school Homecoming Dance on November 17th; the theme is masquerade.

- ACADEC is prepping for their first meet on November 18th.
- Yearbook pictures, close-ups & as a group will be taken of the School Committee at the next meeting on Oct. 2nd.

VI. INFORMATION:

- Welcome to a new math and special education teacher. These were late hires.
- The Superintendent reported that it was a Wonderful start to the school year. He further reported that there were some transportation issues during the first week of school, but that these issues had been resolved. Administration will continue to work with the Transportation Coordinator in an effort to minimize these issues next year.
- New communication method has been added for middle/high school students and families. Through the notify me icon on the website, parents can request that the school email the daily announcements. Additionally, most major events for this school year at the Middle-High School have been scheduled and can be found on the school calendars posted on the website. Additionally, families were reminded that students should not arrive at the Middle-High School prior to 7:10am. There are no staff present to monitor children before that time.
- Major events for the 2017-2018 school year at the Middle/High School have been posted on the website calendar.
- Community Partners Program: Thank you to Ms. Godino for building this successful program. Ms. Godino reported that the greenhouse, purchased through a \$5000 grant from PPG is up and running.
- Thank you to the Police/Fire Departments for their assistance with the school opening. A special thank you to the police department who have been visiting the schools on a daily basis.
- Thank you to East Bridgewater school system for their on-going cafeteria support. Their food services coordinator has been consulting with our cafeteria department to help the department become more efficient.

VII. ACTION ITEMS:

- Upon the Superintendent's request to move the following school committee policies into policy subcommittee: all changes are to align with MASC language. ADC – Tobacco, BBA – School Committee Powers & Duties, BBBA/BBBB – School Committee Qualifications, BEDA – Notice, BEDB – Agenda Format, BHE – Electronic Messaging, BIBA – School committee Conferences, CBI – Superintendent Evaluation, CHA – Development of Procedures, CHC – Procedure Dissemination, DJE – Procurement Requirements, GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity, GBEA – Staff Ethics, GBED – Staff Tobacco, GBGB – Staff Personal Security, GBGE Domestic Violence Leave, GBGF Family and Medical Leave, GCBG – Professional Staff Supplementary Pay Plans, GCF – Professional Staff Hiring, GCJ – Professional Teacher Status, GDQD Suspension and Dismissal of Support Staff, IHB – Special Education, IHBEA – English Language Learners, IJLA – Library Resources, IJNDD – Social Media, IK – Student Progress Reports, IMG – Animals in Schools, JHD – Exclusions and Exemptions from School, JICH Alcohol Drugs & Tobacco, JII – Student Complaints & Grievances, JJE – Fundraising, JLCB – Inoculation of Students, JLCC – Communicable Diseases, JQ – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges, KDB Public's right to know, KE – Public Complaints, KHB – Advertising in Schools, and LDA Student Teaching & Internships; moved by Member Sheehan, seconded by Member Marble; Vote: Unanimous
- Upon the Chair's request to review and vote on the Superintendent's performance evaluation: moved by Member Sheehan, seconded by Member Marble; Vote to accept the Superintendent's evaluation: Unanimous

DISCUSSION: Member Hagberg – commented on the teacher's contract being finalized and hearing from teachers that they were pleased and felt validated with the contract negotiations process. Teachers have also commented to her that the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are frequently visiting in classrooms and have a good understanding regarding what is going on in the schools. Communication with parents is a continuing issue which needs to improve. Chair Martineau - mentioned in the future to set up seminars/workshops for school committee members to attend covering topics such as laws & regulations (MASC & Federal) to keep the committee knowledgeable. Member Hagberg - further stated that the waiving of the sports/participation fees at the Middle-High School was a big positive for all. Member Lundgren - As a new member and through her participation during the contract negotiation process, she

also believed that teachers felt they are being supported and validated. Goals are met and Avon is stronger academically, thank you to staff and administrators. She agreed that parent communication needed to improve although as a parent she feels heard and validated. We are a small town and individual voices have a stronger weight and that is our challenge. Member Sheehan – reiterated the importance of improving communication throughout the whole district and she has seen improvement. Member Marble – The superintendent is always quick to announce the “good news” stories as well as the not so good. She is onboard with keeping the communication open and would like it to be built upon and improved.

- C. Upon the Chair's request to reconsider the prior vote acceptance of the July 31, 2017 school committee meeting minutes: moved by Member Sheehan, seconded by Member Marble; Vote: Unanimous

The Chair request to read aloud under the Information Section, Item C and vote to accept the amended minutes of July 31, 2017 school committee meeting: moved by Member Marble, seconded by Member Sheehan;
Vote: 4-0-1 (Member Hagberg).

VIII. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Subcommittees
 - 1. Budget Subcommittee:
 - a. Budget FY18
 - 2. Personnel Subcommittee:
 - a. Collective Bargaining Agreement between American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Avon School Committee
 - 3. Maintenance Subcommittee:
 - a. Capital Facilities Improvements
 - 4. Policy Subcommittee: Policy G (formerly Policy 7000) Personnel Policy for Avon Public Schools
 - 5. Insurance Subcommittee:

IX. VOTE ON THE MINUTES OF:

- A. Upon the Chair's recommendation to waive the reading of the Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2017; moved by Member Sheehan, seconded by Member Lundgren; Vote: Unanimous

Upon the Chair's recommendation to accept the minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of August 28, 2017; moved by Member Sheehan, seconded by Member Marble;
Vote: 4-0-1 (Member Hagberg)

- X. NEW BUSINESS: Any business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair. None at this time.

XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- A. Regular School Committee Meeting, Monday, October 2, 2017, 7pm, AMHS Media Center
- B. SC Personnel Subcommittee Executive Session Meeting, *AFSCME*, Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Avon media Center.
- C. Regular School Committee Meeting, Monday, October 16, 2017, 7pm, AMHS Media Center.
- D. Regular School Committee Meeting, Monday, November 6, 2017, 7pm, AMHS Media Center.
- E. Regular School Committee Meeting, Monday, November 20, 2017, 7pm, AMHS Media Center.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT:

The committee will enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L., c. 30A, s. 21 (3) to conduct strategy sessions with respect to contract negotiations with the Support Personnel Unit, and to review an Open Meeting Law Complaint against the School Committee.

The Chair took a roll call vote at 7:54 P.M.

Member Hagberg: Aye, Member Marble: Aye, Chair Martineau: Aye,
Member Sheehan: Aye, and Member Lundgren: Aye.