

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

January 6, 2021

Regular School Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., via ZOOM

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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. Anyone wishing to record this open session must inform the committee so that such recordings can be properly announced.

Any community members wishing to speak during public comment must complete the sign-in sheet to be recognized during that portion of the agenda.

AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Tracy Sheehan, Chair
Anne Hagberg, Vice-Chair
Sharon Marble, Secretary -Absent
Paul Chapman, Member
Maria Piccirilli, Member

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Adam Sles, Jaime Durodola –both absent

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

Christine Godino

CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: 5:00 pm

- I. THE SIGNING OF WARRANT/PAYROLL:
- II. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
- III. Butler Updates: The Butler has celebrated the December CARES spirit day with a winter wonderland day. Students wore their most festive holiday attire. Students earned the spirit day

by earning 500 assertiveness tallies for the month of December. The January CARES value is responsibility. Students are working towards earning 500 responsibility tallies to have Crazy Hair day at the end of the month. Students in grades 5 and 6 are submitting proposals to name the January CARES pals: a snow man and a moose. Students are submitting their proposals in the form on a narrative. The finalist will be chosen in a few weeks and winners will be announced in the last week of January.

AMHS update: Principal Stockwell was happy to welcome everyone back from winter break. Term 2 ends on February 1st and reports will be available online February 5th. The winter sports survey has been completed and they are developing a plan for skill development and more details to follow.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

V. INFORMATION:

- A.** Butler Parking Lot update- Mike Carter is here to speak to the Butler parking lot revisions due to funding. Mike Carter: from GCG associates, the plan was approved and sent out for bids. The results showed that the current project would be short. Options to reduce the costs: 1. To go with it as is, cost: 1.2 billion. 2. Replace the granite curbing with asphalt, cost: 1.1 billion. Granite curbing doesn't move when you plow but sometimes asphalt does, but the damage would be minimal if any. 3. Eliminate a parking area, cost: 950K. Decided to go with option 2. Avon would ask the town for any additional money.
- B.** FY 22 Budget: Avon will need to ask for an increase of \$670K. Last year we did cut \$400k outside of our budget. The changes: Kathy documented all the items that would be more from last year such as Longevity payments increased from 77K to 90K. Two retirees going out next year. Tutors are up from last year due to some high need students. Butler teacher SPED line is increased by 1 position and the AMHS teacher SPED line decreased by 1 position. Instructional assistants SPED is 108 last year and 138 this year with no additional staff to be added to that line. Textbooks reduced these accounts in 2021 and just replacing text books that need to be replaced. Chromebooks for the Butler and AMHS have also been reduced from this year and would like to continue to replace Chromebook every year. There is no increase in software. Butler's software line decreased and the system wide line increased. The guidance stipend line increased due to the new teacher's contract. Guidance supplies increased because they need a new shredder. SPED transportation has increased. Athletic awards have increased due to using a new vendor. In grounds maintenance an addition 4k was put in the line due to the recommendations of the planning board due to maintaining a new parking lot. Replacement of furniture increased due to furniture needing to be replaced at the AMHS. Tuitions are higher due to the unknown of knowing if kids will need to be placed out of district.
- C.** Superintendent Report: Carol Walsh, Coordinator Administrative Services is retiring March 1, 2021. She has working in Central Office for almost 30 years. We wish her all the best and very happy for her. Jeanne Meany has resigned as School Committee Secretary. She has been important part of the Avon Public Schools for many years. We thank her for her dedication. We are losing two great people. On Dec 15, the board of elementary and secondary education adopted additional amendments on student learning time regulations. Districts are required to provide 35 hours of live instruction over 2 weeks beginning January 19th. After submitting the survey to the state we are currently 24 mins short a day. Superintendent has met with the AEA and they have a meeting today and again on Monday; hopefully everything will be worked out to report back on Wednesday. Department of Ed came out with modifications to MCAS testing. They have modified the competency determination test for the class of 2021. The makeup MCAS administration window for grade 12 scheduled to open 1/14 will be postponed. The commissioner will recommended to the board that the competency determination requirement be modified for class on 2021 in ELA and Mathematics who have not yet earned their competency. The recommended modification will allow students to receive their competency determination by passing an approved course and demonstrating their competency in that subject and have a qualifying MCAS score. Seniors who still want to take the test can but the class can replace the test for class of 2021. Shorten MCAS testing time will be given to grades 3-8 through a sampling testing approach. Each student will only take a portion or section of the testing. This approach will provide dynastic data at the individual student level. There will also be accountability relief. The commissioner will not name

any new or chronically underperforming districts or schools in the upcoming school year. Next Wednesday, January 13, Avon will continue Cultural Proficiency Training that we started last year with Kalise Wornum from KW diversity. Later, SC will be asked to vote about the Student Opportunity Act. The goal of the Student Opportunity Act is designed to address the persistent opportunity and the achievement gaps that remain for students of color, low income, English Language Learners and students with disabilities. Districts are required to submit 3 year plans aimed to close persistent disparities and achievement among student sub groups. DESE's focus is on districts to provide evidence based programs that will close the gaps in the communities. Avon has chosen to address researched based early literacy programs in early elementary grades K-3. The SOA plan given outlines the steps Avon has taken to implement the program at the Butler School. In ELL students, there has been a large increase. The SOA plan asks which sub groups Avon is focusing on. Based on DIBBLES, a test for early literacy in grades K-3, 67% of ELL, 75% of students on IEPs and 45% of low income students are considered at risk and will focus on these groups. The requirement is to use evidenced based programs to close the gaps and for Avon to outline the model. The students are progressed monitored 3 times a year.

VI. FINANCIALS: None at this time

VII. ACTION ITEMS:

- A.** Upon the Superintendent's request to approve the proposed FY22 Operating School Budget as presented; moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Piccirilli; Vote: Unanimous
- B.** Upon the Superintendent's request to approve a warrant article for the anticipated Avon Special Town Meeting: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Butler School Parking Lot Stabilization Account the sum of three hundred sixty three thousand two hundred forty three dollars and fifty six cents (\$363,247.56) to be placed in the article (Article 25, 5.1.18 ATM) for the rehabilitation, repair or reconstruction of the Ralph D. Butler School parking lot or related thereto; moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Hagberg; Vote: Unanimous
- C.** Upon the Superintendent's request to approve a warrant article for the anticipated Avon Special Town Meeting: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to the article (Article 25, 5.1.18 ATM) for the rehabilitation, repair or reconstruction of the Ralph D. Butler School parking lot or take any other action in relation thereto; moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Hagberg; Vote: Unanimous
- D.** Upon the Superintendent's request to approve the Student Opportunity Act plan as presented; moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Hagberg; Vote: Unanimous

VIII. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.** Subcommittees:
 - 1. Budget Subcommittee: FY21 & FY22
 - 2. Personnel Subcommittee: Collective bargaining agreement AFSCME
 - 3. Maintenance Subcommittee:
 - a. Capital Facilities Improvements: Butler parking lot project.
 - 4. Policy Subcommittee:
 - 5. Insurance Subcommittee:

VIII. VOTE ON THE MINUTES OF: None at this time.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

Any business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

X. UPCOMING MEETING

- A.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
- B.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
- C.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Zoom

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee will vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Separate minutes. moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Hagberg; **Roll Call Vote: Member Piccirilli-Aye, Member Chapman-Aye Member Hagberg-Aye, Member Sheehan-Aye**

XII. ADJOURN

The School Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm as School Committee will not return from Executive Session.

Enclosures:

- Policy CBI

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.