

# 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

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Regular School Committee Meeting, 5:00PM via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83240370781?pwd=RE1Vc01QSXdBVHBOcDJYVldkYytiUT09>

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Meeting ID: 832 4037 0781

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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  
Paul Chapman, Member  
Maria Piccirilli, Member

### STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Adam Sles, Jaime Durodola – Both Absent

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

Christine Godino

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## CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: 5:02PM

### I. THE SIGNING OF WARRANT/PAYROLL:

### II. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Adam Sles and Jaime Durodola not present. Chris Godino provided update.

- a. AMHS Updates: National Honor Societies will be having a virtual induction on 4/29/2021 at 6PM. The link to view the event is on the School Calendar. Seniors Graduation has been planned for June 5<sup>th</sup> at Holbrook Middle High School. On May 10<sup>th</sup> at 8AM a representative from Rose Theresa will be here to measure for cap and gown so we ask everyone to be on time. The Senior Banquet will be held at the Mockingbird on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.
- b. End of Year Awards: All end of year awards will be virtual. The High School Awards ceremony will be held during the school day by class on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony will be streamed so families can watch. Award winners will be notified by email ahead of time. Details will follow as

we get closer to the event. The Middle School Awards and 8<sup>th</sup> grade night will be held separately in the month of June. Details to follow.

- c. Class of 2023 News – Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the Class of 2023. The results are: President – Ryan Luddy, VP – Emma MacDonald, Treasurer – Katie Nguyen. The special election for secretary will close on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Project 351: This year's ambassador, Joseph Mahoney, along with mentor, Maeve Hagberg will be collecting clothing the week of May 10-15 for the Cradles to Crayons organization. More details to come. Lastly, Spring sports will start on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups will happen during lunch.
- e. Butler Elementary Updates: Butler students have earned over 1,000 CARES tallies for the month of April. They will celebrate their accomplishments this Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> with "Career Day." Students will dress up as their future career.
- f. Our Grade 3 students were given the opportunity this month to name the May CARES Pals (a butterfly and a bunny). Students wrote persuasive essays to Mrs. Shaw telling what the CARES Pal should be named and how the CARES pal demonstrates our Butler CARES values. Winners will be announced on Friday.
- g. Butler students are in the process of preparing for a virtual Flag Day celebration. Students will be recording songs, displaying artwork, and sharing poetry and other writing pieces. These will be compiled into a video that will be shared with parents.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

### **IV. INFORMATION:**

#### **A. Superintendent Report:** There have been some key changes to the quarantine protocol.

- a. Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine or get tested if they are in close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, as long as they do not show any symptoms. Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure. All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school.
- b. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended school meal waivers through the end of the 2021-2022 school year, allowing the continuation of universal free school meals at any school district throughout the state for the rest of this school year, through the summer, and through next school year.
- c. We are in the process of hiring several positions – the committee to hire a Director of Pupil Services has been formed. Dawn Stockwell is running the committee, Tracy Sheehan is representing the school committee, and other members include Kim Bothwell (Assistant Principal at Butler Elementary), Email Gabriel (Special Education teacher), Courtney Fontaine (School Psychologist) and from AMHS Liam Stokes (Special Education teacher), Dawn Kosinski (School Psychologist) and two parents, Jen May and Shannon Sabree. We are also screening resumes and interviewing for the Transportation Coordinator, an Adjustment Counselor at AMHS and an additional ELL teacher. Lastly, we are hiring and recruiting staff for summer programs.
- d. In preparation for the Butler Elementary parking lot, the church has been demolished.

#### **B. Superintendent Goals:**

- a. District Improvement Goal 1 – Work directly with the building principals and district administrators to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment is maintained (Redesign of classrooms, removal of non-essential furniture/ instructional materials, space within the buildings utilized differently, created COVID rooms, switched rooms to ensure social distancing, re-purposed some rooms, signage created to enforce mitigations strategies, purchased PPE, additional furniture and tent, wrote several MOU's, ordered technology, wrote grants to fund materials, furniture, etc., organized internal data collection for COVID, hired additional staff/remote teachers, teacher vaccination days in Randolph).
- b. Goal 2 – Increase and improve communication and collaboration with families and community partners. Superintendent Godino attends monthly town department head

meetings, has regular communication with town administrator, we have a shared technology department, regular communication with Kathleen Waldron (Health Agent) regarding COVID issues, communications regarding COVID through Connect Ed, website, building newsletters, parent information sessions, partnered with the YMCA to find a space for before/after school care, working with The Education Alliance (UMASS Dartmouth) to explore college opportunities for our students, a board member of ACES and regular communication with SC members.

- c. Goal 3 – Work collaboratively with the leadership team and the School Committee to ensure an effective bargaining process with AFSCME. Happy to report the contract has been ratified by AFSCME and School Committee.
- d. Goal 4 – Work directly with the building principals to ensure teacher evaluations reflect a shared understanding of classroom instruction of an overall proficient educator. This year Superintendent Godino had to submit in January the SOA Plan which focused on early literacy k-3. She has been conducting building walk-throughs with Sarah Shaw and Kim Bothewell and has debriefings afterwards for feedback.

**C.**

**V. FINANCIALS: Public Hearing on the Budget**

**VI. ACTION ITEMS:**

- A.** Budget Hearing – FY2022 Operating Budget. The Enrollment this year: The total is down by about 40 students. This is not unusual as this dip is happening across the state. 30 of the students are in grades pre-k – 2. We have had an increase in students who are being homeschooled. We hope to get back up in the fall. Moving onto Local Funding vs. Chapter 70 Funding – This year we have requested \$9,517,707. Chapter 70 is \$2,465,569 with a total local spending of \$7,052,138. We are asking for a larger increase, however we need the additional funds to support our budget. We are also contributing \$960,622 in school choice funding for a total of \$10,478,329. Regarding grants, we have received some additional grants due to COVID and have maintained our other grants. This year we received the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund which is not a typical grant we receive, however we used for Chromebooks to support our students. We also have the Emergency Relief fund II that will be used for Summer Programming in the fall of 2021. We are not sure what the fall will look like so we are currently reserving. Every year we receive the Individuals with Disabilities Education Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant to support SPED students in the district. Title I, Part A – Funding is used to support our Reading teacher at the Butler Elementary School. Title II, Part A – Grant used for our coordinating teachers and mentor teachers, along with professional development. Title IV – Used for Curriculum Coordinators and our teacher leadership groups. District Totals: \$577,548. The areas of the focus of the budget is to maintain the level of service of programming, address issues associated with MCAS Performance, support high quality learning through professional development, maintain small class sizes, address issues of building maintenance, address issues of increases in fixed costs, maintain currency in technology, support athletic programs and extracurricular activities, meet the requirements under special education law and regulations, address federal and state mandates specifically the educator evaluation system, the Massachusetts Common Core Curriculum, and the new testing initiatives and ensure educational opportunities for all students. When we break down the budget through fixed costs vs supplies and expenses, the majority of our budget goes to fixed costs. The total fixed costs are \$9,304,515 and supplies/expenses are \$1,173,814.11. We also want to thank the Town of Avon for being a wonderful support.

**VII. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A.** Subcommittees:

- 1. Budget Subcommittee: FY21 & FY22
- 2. Personnel Subcommittee:
- 3. Maintenance Subcommittee:
  - a. Capital Facilities Improvements: Butler Parking Lot project.
- 4. Policy Subcommittee:
- 5. Insurance Subcommittee:

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

- A.** Upon the Superintendent's request to waive the reading of the Minutes of March 31, 2021; moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Piccirilli; Vote: Unanimous
- B.** Upon the Superintendent's request to accept the minutes of March 31, 2021. Moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Piccirilli; Vote: Unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**IX. UPCOMING MEETING**

- A.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 5:00pm., Zoom
- B.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 5:00pm., Zoom

**X. ADJOURN**

Chair made a motion to adjourn @ 5:47 pm; moved by Member Chapman, second by Member Piccirilli; Vote: Unanimous

*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.*