

# 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 17, 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. The Meeting was called to order by the Chair of the School Committee, Tracy Sheehan at 5:30pm.

## II. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT

**Butler Updates-** Butler School Council will meet at 3:15 on Tuesday, January 23. Butler School welcomed Lee Bashant as the new long term substitute School Adjustment Counselor last week.

Students have been working hard at writing. Here are some highlights, shared by teachers: Fifth graders are restating questions in order to form topic sentences. In fourth grade, students are doing a great job using their learned strategies and staying on topic in their writing. In grade 3, students have worked hard to pull examples from the text to prove their answers. In second grade, many students are doing a great job using their background knowledge to expand their writing. First graders are doing a nice job using letters and sounds to write words. In Kindergarten, students are expressing their ideas by working on drawings.

**AMHS Updates-** Since the last School Committee meeting, there have been many exciting things happening at AMHS: 2024 is off to a great start! Teachers and students are preparing to end Term 2 on a high note next week and start the second half of the year strong.

Our winter sports teams are doing well! Girls Varsity Basketball is (4-5), Middle School Basketball is (1-2), JV Boys Basketball is (6-1), and Varsity Boys Basketball is undefeated at (9-0). The Varsity Cheerleaders have been doing an amazing job cheering on our Varsity Boys Basketball Team, performing between quarters, and have an awesome halftime performance. We are looking forward to a great second half to the winter season. We hope to see many of you coming out to support our student athletes.

Our Drama Club is putting on their Student Shorts at the end of January on Friday, January 26th and Saturday, January 27th at 7:00pm. They will be performing the short plays entitled *It's You!*, *Hamster Murder!*, *The Elf Rebellion*, *How to Survive Family Game Night*, and *Container of Sharks!* We invite you all to attend and support our Drama students.

### **III. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Last Thursday School Committee Chair, Tracy Sheehan, Member Paul Chapman, Business Coordinator, Kathleen McDonald and the Superintendent were in attendance at the Joint Select Board /Finance Committee. They presented our budget with a 9.7% increase.

The Select Board will be voting on our budget at their next meeting Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

The Superintendent, Shawn Desmond and Diane Hill met with Quincy College President Rick Decristifaro and The Vice President of Student Success and Partnerships, Meghan Giovannani to discuss additional Early College opportunities for our students. They have applied jointly for an Early College planning grant. This would enable students to take no cost college courses through Quincy College. Quincy College has already have established programs with North Quincy and Quincy High Schools. The Superintendent will give a status update on the grant at our next meeting.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> Diane, Shawn and the Superintendent have been invited to the ECHS Pathway Symposium to hear the accomplishments of Quincy's ECHS students, and the Quincy community's support of this program will be recognized.

### **IV. CURRICULUM UPDATE**

Laura Louko, Curriculum Coordinator, gave an update on Curriculum. Avon has applied and been accepted to the Massachusetts School Wellness Policy Coaching Program. This program provides a coach that facilitates two meetings for our Wellness Committee with a goal of updating the local wellness policy to ensure compliance with state and federal standards.

In January, representatives from Avon attended the first two sessions of STE Performance Assessment Ambassador Program as a chosen pilot school for the new STE performance assessment tasks on this year's MCAS in grades 5 and 8. The attendees were able to access and prepare materials to help our District Science teachers be ready for the new performance tasks.

Curriculum Maps are being updated at each of schools and hope to be current by the end of the school year. This helps teachers with planning and helps us to ensure we are covering all content needed within the curriculum and also helps us to identify weaknesses.

Benchmark writing is being done this month. Benchmark writing is done at the beginning, mid and end of year. These tests help to make decisions on how to adjust instruction to target student needs so we can see growth in all students.

Lastly, Race Writing was introduced to all Middle School Teachers this past Fall. This strategy gives students common format and language for writing constructed responses across the curriculum in all subject areas.

### **V. SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

Lori Jodoin, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, gave a Special Education Update. For the 2023-2024 school year special education student numbers have remained relatively the same. This

year 20.2% of our student population was receiving special education services. A big focus of this year will be the new IEP. DESE is rolling out a new IEP that must be implemented in the 2024-2025 school year. The new IEP hopes to help improve outcomes for students with disabilities by building on individual student strengths. To prepare for these changes Team chairs have attended a training course through DESE and teachers are participating in training with Allan Blume, an education consultant. There will also be a workshop for parents in the spring.

Lastly, this year's program evaluation for special education will focus on our postsecondary students. This includes students 18-22 and includes several learning opportunities to help transition into adult life.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS:**

A request to approve a donation of \$1000 from Brian Moller for the Athletic Department. Vote Item.

Moved: Member Chapman                      Seconded: Member Piccirilli

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

A request to approve the Superintendent's Goals. Vote Item.

Moved: Member Chapman                      Seconded: Member Piccirilli

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

**VII. Subcommittees:**

Budget Subcommittee: FY23, FY24

Personnel Subcommittee: Collective Bargaining Agreement between Avon Education Association (AEA) and the Avon School Committee.

Maintenance Subcommittee:

Policy Subcommittee:

Insurance Subcommittee:

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

Motion to waive the reading of Regular School Committee minutes of December 20, 2023.

Moved: Member Chapman                      Seconded: Member Piccirilli

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

Motion to approve of the Regular School Committee minutes of December 20, 2023.

Moved: Member Chapman                      Seconded: Member Piccirilli

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

**IX. UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Personnel Subcommittee Meeting at 4:00pm Wednesday, January 24, 2024- Executive Session

Policy Subcommittee Meeting at 5:00pm Thursday, January 25, 2024  
Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30pm Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
Policy Subcommittee Meeting at 5:00pm Thursday, February 29, 2024

**X. 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 adjourn regular meeting and go into an Executive Session.  
Roll Call Vote. Paul, Maria, Lael, Anne, Tracy

Regular Meeting Adjourned 6:11pm