

# 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

December 9, 2020

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](http://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 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: 5:00 pm

- I. THE SIGNING OF WARRANT/PAYROLL:
- II. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:
- III. Butler Updates: The Butler students worked hard to earn 300 cooperation tallies for the month of November and earned a PJ day. They were also greeted by morning arrival by Spike the

Bulldog. The Butler School's care value for the month of December is assertiveness. And students are working towards a goal of 500 assertiveness tallies. If the students reach 500 tallies they will be regarded with a Winter Wonderland Spirit Day. Cares pals which are small animal characters that represent the Butler's cares values. Students earn these care pals at the end of each month. Grades 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to submit written proposals to name the cares pals. Which the school will then vote on. This month's cares pals are a penguin and a polar bear.

AMHS update: On Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> the Middle School will have a virtual year book meeting at 2:05pm. On Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> Salsa 84 will meet virtually at 2:45pm. On Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> the schedule will be live sessions for periods FGAB with asynchronous learning for CDE. Also, on Wednesday Student Council will meet virtually at 2:30pm and Diversity club will meet at 3pm. Also, Winter Trivia is happening that day. Ugly Sweater Spirit Day will be on 12/18 for cohort Band 12/21 for cohort A. AMHS is encouraging students to wear their ugliest sweaters they can find. Due to December break, there will be no school from 12/24/2020 - 1/1/2021.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A. Meghan Mallet: What was taken into consideration about winter sports, why they were cancelled? Also, why the surrendering towns are still holding fall and winter sports and Avon is not. Who took part in that decision and how it was made? Feels as though athletics are extremely important to the students at the school and very important to their mental health; really disappointed that the students haven't played any sports this season as she has witnessed many surrounding towns continued to play sports and hold practices and games.

#### **V. INFORMATION:**

A. Superintendent Report: MCAS update-students in grade 11 will no longer participate in testing during the January and February window. Testing for this class in English and Language Arts and Mathematics is being postponed until later into the school year. Students in grade 12 as well as adult test takers will remain eligible to participate in one or both tests beginning in January to earn their competency determination. The testing window for eligible students is extended through Friday February 12, giving schools an additional week to complete the testing. The access test is the test for our English Language Learners. The window for that test has been expanded. It is available for students to take Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> until Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will get the results in the summer. The window has opened up and Superintendent Godino believes we will see further guidance for the younger grades as we move further into the school year. Avon's English Language Learner population has greatly increased. This year Avon has 15 students in our Kindergarten class to screen to be eligible. Avon has 26 students in grade 1-6 that get direct service from Avon's ELL teacher and 6 students who are monitored by her. At the AMHS, the ELL teacher has 8 students that she gives direct instruction to and monitors 22 students. Current total in Avon is 49 currently require direct instruction and 28 students need to be monitored. This is up from 27 students from last year who received direct instruction. Avon will need to hire another teacher to be able to support these students for us to be able to meet the obligations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Plans to post the position by the end of this week. The Student Opportunity Act is back and Superintendent will be presenting the report during the next School Committee Meeting. The deadline for this is 1/15/2021. The demolition bid for the church is being released on 12/16 and will also be inviting Mike Carter, the designer of the parking lot to the next meeting on 1/9 to discuss some revisions to the project. COVID-19 cases update within our schools. It is becoming very complicated to track whether students are in school or out of school if we need to contact trace. Avon has members apart of the community who have tested positive; people who have tested positive have been in our buildings during their infectious period. We have contact traced and notified those who were close contacts. If a member tests positive and have not been to our schools and infected the people within it, a connect ed has not been sent out. Many people have been quarantined due to the exposure of a positive case whether it's a family member, a parent or grandparent. Our nurses, Mary Blackburn and Amanda Dowd have done an amazing job working very closely with Kathleen Waldron from the board of health. There is a letter in the dropbox for School Committee members requesting participation in a Doctoral Study. Stephan Hale, a doctoral candidate at American International University is requesting your

participation for a study of Effective Characteristics and Leadership Practices of School Superintendents. If you would like to participate if you are interested. Governor Baker held a news conference today, he discussed vaccine distribution and educators will be in phase 2 (anywhere between February and April) of the distribution of the vaccine.

- B.** Athletic Report: On 11/20, after the 10/8 meeting that the MIA had. The MIA task force finally released the winter sports basketball and cheerleading guidelines for the state. The guidelines are as followed. For practices students are divided into pods (maxed at 10 students). At no time are students allowed to have scrimmages that interact with other pods. Pods are not allowed to train with other pods. Game day allows for 20 people on the surface from both teams and for 15 players to be on the team but the players are not allowed to practice together. Removed jump ball and replaced with a coin toss. The away team gets the call and the home team gets possession. After looking at the rules, the changes to practices and the Athletic Director decided that Winter Sports was not safe for basketball due to the loose restrictions and the physical contact with other students from different schools. There was also nothing in place for the sanitation of the basketball throughout the game only at the end of each quarter. New guidelines are expected to come out this Sunday.

**VI. FINANCIALS:** None at this time

**VII. ACTION ITEMS:**

- A.** Upon the Superintendent's request to approve the first reading of amended Policy CBI-Evaluation of the Superintendent; moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Piccirilli; Vote: Unanimous
- B.** Upon the Superintendent's request to approve the amended Policy CBI-Evaluation of the Superintendent; moved by Member Chapman, seconded by Member Piccirilli; 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.** Executive Session School Committee, AFSCME Negotiations Meeting at 4:00pm, Thursday, December 10, 2020, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
- B.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
- C.** Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:00pm Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Zoom

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Committee will not enter into executive session.

**XII. ADJOURN**

Chair made a motion to adjourn @ 6:11 pm; moved by Member Marble, second by Member Chapman; Vote: Unanimous

Enclosures:

- Policy CBI