



Monthly Meeting
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury Road, Avon, Connecticut

Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire in each student a joy and passion for learning and a commitment to excellence, personal integrity, and social responsibility.

Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 7:00 pm

Avon High School, Library

Avon High School
510 West Avon Road
Avon, CT 06001

Minutes

Attendance

Board Members Present: Jackie Blea; Debra Chute, Board Chair; Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary; Lynn Katz; Lisa Seminara; Liz Sommerkorn; Sarah Thompson; Thej Singh, Board Vice-Chair

Board Members Absent: Laura Young

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent; Roberto Medic, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Russo, Business Manager

I. Call to Order

Deb Chute, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Ms. Chute conducted a roll call of Board members and administrators.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Mission Statement

Ms. Chute read the Board's Mission Statement.

IV. Recognition/Presentations:

A. Avon High School– For over 400 career wins and dedication to Avon High School Athletics:

- Curt Burns - Girls Volleyball
- John McLaughlin - Wrestling
- James Murray - Girls Soccer
- Terri Ziemnicki - Field Hockey

Tom Filon, Director of Athletics said a few words about the dedication of these 4 coaches, and that 400 wins is no small feat. Each one of the coaches puts time in off the field with their team and Avon High School is very lucky to have such experienced coaches.

Board Chair, Ms. Chute congratulated the coaches on their victories and thanked them for their commitment to the students. She knows the athletes appreciate the coaches, as does the Board of Education, what they do matters, it rounds out their (the students’) experience. Ms. Chute ended by saying how grateful the Board was for them.

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Special Budget Workshop Meeting minutes of December 20, 2022
Jackie Blea made a motion to approve the Budget Workshop minutes of December 20, 2022, Lynn Katz seconded.
Motion passed 7-0-0

B. Board of Education Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of December 20, 2022
Thej Singh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of December 20, 2022, Liz Sommerkorn seconded.
Motion passed 7-0-0

VI. Communication from Public

No communication from the public

VII. Items of Information and Proposals

A. Student Representatives Report - Charlotte Parry and Lillian Peng, AHS Student Representatives
AHS: Midterms start Thursday, January 19, 2023; Zen Den is open during lunch waves for students; spring sport registration has begun; seniors learned CPR and First Aid in wellness classes.
AMS: Relaunching Enrichment Program; 8th Grade Technology working on their own movie trailers; Intramurals are held Tuesday and Thursdays after school at 3:00 pm.
TBS: Student council raised over \$300 for Dog Star Rescue; Music Ensembles are working toward their January Concerts; CARES Awards were given out in December to a group of students.
RBS: New Story Walk set up on Blazer Trail; Mid-year assessments will be given in January.
PGS: Students have earned over 400 Piney Paws (goal was 400), and are planning a whole school celebration to honor their efforts; Mid-year assessments will be given in January.

B. Financial Report – Susan Russo, Business Manager
There is no financial report this evening, except the presentation of the budget.

VIII. Committees & Liaison Reports

A. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum & Professional Practices – Jackie Blea, Chair
Canceling the February 14, 2023 meeting.
2. Finance – Lynn Katz, Chair
The Finance Committee will meet on February 7, 2022, but a half hour earlier at 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.
3. Negotiations – Deb Chute, Chair
Date is set to meet with Attorney and Administrative Assistants to set ground rules for negotiations

4. Policy – Laura Young, Chair

The Policy Committee will cancel the March 7, 2023 meeting and will meet a month earlier on February 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

B. Liaison Report

1. Capital Region Education Council – Jackie Blea, Board Representative

Ms. Blea stated that CREC is meeting tomorrow, January 18, 2023.

IX. Chair’s Report – Debra Chute, Board Chair

A. Board Chair Update

Ms. Chute recognized how smoothly the year is going, and how hard everyone has worked on the budget. She is excited to get the budget approved and move forward.

X. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla

A. Hiring Report

Mr. Medic spoke to the hiring of staff members:

- Natasha Davis- 4th Grade Teacher
- Olivia Barnes- AHS School Social Worker
- Sarah Majidy- Para Educator
- Jennifer Papio - Para Educator
- Long term sub has been secured for Traci Protz

B. Enrollment Report

Dr. Carnemolla stated we are up 6 students from this time last year, with no issues as a result of the net additional students in the district.

C. Strategic Plan Update

There was a District wide PD day on January 13, 2023, which was a blend of curriculum development and alignment the first half of the day and the 2nd part was building based led by each of the Principals.

D. Updates

Update to the consent calendar, the Field trip to NYC in the packet tonight to be approved has been canceled due to the team not securing tickets to the squash game.

XI. Consent Calendar

A. **22-23/47** Approval of field trip to Hershey Park for Performance Festival on May 5-7, 2023

Thej Singh made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, Lynn Katz seconded.

Motion passed 7-0-0

XII. New Business

A. **22-23/48** Avon Public School Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

The Superintendent once again explained the process of developing the budget and reviewed the details of the budget which was also shared at the budget workshop.

The Superintendent started off with accomplishments of the school district, some examples being: 92% of the class of 2022 moved on to post secondary education; 2 National Merit Scholarship finalists and 13 commendations; AMS Robotics team competed in Nationals in 2022 as well as athletic highlights and school anniversaries. Dr. Carnemolla then went over the Blueprint for Excellence Focus Areas.

Dr. Carnemolla reiterated that everything they do and decide upon in creating the budget is based around their Blueprint for Excellence and the Focus Areas within the Blueprint. This will be the last time the Superintendent discusses the budget, until it is presented to the town.

Focus Area I: Student Learning General Budget Funded

- 1.0 FTE Technology Education Teacher
- 1.0 FTE Certified Math Specialist
- 0.4 FTE Theater Arts
- 3.0 FTE Para Educators

Focus Area I: Student Learning IDEA Grant Funded

- 1.0 FTE PreK Teacher
- 2.0 FTE PreK Para Educators

Focus Area I: Student Learning Transfer from ESSER Grant Funded to General Budget Funded

- 1.0 FTE School Counselor
- 1.0 FTE Safety and Security Specialist

Focus Area II: Personal Growth and Relationships General Budget Funded

- 1.0 FTE School Resource Officer

Focus Area III: Communications and Partnerships

- 1.0 FTE Internship Coordinator
- Unified Sports expansion (soccer in fall season)
- eSports pilot program

Focus Area III: Communications and Partnerships Transfer from IDEA Grant Funded to General Budget Funded

- Unified Sports- Basketball

Focus Area IV: Systems

- Utilities 8.41% increase
- Health Insurance - to be fully funded in 5 years = 12.7% increase
- Dental Insurance - 6% premium increase
- Pension - Favorable fund growth
- OPEB - Projected contribution will be reflective of the fund valuation

Budget Distribution - Total Gross Budget \$66,743,809

- Salaries & Benefits - \$53,256,521 or 79.79%
- Tuition - \$3,905,333 or 5.85%
- Transportation - \$3,441,849 or 5.16%
- Contracted Services - \$2,058,015 or 3.08%
- Supplies and Equipment - \$2,102,668 or 3.15%
- Utilities - \$1,534,286 or 2.30%
- All other - 445,136 or 0.67%

2023-2024 Budget Drivers - Total Gross Budget Increase \$2,338,205 or 3.71%

- Salaries 62.01%
- Benefits 29.58%

- Utilities 4.99%
- Transportation 4.12%
- Tuition 1.5%
- Supplies (0.02%)
- Contracted Services (3.42%)
- All other 1.24%

FY 2023-2024 Superintendent’s Budget

Superintendent’s Proposed Budget - \$66,743,809

New Money(Gross) - \$2,389,4405

Gross % Increase - 3.71%

After discussions regarding the budget, including the topics of OPEB increase, to which there would be no major shift on that line item, as well as general staffing increases, benefits, technology and utilities, Dr. Carnemolla reiterated the drives of the overall budget.

Board Member Jackie Blea stated that she was moved by how much the budget was meeting the needs of the students, even outside of academics. Each school has a robust team to help the students and she is grateful for all the hard work on the budget and grateful as a community that we have a great budget to vote on.

Lynn Katz made a motion to approve the Superintendent’s Proposed 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$66,743,809 which is a gross increase of 3.71% over the prior fiscal year, Jeffrey S. Fleischman seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0

B. 22-23/49 Approval of the 2023-2024 - School Year Calendar

Dr. Carnemolla stated that the beginning of the year with staff is very important, which is why she is recommending the 3 days before school for Professional Development. Discussion was held on the amount of half days for Professional Development in comparison to the other surrounding districts. Rosh Hashanah was incorrect on the calendar, correction to be made.

Debra Chute made a motion to approve the Avon Public Schools 2023-2024 calendar with the changes discussed re: Rosh Hashanah, Jackie Blea seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0

XIII. Communication from Public

There was no communication from the public.

XIV. Communication from Avon Board of Education Members

No communication from Avon Board of Education Members

XV. Adjournment

At 8:17 p.m. Jeffrey S. Fleischman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Liz seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Board Recording Secretary
Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman, January 20, 2022

NOTE: If there is any person interested in an item that does not appear on the agenda, please arrange to speak with the Chair or the Superintendent of Schools before the meeting to discuss the matter. If the item is appropriate to the meeting, it may be discussed under New Business or Old Business. If the item requires extensive discussion or additional information, it may be placed on a future agenda.