



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, May 16, 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; Nicole Russo; Sarah Thompson; Thej Singh, Board Vice-Chair; Laura Young

Board Members Absent: Liz Sommerkorn

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

I. **Call to Order**

Ms. Debra Chute, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

A. **Roll Call**

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

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Mission Statement**

IV. **Recognition - Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Valedictorian- Ariella Reynolds -Dr. Diana Devivo introduced Ariella Reynolds as the Valedictorian of the Avon High School class of 2023. Ms. Devivo spoke of Ariella's accomplishments; her rigorous course load (24 College level and Honor level classes), awarded 2 Bilingual certificates, internships at Brown and Harvard University, member of the tennis and crew team. Ariella will be attending Brown University.

Salutatorian - Sandra Lu- Dr. Devivo introduced Sandra Lu as the Salutatorian of the Avon High School class of 2023. Ms. Devivo spoke of Sandra's accomplishments; her rigorous class schedule (including 30 College level and honor level classes), taking courses at Wesleyan while at AHS, internship at UCONN Health where she published research, member of the Swim and Cross Country team, Math team and Science Club. Sandra will be attending UC Berkeley.

CABE Award Winners- The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education recognizes leaders in and out of the school setting. Principals are asked to use a set of criteria in choosing their CABE leadership awards.

Mr. Jamal Lee, Assistant Principal at Avon High School said a few words about the leadership qualities of the CABE award winners, and then awarded the 2 CABE awards to Ms. Sara Trautman and Ms. Hope-Esha Chokshi.

Ms. Kristina Wallace, Principal of Avon Middle School introduced one of her CABE winners after a few words about her leadership qualities, Krisha Sinha.

Avon Middle School Robotics

Ms. Kristina Wallace started by saying that the Robotics Team and Coaches inspired thinking, logic and curiosity in each other, and Avon Middle School was very proud to have them as representatives in the World Championships. Ms. Wallace went on to say one team at the World Championship showed a ‘Pillar of Resilience’ when they opened the box in Texas at Worlds and their robot was in pieces. The team showed their fortitude in building the robot back up in 6 hours to be ready for the competition the next day. The other team in Texas placed in the top 10% at Worlds. Ms. Wallace finished by thanking the coaches Mr. Scott Rand, Mr. Eric Lord and Mr. Chris Jones for their coaching and support of all the Robotics teams.

A video was shown to the Board of the Robotics Team and one of the robots, followed by a demonstration of the robot, in which a few of the team members described the motions and how the robot worked.

Dr. Carnemolla called on Mr. Rand, Mr. Jones and Mr. Lord to recognize them for doing all that they do behind the scenes, traveling with the students, and for going above and beyond the call of duty.

V. **Approval of Minutes**

A. Board of Education Executive Session Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023

Ms. Lynn Katz made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 25, 2023,

Ms. Jackie Blea seconded.

Motion passed 8-0-0

B. Board of Education Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023

Ms. Nicole Russo made a motion to approve the BOE Regular Monthly Minutes of April 25, 2023

Ms. Sarah Thompson seconded.

Motion Passed 9-0-0

VI. **Communication from Public-** There was no communication from the public

VII. **Items of Information and Proposals**

A. **Student Representative Report** – Charlotte Parry and Lillian Peng, AHS Student Representatives. Ms. Parry started with the update;

AHS: Holding their last Spirit Week this week culminating in a Pep Rally on Friday

Diversity week this week with presentations everyday

The Internship Showcase was tonight.

AMS: Robotics Team had success at Worlds

There was a talent show last week

Holding their last Spirit Week this week as well

TBS: There was a Yearbook Cover contest

They held Autism Awareness day

Ms. Peng continued:

RBS: Willy Wonka Musical was last week

PGS: No report at this time

B. Financial Report – Susan Russo, Business Manager

Ms. Russo started by discussing salaries and the savings and deficits due to new hires, FMLA leaves, and vacancies, with both certified and non-certified staff. In other expenses, natural gas, disposal and water had rising costs that were budgeted, but the increases still exceeded the estimates.

Special Education is at 1.25M unencumbered.

Ms. Russo stated that General Education is at 3.0M unencumbered, which is 4.71%, up from 4.59% from last year. The freeze that was in place has been lifted to let the schools purchase what they need for the rest of the year and prepare for summer.

VIII. Committees & Liaison Reports

A. Committee Reports

- Curriculum & Professional Practices – Ms. Jackie Blea, Chair
Next meeting is May 30th at 5:30 p.m.- In person discussing Performing Arts Curriculum
- Finance – Ms. Lynn Katz, Chair
Met on May 9th to discuss the financial report and this Fee Schedule up for approval tonight. Next meeting will be June 7th at 5:00 p.m..
- Negotiations – Ms. Deb Chute, Chair - Next meeting is Monday May 22nd with Administrative Assistant Negotiations
- Policy – Ms. Laura Young, Chair - Ms. Young stated that the Policy Committee met on May 2nd this month to discuss the policies brought to the Board this evening for approval.

B. Liaison Report

- Capital Region Education Council – Jackie Blea, Board Representative
Ms. Blea stated that tomorrow was the final meeting of the year, she is unable to attend but will get the information and bring it back to the Board.

IX. Chair's Report –Ms. Debra Chute, Board Chair

A. Board Chair Update- Ms. Chute was very impressed with the Internship Showcase this year, great topics and everyone did a great job. Proud of all the work and time the students put into their presentations.

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

- A. Hiring Report - Mr. Medic went over the hiring report stating they have filled many non-certified positions and received some resignation letters, as they do at this time of year. He took a moment to thank those individuals who served the Avon school system for so many years and became household names.
- B. Enrollment Report - Enrollment is steady for this time of year and Kindergarten registrations are still coming in.
- C. Strategic Plan Update- Dr. Carnemolla started by saying the Enrollment and space utilization study is a part of our goals - gathering information to plan for the future, presentation tonight from SLAM.

Retreat is coming up and all faculty leaders from the 5 schools are invited to attend this year. The RBS Instructional Walkthroughs were informational and we were impressed with what we saw.

D. Updates -Dr. Carnemolla went through the her updates and highlights:

The Early Literacy Team met in Rocky Hill today for the second to last Science of Reading workshop for the year. Today's workshop focused on comprehension. Tomorrow, a team is visiting the district again.

The Chief of Police has stated that the SRO position has been posted.

Thank you to Ms. Maria Mascoli and Mr. Tasonn Haynes and the faculty at Avon High school for another successful Internship showcase which was very well done and well attended.

The high school wrestling team was recognized at the State Capitol last week.

There was a question about The Science of Reading Waiver, to which the answer is we have no update as of yet.

XI. Consent Calendar -

Before approving the consent calendar, Ms. Chute wanted to acknowledge how lucky and thankful we are for all the donations from the organizations, The Board is so grateful for all of the organizations generosity.

A. **22-23/74** Approval of Job Description: Grades 7-12 Math Specialist

B. **22-23/75** 2023-2024 Fee Schedule

C. **22-23/76** Budget Transfers

D. **22-23/77** Donation from FAME to the Theater Program for \$585.00

E. **22-23/78** Donation from CyberGrants, LLC on behalf of Charities Aid Foundation of America to Avon Board of Education for \$1500.00

F. **22-23/79** Donation from PGS PTO to Pine Grove School for \$3,957.38 (various items)

Ms. Jackie Blea motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as it is presented,

Ms. Lynn Katz Seconded.

Motion passed 8-0-0

XII. Old Business

Dr. Carnemolla stated that the Board Counsel has recommended that the Health Assessment and Immunization 'policies' are maintained as regulations due to the constantly changing requirements by the Health Department.

Avon has already been following these regulations.

A. **Regulation 5141 (Replacement)** Health Assessments/Screening and Oral Health Assessments

B. **Regulation 5141.3 (New)** Immunization Requirements

(Note: Regulations do not require Board approval)

C. **22-23/80** Policy 5141 **(Delete)** Student Health Services (Avon existing policy) Dr. Carnemolla stated that this needed to be deleted as it was not in compliance with current statutes.

Ms. Laura Young motioned to delete Avon's existing policy 5141 Student Health Services

Ms. Lynn Katz seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

XIII. New Business

A. S/L/A/M Collaborative (named for the founders Stecker, LaBau, Arneill, and McManus)

Capacity and Utilization Analysis - Michael Zuba, presenter

Mr. Zuba presented the findings of the Space and Enrollment Study at Avon schools. The projections moving into the next 10 years sees 4 out of the 5 schools satisfactorily meeting the requirements of space needed for enrollment. Pine Grove School was mentioned as being the one school that will have to be looked at more closely as it will be reaching capacity in the future.

A few developments being built in Avon will have an effect on the enrollment numbers at the schools, all of which can be handled except at Pine Grove.

The Middle School building was mentioned as not being as conducive to 21st learning, the circular shape lending itself to pie shaped rooms and not a lot of natural light.

Some recommendations by SLAM are redistricting Roaring Brook and Pine Grove, grade reconfigurations, addressing the middle school deficiencies, and additions/alterations to elementary schools.

B. 22-23/81 Policy 5131.71 (Revision) Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety

Dr. Carnemolla stated that there are very little changes to this policy, that it is terminology used to describe different types of technology.

Ms. Laura Young motioned to adopt policy 5131.71 Student Use of the District;s Computer Systems and Internet Safety

Ms. Nicole Ruso seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

C. 22-23/82 Policy 5141.25 (New) Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes

Dr. Carnemolla stated that this is related to the medication administration policy we recently adopted. It outlines responsibilities for management plans for food allergies, GSD, and diabetes/defines when students have individualized health plans and emergency care plans. The Avon Nurse Supervisor has reviewed this model policy. It also outlines the training that must be provided to both students and staff. Finding developmentally appropriate ways to train students to identify and recognize someone having an allergic reaction.

Ms. Laura Young motioned to approve new policy 5141.25 Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes

Ms. Lynn Katz seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

D. 22-23/83 Policy 5145.4 (student) (Revision) Nondiscrimination

Dr. Carnemolla stated that this policy and the employee policy following this one, the changes are the exact same. We have the current model policy from Shipman and Goodwin, and are adding a slight addition of terminology. Board Member Jeffrey Fleischman cautioned the Board that altering/adding language on a model policy may possibly lead to legal issues. Dr. Carnemolla stated that the Board Counsel knew what we were adding to the policy and felt it did not change the policy in a way that would open us up to legal ramifications. One of the Board members stated she did not see the harm in adding language that made the policy more inclusive. Mr. Fleischman understood and agreed that he wanted policies to be inclusive and although he will not vote down the approval of the policy, he politely asked to be on record that adding verbiage to an already approved Board Counsel model policy (his concern was not about

the topic of the policy, but the practice of amending model policies in general) is not something he felt was in our best interest. Ms. Laura Young mentioned that in her time spent with Board Counsel as the Policy Chair, the additions were not redundant to the policy, that they were acceptable to Counsel to add to make the policy more clear and understandable to the persons reading it.

Ms. Laura Young made a motion to approve the revised 5145.4 Nondiscrimination (student)

Sarah Thompson seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

E. 22-23/84 Policy 4118.11 (Employee) (Revision) Nondiscrimination

Ms. Laura Young made a motion to approve the revised 4118.11 Nondiscrimination (employee) policy

Lynn Katz seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

Dr. Carnemolla spoke generally to all the next 6 policies, noting that the major change in these policies are the portions regarding FOIA and online meetings.

F. 22-23/85 Policy 9222 (New) Board Bylaw - Removal of Board Officers

New Model Policy recommended by Shipman. Question posed about this policy affecting Board committee chairs, Dr. Carnemolla said no, just the full Board Officers.

Ms. Laura Young motioned to approve new policy 9222 Removal of Board Officers

Ms. Nicole Russo seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

G. 22-23/86 Policy 9321 (Replace) Board Bylaw - Time, Place and Notice of Meetings

Ms. Laura Young motioned to replace existing Avon policy 9321 to with model policy from Shipman and Goodwin

Ms. Lynn Katz seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

H. 22-23/87 Policy 9325 (Replace) Board Bylaw - Meeting Conduct

A small discussion ensued regarding organizations that can speak at Board meetings, and Dr. Carnemolla clarified that you don't have to be a resident of Avon, but can be representing an organization that is within Avon's town borders.

Ms. Laura Young motioned to replace existing Avon policy 9325 Meeting Conduct with model policy from Shipman and Goodwin

Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

I. 22-23/88 Policy 9325.1 (Replace) Board Bylaw - Quorum and Voting Procedures

Ms. Laura Young motioned to replace existing Avon policy 9325.1 Quorum and Voting Procedures with Shipman and Goodwin model policy

Ms. Sarah Thompson seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

J. 22-23/89 Policy 9325.2 (Replace) Board Bylaw - Construction and Posting of Agenda

Ms. Laura Young motioned to replace existing Avon policy 9325.2 Construction and Posting of Agenda with Shipman and Goodwin model policy

Ms. Thej Singh seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

K. 22-23/90 Policy 9326 (Replace) Board Bylaw - Minutes

Ms. Laura Young motioned to replace existing Avon policy 9326 Minutes with Shipman and Goodwin model policy

Ms. Nicole Russo seconded

Motion passed 8-0-0

XIV. Communication from Public

There was no communication from the public

XV. Communication from Avon Board of Education Members

Ms. Jackie Blea spoke hearing about the Valedictorian, the Salutatorian shocked and impressed.. The robotics club, the presentations outside for the Internship Showcase, did a great job and was very impressed.

Ms. Nicole Russo mentioned that all Avon students are able to shine and show their strengths, and how great it is to see how they progress through the years.

Ms. Lynn Katz thanked Ms. Laura Young for all of her work as the chair of the policy committee. She sees all the time she puts in and is appreciative.

Adjournment

Ms. Thej Singh made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m., seconded by Ms. Lynn Katz
Motion passed 8-0-0

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinskas, Board Recording Clerk

Minute respectfully submitted by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Avon Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman