



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, December 20, 2022, 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 Chure, Board Chair; Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary; Lynn Katz; Lisa Seminara; Liz Sommerkorn; Laura Young; Sarah Thompson (via Zoom); Thej Singh (via Zoom)

Board Members Absent: none

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 7:04 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:**

December Avon Achievers

A. **PGS – Amy Borio, Principal, and Jessica Buckle, Assistant Principal**

Thomas Dennen, Orion Drogu, Avery Landsberg, Helena Lazarevic, Coco Lynch, Catherine Mikulec, Katherine Morriss, Max Mozzicato, Nolan Pare, Andrew Speich, Valentina Uribe, and Hunter Whaley in recognition for their service and leadership on the Community Council promoting good character and community connections.

The recognized students introduced themselves and spoke about the projects and good works they accomplished this year and the upcoming events and projects they have planned for the remainder of the 22-23 school year.

Shirley Moy - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, was recognized for over 20 years in the Avon School system. Shirley's hard work, dedication, positive attitude and helpfulness was expressed by all board members as something that will be greatly missed.

Lisa Seminara - Board of Education Member who has served since January 2020. Well wishes were expressed to Lisa by the Board and Superintendent, wishing her good luck in the General Assembly and thanking her for her insight and dedication to the Avon BOE.

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2022

***Jackie Blea made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of November 15, 2022, Lisa Seminara seconded.
The motion passed 9-0-0***

VI. Communication from Public

No communication from the public

VII. Items of Information and Proposals

A. Student Representative Report – Charlotte Parry and Lillian Peng, AHS Student Representatives. Miss Parry was absent, Miss Peng gave the report on the happenings in each of the schools. There was a pajama day across the district which raised \$3,500 for the CT Children's Medical Center; all schools are holding end of year/holiday concerts.

AMS: Auditions and Rehearsals for spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*, have begun and Student Council held a clothing drive.

TBS: Held a holiday fair and had a clothing drive for the homeless.

RBS: Had a holiday concert, first one since 2019.

PGS: Held a spirit day and their Community Council were Avon Achievers.

B. Financial Report – Susan Russo, Business Manager

Dr. Carnemolla gave the report for Ms. Russo in her absence. Overall, there were some savings this month due to administrative salaries and new hires; some deficits due to 6th class coverages. Some transfers offset the deficit lines where we have some savings. 1.5 Million in unencumbered funds in special education with 4 students in escrow at this time, which is what we expected. 8.95% unencumbered balance for December which is typical for this time of year.

VIII. Committees & Liaison Reports

A. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum & Professional Practices – Jackie Blea, Chair

C&PP met early in December, discussing various course proposals and changes to be moved to the board this evening. There were also course materials being moved to be 'opened' for review as well as the high school Program of Studies that was completed and will be moved to be approved as well.

2. Finance – Lynn Katz, Chair

The Finance Committee met on December 13th, where the Finance Report and budget transfers were reviewed and are in the consent section tonight. Student activity accounts, which will be reviewed quarterly, were also discussed .

3. Negotiations – Deb Chute, Chair

They are not actively in the works with any unions, but are looking forward to working with the Administrative Assistants soon.

4. Policy – Laura Young, Chair

The Policy Committee met on December 13th and went over several policies for action tonight. Many of the policies being reviewed with possible action are policies that contain updates required by state statute.

B. Liaison Report

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

Ms. Blea stated that CREC does not meet in December, so had nothing to report.

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

A. Board Chair Update

Ms. Chute wished everyone a wonderful holiday season, likewise, she thanked all in attendance, and expressed appreciation to the administrators for continuing to come to the meetings and be a part of the work the Avon BOE is doing.

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

A. Hiring Report

Mr. Medic spoke to the hiring of staff members:

- Administrative Support for the Superintendent started this week
- Long term school counselor started this week at the middle school
- Safety and Security Specialist started this month
- New teacher at PGS to take the place of a resignation
- Technology Specialist started this week as well
- Long term substitute teacher positions being worked on as well for maternity and medical leaves

B. Enrollment Report

Dr. Carnemolla stated we are up 10 students from this time last year, with no issues as a result of the net 10 additional students in the district.

C. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Carnemolla will speak to the Strategic Plan under New Business

D. Updates

- Dr. Carnemolla thanked the leadership team and administration for the hard work on the Strategic Plan, as well as the Board of Education for the meetings and collective input to achieve the Blueprint for Excellence presented tonight.
- Dr. Carnemolla also thanked the Avon Education Foundation for the grants they presented to teachers for their innovative ideas to bring to the classrooms.
- The initial meeting is set to review the findings from the Space and Facilities Study, Administration will meet with the firm conducting the study after the new year.
- Thank you to Mr. Giannini and Ms. Kryzanski for their hard work to move the CPDC coursework forward.
- Thank you to the Vertical Math Team for working diligently on the curriculum revisions.
- Dr. Carnemolla also wanted to thank the Administrative Staff at the meeting tonight, recognizing all the events that took place in December, and still attending both the special meeting and the regular meeting. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season.

XI. Consent Calendar

22-23/34 Approval of all Budget Transfers

22-23/35 Approval of Contract for Licensed Practical Nurse

22-23/36 Approval of Contract for Technology Support Specialist

Debra Chute made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, Jeffrey S. Fleischman seconded.

The motion passed 9-0-0

XI. New Business

A. **22-23/37** Avon Blueprint for Excellence 2022-2025

Dr. Carnemolla discussed the Blueprint for Excellence 2022-2025 as having 4 focus areas:

1. Student Learning

❖ We will create multiple student learning pathways to challenge students to think critically and creatively, persist in solving challenging problems, work collaboratively, and communicate effectively. Building Instructional capacity and developing the district's capacity to collect and analyze data to advance teaching and learning.

2. School Connectedness and Personal Growth

❖ We will foster a safe and equitable learning community that empowers all students to be self-directed, self-regulated, and resilient as they strive to advance their own personal and academic goals. Promote a community-wide climate that makes all children feel safe in every sense, and ensure support services, programs and resources are maximized to assist all students academically, behaviorally and emotionally.

3. Communication and Partnerships

❖ We will continue to build internal and external partnerships in service to the district's mission and beliefs for student learning through clear communication and transparent processes. Streamline district and school communications to ensure user friendliness and establish relationships with local businesses and community organizations to increase learning options (i.e. transitional services, internships etc.).

4. Systems

❖ We will maximize efficiencies and optimize resources through the ongoing creation, refinement, and alignment of processes, procedures and systems. This includes Human Resources, Technology, Hiring, Budget etc. Providing all students and staff with necessary equipment to support learning; develop a long range plan to acquire and retain the human resources to implement the Blueprint; consistently review and adjust policies, processes to ensure they support the Blueprint for Excellence.

Dr. Carnemolla stated this is a 'broad brushstroke' of the Blueprint, but as we continue to keep the focus on our top priorities, it ensures that our top priorities in the Blueprint are directly connected to the budget priorities.

Debra Chute made a motion to approve the Avon Blueprint for Excellence 2022-2025, Jeffrey S. Fleischman seconded.

The motion passed 9-0-0

- B. **22-23/38** Policy 5144.4 – Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline
New policy for Avon. Denying physical activity/recess as discipline discussed in Wellness policy, but the state required this subject matter to have its own policy.

***Laura Young moved to approve policy 5144.4, Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline as presented, seconded by Jackie Blea
The motion passed 9-0-0***

- C. **22-23/39** Policy 6142.10 – Wellness, First Read with possible action
Current policy not up to date with state requirements, replacing our policy with policy recommended by Shipman & Goodwin.

***Laura Young moved to approve policy 6142.10, Wellness, as presented, seconded by Lynn Katz
The motion passed 9-0-0***

- D. **22-23/40** Policy 3542.43 – Meal Charging
Replacing the current policy with Shipman & Goodwin policy to be up to date with the specifics of meal charging.

***Laura Young moved to approve policy 3542.43, Meal Charging, as presented, seconded by Lisa Seminara
The motion passed 9-0-0***

- E. **22-23/41** Policy 5145 – Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities
Federal Law has changed, so policy needs to be updated. Adopting the Shipman & Goodwin model will keep us compliant going forward.

***Laura Young moved to approve policy 5145, Section 504: Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities, as presented, Liz Katz seconded
The motion passed 9-0-0***

- F. **22-23/42** Policy 4118.235 – Reporting by School Employees Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students
Current policy needs updating to reflect the most up to date laws on mandating reporting, therefore the Shipman Goodwin Policy will take the place of the current Avon policy, so with the ever changing landscape of this subject matter, we will always be in compliance with updates from Shipman.

***Jeffrey S. Fleischman moved to approve policy 4118.235, Reporting by School Employees Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children, pending personalization with Avon Public Schools inserted into document where necessary, Laura Young seconded
The motion passed 9-0-0***

- G. **22-23/43** Policy 5113 – School Attendance
Current policy is fine, the legal references changed due to the changes in legislation.

Laura Young moved to approve policy 5113, School Attendance, as presented, Jackie Blea seconded

The motion passed 9-0-0

- H. **22-23/44** Course Proposal Recommendations
2 meetings took place, one on September 29th and one on December 14th, discussion:
9 course changes for the high school (2 new courses, 7 courses with name changes)

Changes

- Civics to Civics and American Government
- Black and Latino Studies to African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies
- Creative Writing to Creative Writing 1
- Spanish Heritage I Honors to Heritage Spanish: Spanish for Spanish Speakers
- Spanish Heritage II Honors to Heritage Spanish II: Spanish for Spanish-Speakers
- Mechanical Engineering (change to a year long course)
- Introduction to Theater to Introduction to Theatre and Theatre Design Implementation (split into two courses)

Additions

- Advanced Creative Writing Seminar
- AP Environmental Science

Jackie Blea moved to approve Course Proposal Recommendations as presented, Laura Young seconded

The motion passed 9-0-0

- I. **22-23/45** Primary Instructional Materials Recommendations
2 primary instruction material recommendations at the middle school to be opened for review
- *Chew on This!* by Eric Schlosser
 - *The Cage* by Ruth Minsky Sender

Jackie Blea moved to open the 30 day window for review of both books, Laura Young seconded
The motion passed 9-0-0

- J. **22-23/46** High School Course of Studies 2023-2024
Final revisions made to Course of Studies for 23-24.

Laura Young moved to approve the High School Course of Studies 2023-2024, seconded by Lynn Katz

The motion passed 9-0-0

A discussion ensued regarding the courses offered and what was able to be accessed online for the coordinating curriculum for the courses in the HS program course of studies.

XII. **Communication from Public**

There was no communication from the public.

XIII. Communication from Avon Board of Education Members
No communication from Avon Board of Education Members

XIV. Executive Session

*At 9:07 p.m Chair Chute asked to enter into the Executive Session and invited Dr. Carnemolla, Mr. Giannini, and Mr. Medic to join the discussion concerning Collective Bargaining Strategy. Jackie Blea Seconded.
Motion passed 9-0-0*

XV. Return to Public Session
Executive Session ended at 9:24 p.m.

XVI. Adjournment
At 9:25 p.m. the Board adjourned by unanimous consent

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

Jeffrey S. Fleischman, December 22, 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.