



Minutes
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury, Avon, Connecticut 06001
Via Zoom
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

Members Present: Lynn Katz, Committee Chair; Deb Chute; Jeffrey S. Fleischman; Laura Young,

Member(s) Absent: none

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget H. Carnemolla, Superintendent; Jess Giannini, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Russo, Business Manager

Others Present: Christine Sardinkas, Board Recording Secretary

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Lynn Katz, at 6:02 pm.

II. Approval of December 13, 2022 Minutes

*Ms. Deb Chute moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0.*

III. Financial Report April 2023 Ms. Russo explained the Financial Highlights-

- Certified staff salaries saw no variances, where non-certified staff had a few with some staff moving buildings.
- The substitute teachers line has been watched closely due to the unexpected large FMLA leaves that were not budgeted.
- Efforts to save energy by all staff helped immensely with the energy bills.
- Repairs and maintenance continue to see cost increases.
- Special Education is at 1.2M unencumbered.
- General Education is at 3M unencumbered or 4.71%, which is slightly higher than where we were last year at 2.8M or 4.59%, which is due to the tuition numbers and the pause in spending.

Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman motioned to have the Financial Report moved to the Full Board, Ms. Deb Chute seconded.

Motion Passed 4-0-0

IV. Transfers

Ms. Russo provided information on the following transfers:

- 2023-053 - \$1,500 Custodial Supplies/Plant Operations
- 2023-054 - \$4,500 Transportation/Athletics AHS
- 2023-055 - \$142 Uniforms-Athletics AHS
- 2023-056 -\$59.99 Instructional Supplies RBS

- 2023-057 - \$3,500 Fees & Membership AHS
- 2023-058 - \$300 Supplies RBS

Ms. Laura Young motioned to approve and move to the full Board the budget transfers as presented, Ms. Deb Chute seconded.

Motion passed 4-0-0.

V. New Business

A. Donation Letters:

- Donation from FAME to Avon Theater Program for \$585
- Donation from Cyber Grants, LLC on behalf of CAF to Avon BOE for \$1,500 for Baseball supplies and equipment
- Donation from PGS PTO for \$3,957.38 for various items

Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman moved to bring the donation letters to the full board for approval, Ms. Laura Young seconded.

Motion passed 4-0-0

B. Student Activity Reports

Ms. Russo briefly covered these reports going over what each school has done regarding clubs/events/ activities and what monies have been paid out to date for all of these. Ms. Russo noted that some schools have a large balance because the bulk of their activities (senior picnic, yearbooks, summer theater, scholarships, prom etc.) have not happened and will be paid out at the end of the year. Ms. Russo mentioned if there is any money left that discussions will be held with the principals and what to do with that money for the next school year.

C. Fee Schedule

Ms. Russo discussed that many items on the fee schedule will not change, lunch and breakfast prices in particular will need to be discussed this summer as a piece of legislation just came in today, whether the state will go with free lunches (or not). Another discussion with the Board will take place once the state has confirmed their position on lunches.

The items on the fee schedule that did change, for instance, preschool tuition. Ms. Russo stated that she increased the pre-school tuition in line with the increase in the overall percentage that the budget increased, and going forward, asked that the Board approves the same 'rule' each year, increasing the tuition the same percentage as the overall budget to account for general inflation, utility costs etc. A discussion ensued regarding cost per pupil and the comparative amounts charged by other preschools and Day Care facilities. Facility use numbers were increased according to utility increases for the district this year (8.7%) to recoup the rising costs of electricity, oil etc.

Ms. Deb Chute moved to have the Fee Schedule moved to the full board for approval, Ms. Laura Young seconded

Motion passed 4-0-0

D. Open Choice Supplemental Appropriation

Ms. Russo stated that this portion is not completed as we are still waiting to hear about the Early Beginnings Grant (this is a grant that gives a set amount of money for each child in the preschool program). Ms. Russo went on to say that we are at \$672,000 for Open Choice Income for enrollment, to date, but our enrollment has bumped up to \$885,748 showing a differential of \$213,748 that the town of Avon will be paying us back for. The

June Finance Committee meeting will have finalized numbers regarding the Open Choice Supplemental Appropriations.

A question was raised regarding why we were bumped up and Dr. Carnemolla answered that it is possible that other districts still had a lower enrollment than Avon for Open Choice and when the state figured their calculations, we moved up a tier due to our numbers staying the same.

E. End of Year

Again, Ms. Russo spoke to the fact that the ‘End of Year’ numbers are not yet finalized, but gave some insight as to what to expect. The Special Education numbers were not as expected so there may be some funds available..therefore they are focusing on larger ticket items that could be pre-bought. Playgrounds are being inspected as we speak for replacements and repairs. There is an increase in our HVAC expenditures that they are looking at as well.

There are items that will bring down that bottom line number that will be discussed and presented in June.

VI. Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

VII. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

VIII. Adjournment

at 6:51 the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Katz, Finance Committee Chair

Lynn Katz May 10, 2023

Minutes respectfully received by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman May 10, 2023

Minutes are approved at the next Finance Committee meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.