



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, August 22, 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; Sarah Thompson; liz Sommerkorn; Laura Young

Board Members Present Virtually: Nicole Russo and Thej Singh

Board Members Absent: None

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 7:00 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Mission Statement

At this time, Ms. Debra Chute asked for a moment of silence for Jason Indomenico. Ms. Chute then went on to say a few words in Mr. Indomenico's honor. Board members Jackie Blea, Jeffrey Fleischman and Superintendent Carnemolla all added their words of sympathy and remembrance for Jason Indomenico.

*Ms. Debra Chute made a motion to add the motion to approve the 6th grade Social Studies Textbook (that had finished it's 30 day review) to the agenda under Old Business
Ms. Laura Young seconded
Motion passed 9-0-0*

- IV. Recognition - There were no recognitions

V. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Education Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023

B. Board of Education Executive Session of June 19, 2023

Ms. Lynn Katz made a motion to approve the BOE Regular Monthly minutes of June 13, 2023, and the Executive Session minutes of June 19, 2023

Ms. Jackie Blea seconded

Motion Passed 9-0-0

VI. Communication from Public

VII. Items of Information and Proposals

A. Student Representative Report – No student report

B. Financial Report – Susan Russo, Business Manager

The Finance Committee has not met yet for 2023-2024, but will be meeting on September 19th.

VIII. Committees & Liaison Reports

A. Committee Reports

- Curriculum & Professional Practices – First Meeting will be in October

- Finance – Lynn Katz, Chair - First meeting will be September 19, 2023

- Negotiations – Deb Chute, Chair - No meetings set to date, as no new contracts are up at this time

- Policy – Laura Young, Chair - First meeting will be September 12, 2023

B. Liaison Report

- Capital Region Education Council – Jackie Blea, Board Representative

Ms. Blea mentioned the first meeting will be September 20, 2023

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

A. Board Chair Update - Ms. Chute started by saying how excited she was to start the new year, and excited for Convocation on the 24th. She went on to say how happy she was that they all (teachers/administrators/all staff) will be in the same room for Convocation, as it has been a while because of Covid. Ms. Chute asked everyone to keep Mr. Bill Duffy in our prayers and wished him a quick recovery. With Mr. Duffy absent, Ms. Chute pointed out that Avon has resilient staff able to jump in and fill in at the places needed. She thanked Mr. Noam Sturm for stepping up and helping as the Principal of Thompson Brook School, as well as Ms. Susan Horvath for taking the position as interim Principal at Roaring Brook School in Noam's absence. Finally, Ms. Chute thanked Michael Renkawitz for filling in as Assistant Principal for Roaring Brook. Mr. Renkawitz is an asset to the Avon School system, his knowledge of the district will serve him well as Assistant Principal at Roaring Brook.

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

Dr. Carnemolla had created a presentation to show the Board all of the updates. Dr. Carnemolla started with the enrollment, mentioning that we are up about 15 students from last year at this time, but we still have registrations coming in. It was a busy summer, and much was done to all the schools, and much of it was directly tied to the Strategic Plan. Many projects were

completed this summer that were on our Capital Improvement list, including HVAC Systems, Middle School Library rug and furniture, Safety updates at TBS and an Alert System update at PGS as well as many rugs/tiles/ceilings etc. in all schools. On the operations end, new Chromebooks, Ben Q Boards and other items that were needed for this year were purchased. Our Choice Grant money does not come until the end of the year, so the PO's were ready to go to spend the money in the time allotted. The money was spent on supplies, musical instruments, security updates and more.

Breakfast and lunch at the schools seems to have caused some confusion, there are no more free lunches, just all free breakfasts. If one qualifies for reduced lunch, they will be getting a free lunch, so there are only two categories, free or full pay.

Budget wise, there was another PreK teacher added, as well as many Teacher Assistants.

A Board member asked if we were able to 'pre-purchase' items last year to help out the budget for this coming year, and Ms. Susan Russo, Business Manager, stated that we were able to make significant purchases on last year's budget to offset this coming year's budget.

- A. Hiring Report - Mr. Medic began by thanking all the staff involved in the interviews that have been taking place over the summer. Many parents/students and teachers gave up time this summer to be a part of the interviews, and Mr. Medic wanted their efforts to be recognized. Mr. Medic also recognized Monica Mates and Barbara Cardwell as well as the IT department for all their hard work this summer processing all of the new hires. As Mr. Medic went through a summary of the hires, the new hires were shown on the BenQ Board to put names with faces. There were approximately 60 personnel actions between hires and resignations this summer. There was a non-certified hiring fair this summer, where we were eventually able to hire quality staff, although we are still actively seeking Paraeducators and other non-certified staff. Mr. Medic ended with we are only in need of 2 more certified staff, for which we hope to have finalized and in place this week.
- B. Enrollment Report- stated above
- C. Strategic Plan Update
- D. Updates - Dr. Carnemolla began by stating that we have New Staff Orientation last week, which lasts 5 days. She went on to thank all those involved with coordinating this undertaking for all their hard work to make a smooth transition into the Avon School Systems for all the new staff. Mr. Jess Giannini took over to give a quick overview of what was done for New Staff Orientation, which included IT training, TEAM training if they are a first year teacher and many small group projects to foster teamwork and build relationships. Dr. Carnemolla updated the Board on how busy the summer was with updating systems (moving to Schoology) and Student Handbooks etc. to continue to keep Avon aligned with updated systems and policies. The Leadership Retreat in the beginning of the summer was mentioned where Dr. Carnemolla talked of how all the administrators took stock of the entire year and worked on a Strategic Plan and District Goals. This year they also brought in the Teacher Leaders on the second day of the retreat to help in the process of deciding what works for Avon, and what needs to be let go. Dr. Carnemolla then spoke of the Administrator Retreat that was yesterday (Aug. 21), where there was a group book read and much work on a new initiative of Collaborative Learning Teams. Mr. Giannini took the floor again and spoke of a few more items in the Teaching and Learning Department, K-5 Math Professional Development, enhancement of Professional development overall, Improving Curriculum, leading the Collaborative Learning teams and redesigning the teacher evaluation system. Dr. Carnemolla ended by thanking the Police department for all the work on the fingerprinting that needed to be done for Avon Schools with all the new hires. She also thanked the Curriculum department for working diligently to get over 90% of our curriculum online.

- XI. Consent Calendar -
***Motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar as presented by Ms. Laura Young
Ms. Sarah Thompson seconded
Motion passed 9-0-0***
- XII. Old Business - The Board of Education approved a 30 day review period of Primary Instructional Materials (6th grade Social Studies Textbook), which concluded on July 25, 2023.
***Motion to adopt Primary Instructional Material, 6th Grade Social Studies Textbook by Ms. Jackie Blea, Ms. Lynn Katz seconded
Motion passed 9-0-0***
- XIII. New Business
A. Committee Meeting Dates
***Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Fleichman to approve the first half of the Board of Education Committee Dates as presented, Ms. Lynn Katz seconded the motion
Motion passed 9-0-0***
- XIV. Communication from Public
A member of the community spoke regarding the Senior Car Parade
- XV. Communication from Avon Board of Education Members
Ms. Lynn Katz, Ms. Jackie Blea and Ms. Sarah Thomposn thanked the staff for the work done over the summer, and wished everyone a great new year. Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman thanked everyone as well, and wanted to show his appreciation of the administration that step up and are flexible, and agree to move around to different positions when needed.
- XVI. Adjournment
***Ms. Jackie Blea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m., Mr. Jeffrey Fleischman seconded the motion
Motion passed 9-0-0***

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Board Recording Clerk

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