



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, November 14, 2023, 7:00 pm

Virtual

Avon High School
510 West Avon Road
Avon, CT 06001

Minutes

Attendance

Board Members Present: Debra Chute, Board Chair; Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary; Lynn Katz; Nicole Russo; Thej Singh, Board Vice-Chair; Sarah Thompson; Laura Young

Board Members Absent: Jackie Blea

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
- IV. Recognition - There was no recognition this evening.
- V. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Board of Education Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023

Ms. Katz made a motion to approve the BOE Regular Monthly minutes of October 17, 2023
Ms. Thompson seconded.
Motion Passed 7-0-0
- VI. Communication from Public-
- VII. Items of Information and Proposals
 - A. Student Representative Report – Lillian Peng and Nikolai Meltser
Miss Peng began:
All Schools had a Veterans assembly that was very impactful
AHS: Parent/Teacher conferences coming up
Halloween Parade and Diwali celebration was amazing
AMS: 1st Pto meeting
Boston Trip

Halloween Dance

Turkey bowl Flag Football Game

Mr. Nikolai Meltser continued:

TBS: Wrapped up Unity Week, with a Kindness Beehive Bulletin Board

RBS: Halloween parade at High School

Schoolwide Spirit Day

All students and staff wore a sea of pink for Breast Cancer awareness

PGS: Parent/Teacher conferences this week

Student council holding a food drive

Halloween parade

B. Financial Report – Susan Russo, Business Manager - There was no Financial Meeting this month, the next meeting will be December 12, 2023.

Ms. Chute mentioned the first budget workshop starting at 6:00 p.m., and then the regular meeting follows at 7:00 p.m. on December 19, 2023.

VIII. Committees & Liaison Reports

A. Committee Reports

- Curriculum & Professional Practices – Last meeting was held on October 24th where a new instructional material was presented to the committee. That material has begun its 30 day review as of the CPP meeting and if there are no reservations, will be approved at the next Board meeting.
- Finance – Lynn Katz, Chair - Ms. Katz stated the Finance Committee did not meet this month and will meet December 12, 2023.
- Negotiations – Deb Chute, Chair - We are not actively negotiating with any one at this time.
- Policy – Laura Young, Chair - Policy will be meeting on November 28, 2023.

B. Liaison Report

- Capital Region Education Council – Jackie Blea, Board Representative
Ms. Blea was absent and unavailable to give a report.

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

A. Board Chair Update - Ms. Chute wanted to recognize the wonderful Veterans Day celebration at each school, and how impactful it is. There were alot of performances at each school, each school giving a unique experience for the Veterans. The Veterans speeches made indelible impressions and will linger with her.

Ms. Chute wanted to also wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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

A. Hiring Report - Mr. Medic briefly stated that they continue to fill some non certified positions. Mr. Medic wanted to recognize Michelle Gladue, who is retiring in December, for her time at Avon Public Schools. He is sure there are countless families in the 36 years of service that benefited from their child being in her class; she will be greatly missed.

B. Enrollment Report-

Dr. Carnemolla stated we are holding steady at this point.

C. Strategic Plan Update - Dr. Carnemolla mentioned the technology updates that are being installed, particularly the text messaging option being offered to the parent/guardians of the Avon School System, to alert them of a school closing/emergency closing. There will be an 'Opt In' text on Friday, November 17, 2023 to all the mobile numbers on file and the parent/guardian can opt in at that time. There will be other opportunities to join and sign up for text messaging, but hopefully we will get the majority of the parents/guardians on Friday with the 'opt in' text. Eventually, students may be added to this option as well. Ms. Katz asked if it could be filtered by school, and even by bus if needed, and Dr. Carnemolla said, yes that capability is there to filter by school, but we are not there yet to filter down to buses yet.

The Capital Improvement Projects was presented to the town of Avon, and we are waiting to see how the CIP moves through on the town side.

Mr. Giannini added that they wanted to thank the historical society for the banners for Native American Heritage Month. Mr. Giannini met with the Avon Historical Society to find ways to integrate Native American History into our curriculum and the Historical society is happy and willing to work with us on that.

Dr. Carnemolla added that it has been said that April 2nd the town may need to use the schools for primary voting. Since there is school that day we may need to move the calendar around a bit.

- D. Updates - Thank all our Veterans for coming to the schools, and that our students know what Veterans Day is for. Thank Specialty for donating the transportation for the Veterans. Grateful that we were able to pull host all the Veterans and all the schools were able to honor them in a special way.

Dr. Carnemolla thanked the high school administrators and Central Office staff for the NEASC visit. A draft has been received and it will be shared with the high school, and then it will come to the Board. Central office team had great conversations with the visiting committee. We can be proud of what we demonstrated here in Avon.

Mr. Fleischman asked if the Board will be able to see the self studies for NEASC, before the budget is voted on, and Dr. Carnemolla assured him the Board would see the report before the budget vote.

XI. Consent Calendar -

There is nothing on the Consent Calendar this evening.

XII. Old Business - No Old Business

XIII. New Business

- A. **23-24/16- Set Graduation Date - June 12, 2024-** Dr. Carnemolla stated that state law allows school districts to set their graduation date, as long as it is at the 180th day of the school year. The date Avon is looking to set the date at is June 12th, which is 3 days past the scheduled last day of school, accounting for some snow days.

*Ms. Singh made a motion to approve the Avon High School Graduation Date of June 12, 2024,
Mr. Fleischman seconded
Motion passed 7-0-0*

- B. Instructional Material- Book for 8th grade ELA, The Patron Saint of Nothing by Randy Ribay. Mr. Giannini briefly talked about what the CPDC is focusing on this school year: Working on Portrait of a Graduated, CLT's, Teacher Evaluations and Updating the Curriculum where needed. Culminating from the CPP meeting held on October 24th, there is a Primary Instructional Material being put on its 30 day review at the District Office; The Patron Saint of Nothing by Randy Ribay for the 8th grade ELA Curriculum. Mr. Giannini gave a brief overview of the book and stated that it has been approved unanimously by the CPDC committee. Approval for this book by the Board will take place at the December meeting.

C. **23-24/18 Consolidated Title I, II and III Grants and Sheff Settlement - Open Choice Academic and Social Support Grant.**

Mr. Giannini stated that the bulk of this funding is used to offset the salaries of the intervention tutors, with the exception of some being used for Professional Development (use on PD was a parameter of some of the grants).

Ms Young recognized the work that goes into getting these grants, and questions if it was possible to take a look at the most recent grant applications or budget narrative that have already been done to see how the money was dispersed in the past. Dr. Carnemolla answered that there were reports that they can download from the state for her.

Ms. Singh asked what we do if we don't get these grants. Mr. Giannini answered that the state 'pre-loads' these grant amounts, and it is our job to provide a narrative on how we plan to use the funding. If our use of funds doesn't fall in line with what they want the grant used for, they give it back to us to revise it to make it an acceptable use of funds. Ms. Russo added that these grants are set by legislation, it would take a legislative change for these grants to change or be taken away from us, and we would know that a few years in advance of that happening and be able to pivot and make the budgetary adjustments.

***Ms. Young made a motion to accept the Consolidated Title I, II and III Grants and the Sheff Settlement – Open Choice Academic and Social Support Grant and approve the application of the grants as discussed, Ms. Katz seconded.
The motion passed 7-0-0***

XIV. Communication from Public

There was no communication from the public.

XV. Communication from Avon Board of Education Members

Mr. Jeff Fleischman, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Nicole Russo all wanted to comment on the wonderful Veterans Day celebrations. The Board members all mentioned the impact it has on the students; how some students' parents or grandparents who were Veterans came as well; the performances by the students and the overall effort put into the Veterans Day Celebration by all the schools. The Veterans commented to a Board member on how impressed they were with the student's performances, and how everything went so smoothly from school to school.

Ms. Thompson wanted to note the positive environment and the 'feeling' you get when you enter Roaring Brook, the welcoming feeling is felt as you walk in the door. She wanted to mention this to the Board.

XVI. Adjournment

***Ms. Nicole Russo made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ms. Thej Singh seconded
Motion passed 7-0-0***

Minutes prepared by Christine Sardinkas, Board Recording Clerk

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