

# AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Meeting of November 20, 2024

### MINUTES

President Bing called the meeting of the Avon Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

**President's Statement:** This meeting has been advertised as a regular business meeting in the Coast Star on November 7, 2024. Copies of the notice have been forwarded to the Avon Borough Office, the Avon Public Library, the Avon Post Office, has been posted in the Avon School, and is posted on the Avon Elementary School website. This is in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 231 of the "Open Public Meetings Law" of Public Laws of 1975.

The Board will entertain questions and/or discussion on any open session agenda item before voting on same, if requested.

Public Comment: Members of the public wishing to address the Board of Education on both agenda and non-agenda items must state their name, address, and are requested to limit their comments to five (5) minutes when it appears the public comment portion of the meeting may exceed thirty minutes in duration.

The Board will hear all participants but may not always be prepared to discuss an issue when presented; however, the President or Superintendent will advise what action will be taken, if necessary, to address the concern.

**Roll Call:** **Present:** Losinger, Requa, Scrabis-Fletcher, Szczepaniak, Bing.  
**Absent:** Superintendent Russo, Evans and Rehbein  
**Others:** 2 visitors and a member of the Coast Star Newspaper

**Communications:** Mrs. Lerner reported that Superintendent Russo had received an anonymous letter and the Board of Education was copied on it. The letter relates to student and personnel matters and will be discussed in executive session.

### **Superintendent's Update:**

**Recognition:** Mrs. MacDonald recognized the following students and staff:

- Several students were recognized as they were "caught" being respectful, caring, and responsible; Above and Beyond recognition. The students each received a school coin as well.
- The Girls Soccer Team – finished the season 7-1-1 and in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. They had a great season and were so fun to watch. Congratulations to the team!
- Mrs. Stefankiewicz was recognized for going above and beyond.

Mrs. Price recognized the student council and the newly elected members. The program was reviewed.

President Bing reported on the following:

- Enrollment Report – is decreased by one tuition student
- Safety and Security Drill Report – the report and drills held were reviewed

- There were five reports of HIB investigated and none were founded.

Mrs. Requa inquired about the report and details provided to the BOE. The Board discussed the process and the report. Mrs. Lerner suggested that she reach out to Superintendent Russo for any further questions regarding the reporting and process.

### **Board President's Update:**

Superintendent Russo is unable to make the meeting due to a family issue.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Management Committee- Mrs. Losinger reviewed the policy and regulation updates in detail, most are mandated.
- Communications Committee – Dr. Scrabis-Fletcher stated that the committee should meet prior to the next BOE meeting to review the town celebration, Avon's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the district's involvement in such.
- The board action plans were reviewed as well as the format and posting to district website at length. Mrs. Lerner will reformat all and post to the website.
- Superintendent Search Committee – The search plan was reviewed as well as the timeline; the Board would like a new Superintendent approved by the 2025-2026 school year.

### **Board Secretary Certification**

I, Amy Lerner, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of September 30, 2024, no line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(c)3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

*Amy S. Lerner*

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

### **Agenda Review:**

The agenda motions were reviewed in detail by the Board.

Mr. Szczepaniak inquired overlapping costs relating to the leave of absence, if the replacement teacher would also overlap with the current staff member, and if it is in the budget. Mrs. Lerner responded that it is not in the budget and that the Board would need to discuss with Superintendent Russo and overlapping of staff members.

President Bing reviewed the NJ QSAC scores, the district has been deemed high performing. The scores of each of the 5 areas were reviewed in detail.

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It was moved by Bing and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher to close the work session and open the regular business meeting. Voice vote was all in favor and the work session adjourned and opened to the regular business meeting at 7:47 pm.

**Public Session on Agenda items only:** Mrs. Price inquired about the Interim Superintendent and the length of the current contract. The Board stated that they would like a new superintendent for the 2025-26 school year, will the current Superintendent contract be extended.

President Bing responded that the current superintendent will remain until June 30<sup>th</sup> if that is what is required. It will be based on the search.

### **Personnel:**

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

Louis Cabezas, Giovanna Kulka, and Jean Slover as Substitute Teachers for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$125 per day.

A leave of absence for Abbey Doane from the period of April 28, 2025 through May 18, 2025 followed by FMLA/NJFMLA leave for the period of May 19, 2025 through November 21, 2025 and an unpaid leave of absence for the period of November 22, 2025 through November 30, 2025 with a return to work date of December 1, 2025.

Denise Cumiskey, Michael Kernan, William Kernan and Patrick Kernan as volunteer coaching assistants for the Girls Basketball team for the 2024-2025 season.

A revised contract with Matthew Brown from an hourly rate of \$15.13/hr to an hourly rate of \$15.49/hr effective January 1, 2025 due to the increase in minimum wage.

Carrie Becker for up to 30 hours to teach the “STEAM with a Book” after school program for grades 3-5 beginning Tuesday, January 7, 2025 (Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15) at the rate of \$47/hr (as per the Agreement with the AEA) to be funded with ESEA Title IV funds.

Meredith Campbell and James Nappo for up to 6 hours each to provide a “Lifelines Suicide Prevention Parent Academy” on Thursday, November 21 from 6:30-7:30pm at the rate of \$47/hr (as per the Agreement with the AEA).

Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

### **Finance:**

It was moved by Requa and seconded by Szczepaniak to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

The payroll for November 2024 totaling \$226,749.32.

The payment of bills presented for the 2024-2025 budget totaling \$179,241.98.

Transfer in the 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$85,343.00 for the month of September 2024.

The Budget Status Report for September 2024 and the certification by the Board Secretary that there are no over expenditures in the major funds and accounts of the 2024-2025 budget; further, that sufficient funds are currently available to meet the district's current financial obligations for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Financial Reports of the Treasurer and Board Secretary for the month of September 2024.

Approve the 2025-2026 Budget calendar and manual.  
Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

**Program:**

It was moved by Scrabis-Fletcher and seconded by Losinger to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following Student Council fundraising programs:

- Parents Night Out - on Friday, February 28, 2025 from 6 - 8:00 pm Student Council students will host events and activities for younger students (open to Grades K-5) in Room 208 (Cafetorium)
- Car Wash - on Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 11-1:00 pm Student Council will hold a car wash in the Municipal Building parking lot.

Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

**Other Business:**

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

The minutes of the regular business and executive session meetings held on October 9, 2024.

The following field trips for the 2024-2025 school year:

- 24-25 Sending District Enrichment Convocations (Grades 4-8)
- FLEX Walking Field Trip (Grades 5-8)
- Grades 6 & 7
- Grades 4 & 5

The attached Emergency Drill report for November 2024.

The Avon Board of Education goals and action plans for the 2024-2025 school year.

The New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Placement Scores and District Performance Review.

Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

**Facilities and Transportation:**

It was moved by Losinger and seconded by Requa to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

The Bus Evacuation Drill for Grades PreK-8 held on November 6, 2024.

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The transportation jointure with the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services commission (MOESC) for Twenty-One (21) Avon resident students attending Manasquan High School, Manasquan, NJ effective September 2024 through June 2025 at a rate of \$45,415.80.

The following transportation jointures with the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services commission (MOESC) for the following Avon resident students attending vocational high schools as listed below:

- Four (4) students attending Communications High School, Wall, NJ effective September 2024 through June 2025 at a rate of \$24,242.40.

The transportation jointure with the Red Bank Regional Board of Education for one (1) Avon resident students on route V621 at a cost of \$2,144.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

The following transportation jointures with the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services commission (MOESC) for the following Avon resident students attending non-public high schools as listed below:

- Eight (8) student attending Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft, NJ effective September 2024 through June 2025 at a rate of \$7,675.20.
- Five (5) student attending Trinity Hall, Tinton Falls, NJ effective September 2024 through June 2025 at a rate of \$6,544.80.

The transportation jointure for extended school year programs with the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC) for the following Avon resident students attending schools as listed below:

- One (1) Avon resident student attending an extended school year program at Hawkswood School, Ocean Township, NJ at a rate of \$102,970.80.
- One (1) Avon resident student attending an extended year program at Conover Road Elementary School, Colts Neck, NJ, at a rate of \$54,884.00.
- One (1) Avon resident student attending an extended year program at Manasquan High School, Manasquan, NJ at a rate of \$16,608.12.

The following AHSA Afterschool programs:

- Art Club Session I (Gr K-5), on Tuesdays December 10, 17; January 14, 21, 28; and February 4, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 208 (Cafetorium).
- Board Game Bonanza (Gr K-8) on Wednesdays, December 11, 18; January 8, 15, 22, 29; and February 5 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 110 (Media Center).
- Pokemon Trading Card Game (Gr 1-4) on Mondays, January 27; February 3, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 110 (Media Center).
- History's Mysteries (Gr 5 - 8) on Wednesdays February 5, 19, 26; March 5, 12, and 19, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 201.

- After School Beads (Gr K - 4) on Wednesdays February 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2, and 9, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 107..
- Art Club - Session II (Gr K - 5) on Tuesdays April 1, 8, 15, 29; May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 208 (Cafetorium).
- 3D Printing (Gr 5 - 8), on Tuesdays February 4, 18, 25; and March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 110 (Media Center).
- Babysitting Certification (Gr 5-8), on Thursdays February 6, 20, 27; and March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 110 (Media Center).
- Bead, Bracelet and Jewelry Making (Gr 1 - 5) on Thursdays April 3, 10; May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 26, 2025 from 3:15 to 4:15 pm in Room 110 (Media Center).

Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

### **Policy:**

It was moved by Scrabis-Fletcher and seconded by Bing to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

1. The **first reading** of the following **revised By-Laws** of the Avon Board of Education:

0141	Board Member Number and Term
0141.1	Board Member Number and Term – Sending District
2. The **first reading** of the following **revised policies** of the Avon Board of Education:

2200	Curriculum Content
3160	Physical Examination
4160	Physical Examination
5337	Service Animals
5350	Student Suicide Prevention
8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations
8467	Firearms and Weapons
9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants
3. The **reading and adoption** of the following **new regulation** of the Avon Board of Education:

8467	Firearms and Weapons
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4. The **reading and adoption** of the following **revised regulation** of the Avon Board of Education:

5200	Attendance
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5. To **abolish** the following **By-Law and policy** of the Avon Board of Education:

0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency
7231	Gifts from Vendors

Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

- President Bing reported that the Avon Historical Society is planning a celebration for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Avon-By-The-Sea. It is very exciting and will be a nice celebration of the town and its history.
- Mr. Szczepaniak inquired if there had been any conversations regarding the newly elected administration regarding the changes and status of the Department of Education. He also inquired if there is anything that the Board should be doing at this point. Mrs. Lerner and President Bing both stated that they were not aware of anything at this time. The matter was discussed briefly.

**Public Session:**

A member of the public inquired as to the status of the newly elected members of the Board of Education, specifically the write in votes. President Bing responded that the election results were not official yet and the district does not know who was voted in at the current time.

**Motion to adjourn to executive session:**

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Losinger to approve the following resolution:  
For the Avon Board of Education to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of any actions upon the hereinafter-specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows; Legal (tuition policy) and Personnel (Superintendent Position).
3. The Board will not take action following closed executive session.
4. It is anticipated that the closed executive session will last approximately sixty (60) minutes.
5. It is anticipated at this time the above stated subject matter will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.
6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned into executive session at 7:47 pm.

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Losinger to adjourn executive session and reopen the meeting to the public. Voice vote was all in favor, motion passed unanimously. The meeting was re-opened to the public at 9:01 pm.

**Motion to adjourn:**

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Bing and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amy S Lerner*

Amy S. Lerner, Board Secretary