

AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Meeting of March 12, 2025
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 Asbury Park Press on June 29, 2024 and the Coast Star on June 27, 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:** Evans, Kinkela, Losinger, Requa, Scrabis-Fletcher, Szczepaniak, Bing.
Others: 15 visitors and a member of the Coast Star Newspaper

Communications: None

Superintendent's Update:

Superintendent Russo welcomed everyone to the meeting. It is an exciting night, the Board will appoint a new Superintendent/Principal. He also welcomed Mr. Sabia, the Interim Director of Instruction, Curriculum, and Special Services.

Recognition: Superintendent Russo 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.
- Mrs. Doane was recognized for going above and beyond.

Superintendent Russo reported on the following:

- Enrollment Report – no change
- Safety and Security Drill Report – the report and drills held were reviewed
- HIB Report – none

Board President's Update:

President Bing stated that he has the privilege to announce that the district has found a new educational leader. The Board is grateful for the feedback from the staff and the community.

President Bing reviewed the Superintendent search process.

President Bing introduced Avon's new Superintendent, Cathy Danahy, and reviewed her experience and qualifications.

Mrs. Danahy thanked the Board for their thorough and thoughtful process and stated that she is very excited to get started.

Committee Reports:

- Educational Excellence Committee- Dr. Scrabis-Fletcher reported that the committee met on February 26th and reviewed the following:
 - district programs
 - sending district convocations
 - establishing community partnerships
 - parent academies and attendance
- Management Committee- Mrs. Losinger reported that the committee had reviewed the tuition policy.
- Operations Committee- Mrs. Requa reported that the committee had met on February 28th and reviewed the proposed budget; notes from the meeting have been shared with the Board. The committee is recommending adopting the proposed budget as presented. The committee also discussed federal funding, LRFP, capital budget and potential projects.

Board Secretary Certification

I, Amy Lerner, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of January 31, 2025, 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.

President Bing inquired about the number of hours required for home instruction. Superintendent Russo reviewed the required services.

Mr. Kinkela inquired about the sending district dance and the matter was discussed.

Mr. Szczepaniak inquired about the tuition students for 25-26 and if they are all new students. Superintendent Russo reviewed the matter.

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Dr. Scrabis-Fletcher inquired about the pre-school class size. Superintendent Russo reviewed that the class is full and that there is a wait list. Kindergarten class size was also discussed as well as the class sizes of other grades.

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 7:33 pm.

Public Session on Agenda items only: Mrs. Price stated that the staff is excited to work with the new Superintendent.

It was moved by Szczepaniak and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher To approve the contract for Cathy Danahy, Superintendent of Schools/Principal, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 with a salary of \$150,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, as attached and approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools.
Roll call vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

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

Jennifer Silvestri and Tyler Maginnis for Home Instruction for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$47/hr (as per the Agreement with the AEA).

Anne Coogan, Frances Rooney, Patricia Skea and Vickie Johnson for Home Instruction for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$47/hr.

Brian Trapani as a (Sending District) School Dance Chaperone on March 28, 2025 at Sea Girt Elementary at a rate of \$106

Vickie Johnson as a Substitute Teachers for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$125 per day.

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 March 2025 totaling \$215,844.16.

The payment of bills presented for the 2024-2025 budget totaling \$171,501.47.

Transfer in the 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$19,330 for the month of January 2025.

The Budget Status Report for January 2025 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 January 2025.

For the Avon Board of Education to adopt the following resolution:
Adoption of Tentative Budget 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2025-2026 School Year using the 2025-2026 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>SPECIAL REVENUES</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2025-2026 Total Expenditures	\$5,377,163	\$41,500	\$410,575	\$5,829,238
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$1,045,573</u>	<u>\$41,500</u>	<u>\$ 94,829</u>	<u>\$1,181,902</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>\$4,331,590</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$315,746</u>	<u>\$4,647,336</u>

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Coast Star in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Avon Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$132,761 for the purpose of increases in salaries, tuition and programs. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Avon Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the withdrawal from tuition reserve account in the amount of \$40,000 which were deposited into the account in SY 2023-2024 as per the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.4. The district intends to utilize these funds for 2024-2025 tuition expenditures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held in the Media Center of the Avon Elementary School, 505 Lincoln Ave., Avon New Jersey on April 28, 2025 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 School Year.

For the Avon Board of Education to adopt the following resolution:
Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement

WHEREAS, the Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.2 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel as defined in NJAC 6A:23A-1.2, which includes attendance at regularly scheduled in-State county

meetings, Department or Association sponsored events for which the registration fee does not exceed \$250.00 per employee or board member, where prior Board approval shall not be required unless the annual threshold for a staff member exceeds \$1,500 in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, the Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education established \$13,000 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$2,958.94 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$13,000 for all staff and board members for the 2025-2026 school year.

The contract with Premium Psychiatry Services of Central Jersey at a rate of \$700 per evaluation and \$125 per half hour for additional time.

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

Program:

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the [Baseball and Softball Schedules](#) for the Spring 2025 season.

Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

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

The minutes of the regular business and executive session meetings held on February 19 and 22, 2025.

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

- Preschool - (2 trips)
- Grades 2 & 3
- Grades 5 - 8 (select students)
- NJHS
- Grades K-8

The attached Emergency Drill report for February 2025.

Approve (4) four Pre-Kindergarten tuition students for the 2025-2026 school year and the acceptance of the tuition revenue per student to be received as the policy states throughout the school year.

Approve (11) eleven Kindergarten and (2) two fifth grade tuition students for the 2025-2026 school year and the acceptance of the tuition revenue per student to be received as the policy states throughout the school year.

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

Facilities and Transportation:

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Evans to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the use of the Avon Elementary School by the Avon Home & School

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Association for AHSA Parents Night Out Fundraiser on Friday, April 3, 2025 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in rooms 110 (Media Center) and 208 (Cafetorium).

Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Policy:

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

The **second reading and adoption** of the following **revised policy** of the Avon Board of Education:

5111.01 Tuition for Nonresident Pupils

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

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Public Session: None

Motion to adjourn:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Bing and seconded by Losinger to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S Lerner

Amy S. Lerner, Board Secretary