

AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting of September 11, 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 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, Rehbein, Requa, Scrabis-Fletcher, Szczepaniak, Bing.
Absent: Losinger
Others: 2 visitors and a member of the Coast Star Newspaper

Communications: None

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Herits reported on the following:

- Enrollment Report – is down and currently at 115 students
- Safety and Security Drill Report – the report and drills held were reviewed
- There were no reports of HIB

Superintendent Russo recognized and thanked the following for a great opening of school, including all of their efforts for a smooth opening:

- Teachers and support
- Office staff
- Custodians
- Mrs. MacDonald

Everyone was ready for the students to arrive and it was a smooth opening.

Superintendent Russo also thanked Dr. Herits for the transition of the Superintendent position.

Back to School Night will be held September 17th.

Committee Reports:

- Superintendent Search Committee – The committee met with the representative from NJSBA and discussed an outreach plan to the community and staff. They also reviewed interview questions.

Board Secretary Certification

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

Superintendent Russo reviewed the sidebar agreement with the AEA and the soccer club position and stipend. The Board discussed the position as well as spring sports.

Superintendent Russo reviewed the staff training in Pre-School; the parents will receive a release form due to video recording of the teacher. Parents may opt out of their student being included on the videos. The matter and training was discussed by the Board.

It was moved by Rehbein 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 7:17 pm.

Public Session on Agenda items only: None

Personnel:

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

Maria Irace as a PLC Team leader for up to 12 hours each for the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$47 per hour as per the agreement with the AEA.

Kim Decker as a Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$125 per day for the 2024 - 2025 school year (pending Substitute Certification).

The Sidebar Agreement between the Avon-by-the-Sea BOE and the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Association to update the Supplemental Position: Coach Assistant /Intramural Advisor Stipend.

The revised job description for the Coach Assistant/Intramural Advisor.

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Brian Trapani as the Coach Assistant/Intramural Advisor for the Fall 2024 at the stipend of \$1,249 for the 2024-2025 school year as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Revised contract with Allyson Kinsey as a paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year at a salary of \$24,012 (to be prorated for period of employment) to be effective October 15, 2024.

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

Finance:

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

The payroll for September 2024 totaling \$222,347.96.

The payment of bills presented for the 2024-2025 budget totaling \$270,879.69.

Transfers in the 2024-2025 budget in the amount of \$14,803.88 for the month of July 2024.

The Budget Status Report for July 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 July 2024.

The attached staff travel expenses for various training and business related trips as budgeted for in the 2024-2025 budget.

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

Other Business:

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

The minutes of the regular business and executive session meetings held on August 14, 2024.

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

- Preschool
- Grades K & 1

The 2024-2025 District Professional Development Plan.

The 2024-2025 District Mentoring Plan.

The Safety and Security Plan for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

The attached Emergency Drill report for August 2024.

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

Unfinished Business:

- School/District and Board Action Plan for 2024-2025 – Superintendent Russo recommended that the Board review this in October. The Board discussed the matter and agreed.

New Business:

The Board tabled the following until the September meeting:

- District Strategic Plan Review – will occur at the October meeting
- Part-time music teacher vacancy – Superintendent Russo updated the Board that it has been difficult to fill the position. He reached out to neighboring districts to share services. Roosevelt School District is interested in a shared service agreement and has a candidate. The teacher will work in Avon 2 days per week and the administration is working on adjusting schedules as this is a reduction in FTE. The Board discussed the position with Superintendent Russo.
- Part-time custodian vacancy - Superintendent Russo reported that the district is also having a hard time filling this position and the school has been piecing the cleaning together until the position can be filled.
- NJSBA Conference attendance – contact Mrs. Lerner if you would like to register
- Dr. Scrabis-Fletcher asked the committees to review the status of the Board action plans. The committees reviewed the status.
- Mrs. Requa inquired if student recognition would still be occurring at Board meetings. Superintendent Russo responded that it would be.
- President Bing reviewed the district’s social media presence and outlets. The Board discussed the matter.
- Mrs. Rehbein inquired if the district’s active shooter drills are evaluated by law enforcement. Superintendent Russo reviewed that the school works with the police during all active shooter drills. Mrs. Rehbein inquired about “Flee First” protocols. Superintendent Russo will research the topic.

Public Session: None

Motion to adjourn to executive session:

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Rehbein 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 Search).
3. The Board will not take action following closed executive session.
4. It is anticipated that the closed executive session will last approximately thirty (30) minutes.

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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 7:28 pm.

It was moved by Scrabis-Fletcher and seconded by Szczepaniak 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 7:56 pm.

Motion to adjourn:

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Bing and seconded by Rehbein to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote was all in favor, motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S Lerner

Amy S. Lerner, Board Secretary