

AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting of May 14, 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: 8 visitors, Cathy Dandhy, Doug Kovats, Board Attorney, and a member of the Coast Star Newspaper

Communications:

Mrs. Lerner reported to the Board that she had received an email today that was forwarded to all members. The email is regarding a personnel matter, can not be discussed in public, and will be reviewed in executive session.

Superintendent's Update:

Superintendent Russo welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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.
- Several students were recognized by Ms. Irace for their performance in the Academic Bowl. The students competed against other districts and this is the first time the Avon students have won first place.
- Oisín Cunningham was selected by the staff to represent the Avon School at the 8th Grade dialogue recognition program hosted by NJSBA. Oisín reviewed the program and experience.

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

Presentation by Mr. Sabia:

Mr. Sabia provided a presentation on test scores using the iReady data; most grades showed growth.

The Board discussed the decrease in scores from the fall from the winter. The matter was discussed. The assessments and standards were discussed.

The LinkIt software and professional development were discussed. Superintendent Russo thanked Mr. Sabia for the presentation and his time.

Board President's Update:

President Bing stated that he has the privilege to announce that the board will be voting on the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Services tonight. She is one of the longest tenured teachers in the district, has worn a lot of hats, dedicated to Avon and spent her career here. Congratulations to Danielle Price. The Board could not be happier to her move into the position.

Committee Reports:

- Communications Committee- Mr. Szczepaniak reported that the committee met last week and reviewed a timeline to get the newsletter out. The plan is to have it published in early July. He further reviewed that the graduation speaker had been selected. They met the goal of hosting the Open House and thanked the staff for all of their hard work
- Management Committee- Mrs. Losinger reported that the committee had met to review the application/interview process. She reviewed the focus of the interviews and is excited that Mrs. Price was selected.
- Operations Committee- Mrs. Requa reported that the committee will meet tomorrow to review capital projects. Dr. Scrabis-Fletcher inquired about a potential safety grant. Mrs. Lerner will look into it.

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Szczepaniak to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, Danielle Price as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Special Services, for the 2025-2026 school year at a salary of \$105,000.

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

Mrs. Price thanked everyone, she is very excited to stay in Avon for the next phase of her career.

Board Secretary Certification

I, Amy Lerner, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of April 30, 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

Public Session on Agenda items only:

There was a question from the public regarding the data that was reviewed and Mrs. Dugan not being renewed. Doesn't the district need her. Superintendent Russo reviewed the position and the funding for it. It was a position that was supported by ESSER funds and can not be supported in the regular operating budget. The district recognizes the need and will look at the MTSS program and process. It was a very difficult decision but the district can support the services in the classroom.

The member of the public stated she was concerned about a staff member that is receiving tenure and that they do not have the same values of being an Avon Tiger that we expect of our students and there are several parents that share the same concerns. Superintendent Russo stated that there is a lot of thought that goes into the staffing.

A member of the public expressed that they are happy Mrs. Price got the job. She further inquired if there is any data that reviews if students are learning is Spanish. The matter was discussed.

Mr. Trapani congratulated Mrs. Price. She spends countless hours working for the district and he is looking forward to working with her. It was an excellent choice.

Motion to adjourn to executive session:

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Losinger 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; Personnel (2025-2026 appointments).
3. The Board will take action following closed executive session.
4. It is anticipated that the closed executive session will last approximately thirty (30) 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 Board adjourned into executive session at 7:37 PM.

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Evans to adjourn the executive session. Voice vote was all in favor and the executive session adjourned and opened to the regular business meeting at 8:35 pm.

Agenda Review:

The agenda motions were reviewed in detail by the Board.

The Board discussed the extended school year program and the number of teaching staff members. Superintendent Russo will consult with Mr. Sabia and get back to them.

The repair of the Lincoln Ave. exterior steps was reviewed and discussed.

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 8:41 pm.

Personnel:

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Losinger to table, the following resolution:
The granting of tenure to Maria Irace and Elisa Segal effective September 1, 2025 and Stephen Plunkett effective September 15, 2025.
Roll call vote was all in favor, the motion was tabled.

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

The following personnel recommended by the Superintendent for reemployment for the 2025-2026 school year at their current steps, added degrees, longevity, and salary listed, as per the Agreement with the Avon Education Association.

FTE	NAME	STEP #, LONGEVITY, DEGREES	SALARY
0.2	Kathleen Anzolin	13, Masters	\$15,520
0.4	Kristin Stefankiewicz	10	\$27,360
1	Carrie Becker	10, Masters	\$71,500
1	Erin Blaney	8, Masters +30	\$70,050
1	Meredith Campbell	10, Masters	\$71,500
1	Kathleen Cascio	12	\$72,400
1	Sharon Cumiskey	17, Masters +30	\$90,200
1	Abbey Doane	10, Masters	\$71,500
1	Jaime Golda	18, +15 credits	\$89,400
1	Maria Irace	6	\$61,950
1	John Kuhlthau	12	\$72,400
1	William Maginnis	7, +15 credits	\$64,650
1	Kristin McGowan	10, Masters +30	\$73,500
1	Kaitlin McGowan	2	\$59,750
1	James Nappo	16	\$82,000
1	Scott Pauciello	10, +15 credits	\$69,600
1	Stephen Plunkett	6, +15 credits	\$63,150
1	Elisa Segal	18, Masters +30	\$93,300

1	Jennifer Silvestri	17, Masters, +20L	\$89,700
1	Julia Sullivan	4-5	\$60,550
1	Brian Trapani	11, Masters, +10L	\$73,875
1	Jessica Yori	4-5, Masters	\$63,650

Katherine Anzzolin to provide Extended School Year Occupational Therapy and Child Study Team services for up to 12 hours at the rate of \$47/hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Meredith Campbell to provide Extended School Year Social Worker and Child Study Team services for up to 20 hours at the rate of \$47/hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Jaime Golda and Eileen Ruane to serve as Extended School Year Nurses from July 7 – July 31, 2025 for up to 32 hours total at the rate of \$47/hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Erin Blaney to conduct Preschool Orientation for up to 2 hours at the rate of \$47/hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

William Maginnis for summer technology support for up to 60 hours during the period of July 1 – August 31, 2025 at the rate of \$47 per hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Carrie Becker, Carla Nappo, and Kerry Cunningham to serve as Extended School Year Teachers from July 1-July 31, 2025 for up to 40 hours each at the rate of \$47 per hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Charlotte McGinley to serve as Extended School Year Paraprofessional from July 1-July 31, 2025 for up to 32 hours at her hourly rate of pay.

Lauren Eknoian and Katie Skribner as Substitute Teachers for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$125 per day.

Elisa Segal for Child Study Team translation services up to 5 hours at a rate of \$47/hour as per the teacher agreement with the AEA.

Carrie Becker and Brian Trapani to serve as a Teacher of Students with Disabilities for child study team meetings for up to 6 hours (each) at the rate of \$47/hour as per the Agreement with the AEA.

Meredith Campbell to provide administrative staff scheduling services for up to 10 hours at the rate of \$47/hour 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 Scrabis-Fletcher to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

The payroll for May 2025 totaling \$225,383.04.

The payment of bills presented for the 2024-2025 budget totaling \$217,053.74.

The Budget Status Report for April 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 April 2025.

Barbara O'Boyle, A.A. Physical Therapy, as Summer ESY Physical Therapist for up to 4 hours from July 7 to July 31, 2025 at a cost of \$100 per hour.

The Coordinated Professional Development Plan with BDO Consulting Services, LLC in the amount of \$4,143 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Contract with Shore Line Therapy, as Extended School Year Speech - Language Therapist for up to 12 hours from July 7 - 31, 2025 at \$47 per hour.

The proposal from Crest Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$7,797.00 to repair the Lincoln Ave. exterior steps.

Contract with Shore Line Therapy, for Speech - Language Evaluation Services on an as needed basis for the 2025-2026 school year at the rate of \$300 per evaluation.
Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

Other Business:

It was moved by Bing 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 April 28, 2025.

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

- Grades 8 (2)

The attached Emergency Drill report for April 2025.

Approve and adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the facilities of the Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education are not adequate for the economical preparation of lunches and breakfast for school children, while the facilities of the Belmar Board of Education are adequate for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, the school food authorities desire to implement a program whereby Belmar Board of Education shall provide (subject to approval of the New Jersey Department of Education and provided that such program shall not impair existing allowances to either school food authority) lunches for services to the children of Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Avon-by-the-Sea Board of Education hereby approves a satellite type "A" lunch agreement with the Belmar Board of Education to supply hot and cold type "A" lunches and breakfast to the Avon-by-the-Sea Lunch Program for

the 2025-2026 school year at a price of \$4.00 per lunch and \$2.00 per breakfast for an estimated contract price \$28,800.

The Comprehensive Equity Plan and Statement of Assurances for the 2025 - 2028 school years.

The Avon Elementary School grade of 73 on the NJDOE School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
Roll call vote was all in favor, motions carried unanimously.

Program:

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

The tuition contract with The Hawkswood School, Eatontown, NJ for an extended school year program for one Avon resident student placed out of district for the 2025-2026 school year at the per diem rate of \$429.04 or \$90,098.40 annually.

The continuation of Educational Services for Student (Local ID# 32142) through June 11, 2025 or until the next BOE Meeting.

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

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Szczepaniak inquired about pest management. Mrs. Lerner reviewed the pest management program and plan that the district has as well as the vendor that provides services.

New Business: The Boar discussed the graduation speaker selection.

Public Session: None

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 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S Lerner

Amy S. Lerner, Board Secretary