

AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Meeting of March 13, 2024
MINUTES

President Bing called the meeting of the Avon Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m.

President's Statement: This meeting has been advertised as a regular business meeting in the Asbury Park Press on Jul 9, 2023 and the Coast Star on July 13, 2023 with a change of meeting notice in the Coast Star on February 1, 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, Rehbein, Requa, Scrabis-Fletcher, Szczepaniak, and Bing.

Absent: Evans

Others: 3 visitors

Communications: None

Superintendent's Update:

Recognition:

Superintendent Herits recognized the following:

- Several students as they were "caught" being respectful, caring, and responsible; Above and Beyond recognition. The students each received a school coin as well
- A student who raised \$1,112.98 for the Hoops for Heart fundraising program. Dr. Herits thanked her for her hard work and commended her efforts.
- Ms. Yori for her leadership & work with the Wingman Program and also Ms. Blaney for the love of her job and dedication.
- Mr. Maginnis for the Bio-Med convocation

Superintendent Herits reported on the following:

- Enrollment Report – currently at 120 students; no change
- Safety and Security Drill Report – the report and drills held were reviewed
- No reports of HIB
- Upcoming events: Invention Convention and Parent Academy

Mr. Trapani and Ms. Yori presented to the Board about the Wingman Program. The “Wingman Team” is comprised of seven 6-8th grade students. It is a peer leadership program with team building activities and it is continuing to build school culture by creating connections between students and staff. How the program has been implemented in the district was reviewed.

Board President’s Update:

President Bing advised the Board that he may not be able to make the April meeting. He also reminded the Board that the Superintendent evaluation season is upon them and he will reach out to NJSBA to begin the process.

Board Secretary Certification

I, Amy Lerner, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary certifies that as of February 29, 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

Committee Reports:

- Management Committee – Jane Losinger reported that the committee met on March 7th and reviewed the civility policy changes that are being recommended for the first reading.
Dr. Herits reviewed a letter that will be sent to tuition parents whose student enters into MTSS. The Board discussed the process and the matter.
- Negotiations Committee – William Bing reported that the negotiations will meet with the AEA on March 14th.
- Operations Committee – Marny Requa reported that the committee met on March 6th and Mrs. Lerner presented the budget. There will be a 2% tax increase and the committee did discuss raising taxes higher than 2% but that is not the recommendation. The committee discussed Title I funding and the loss of that funding for the 24-25 school year. The district is challenging that decision. Afterschool programs could be effected in the 25-26 school year. The Board discussed the 25-26 budget and the loss of grant (ESSER) funds and the effect of that. Mr. Szczepaniak reviewed that the district may need to prioritize programs for the 25-26 school year and that will be communicated as the district knows more.
- Educational Excellence Committee – Kristin Scrabis-Fletcher reported that the committee met on 2/26. Dr. herits provided updates on programs as it relates to the strategic plan and reviewed the new programs in the district. The teachers will be surveyed on the new programs and their success.

Public Session:

Mrs. Price inquired about the programs being prioritized in 25-26 school year. The Board does not have those details as of yet, it depends on the district funding.

Agenda Review:

The agenda motions were reviewed in detail by the Board.

The Board discussed the Matt Bellace Presentations program; there will be a program for the students during the day and for the parents at night.

Mrs. Lerner reviewed the tentative budget and the approval and advertising process. There are 3 positions that have been added to the operating budget; two of which have been previously funded with ESSER funds and due to the Maintenance of Effort funds awarded by the State in June 2023 the district is able to fund those positions in the 24-25 school year.

The Board reviewed and discussed the 2024-2025 school calendar.

The Board inquired about the doctoral research that Erin Blaney is being approved for. Dr. Herits reviewed the program and the Board discussed the matter as well as the students anonymity.

Dr. Herits reviewed the convocation programs and if all students would be given an opportunity to participate in the programs.

The student water safety programs were discussed and reviewed.

It was moved by Scrabis-Fletcher and seconded by Bing 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 7:55 pm.

Personnel:

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

Sharon Cumiskey, Mary Dugan, and Danielle Price for up to 12 hours each for the “Math and Literacy Night” Parent Academy on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the rate of \$45 per hour (as per the Agreement with the AEA) to be funded with ARP-ESSER Comprehensive Beyond the School Day funds.

Erin Blaney for up to 12 hours for the “PreK STEAM Family Night” Parent Academy on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the rate of \$45 per hour (as per the Agreement with the AEA) to be paid for with ARP-ESSER Comprehensive Beyond the School Day funds.

Nicole Walsifer for up to 12 hours for the “PreK STEAM Family Night” Parent Academy on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm at her contracted hourly rate to be paid for with ARP-ESSER Comprehensive Beyond the School Day funds.

Jaime Golda and Scott Pauciello for Overnight Stipends for the Grade Eight Washington Trip on April 18-19, 2024 in the amount of \$591 each (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 March 2024 totaling \$214,858.11.

The payment of bills presented for the 2023-2024 budget totaling \$78,544.69.

The transfers to the 2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$2,348.03 for the month of February 2024.

The Budget Status Report for February 2024 and the certification by the Board Secretary that there are no over expenditures in the major funds and accounts of the 2023-2024 budget; further, that sufficient funds are currently available to meet the district’s current financial obligations for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

The attached staff travel expenses for various training and business related trips as budgeted for in the 2023-2024 budget.

The contract with Matt Bellace Presentations, LLC to provide “Delivering Better Highs and Healthier Lows” mental health and substance abuse prevention training on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at a cost of \$4,000 to be paid for with ARP-ESSER Comprehensive Beyond the School Day funds.

The donation of 44 student desks and 44 student chairs that are obsolete to the Neptune City Board of Education.

Motion for the Avon Board of Education to adopt the following resolution:

Adoption of Tentative Budget 2024-2025

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 School Year using the 2024-2025 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>
2024-2025 Total Expenditures	\$5,302,188	\$42,600	\$411,575	\$5,756,363
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>\$1,185,689</u>	<u>\$42,600</u>	<u>\$ 95,060</u>	<u>\$1,323,349</u>
Taxes to be Raised	<u>\$4,116,499</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$316,515</u>	<u>\$4,433,014</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 final budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$27,743. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

BE IT FURTHER 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 \$12,260 for the purpose of increases in health benefit premiums. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2025.

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 2022-2023 as per the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.4. The district intends to utilize these funds for 2023-2024 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 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Motion 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 \$8,460.43 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 2024-2025 school year.

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

It was moved by Requa and seconded by Szczepaniak to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the revised contract with Atlantic Behavior Analysis LLC for an additional 25 hours for School Psychologist services at a rate of \$125 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year.

Roll call vote was in favor, Szczepaniak abstained, motion carried.

Other Business:

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

minutes of the regular business meeting held on January 3, 2024.

The minutes of the regular business and executive session meetings held on February 21, 2024.

Approve the 2024-2025 District Calendar

Approve (11) eleven Pre-Kindergarten tuition students for the 2024-2025 school year and the acceptance of the tuition revenue per student to be received as the policy states throughout the school year.

Approve (5) five Kindergarten tuition students for the 2024-2025 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 Requa to approve, as recommended by the Superintendent, the following resolutions:

The attached Emergency Drill report for February 2024.

Erin Blaney to conduct her doctoral research within the Avon Elementary School Preschool program, with anonymity and no student identifiers on the Effectiveness of the Tools of the Mind Curriculum on Inclusive Preschool Students' Academic Performance, Social-Emotional Behavior, Self-Regulatory Skills, and Kindergarten Readiness.

The Building Use for the AHSA for the playground on Friday, May 10 (set-up) and Saturday, May 11, 2024 for a Yard Sale Fundraiser.

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

Program:

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

To approve the following [Field Trips](#)

- Grades 5 - 6 - Convocation SLH - select students
- Grades 5 - 8 - Sea Girt/Rutgers Convocation - select students
- Grade 5 - 7 - Brielle Convocation - select students
- Grade 7 - 8 - HW Mountz Convocation - select students
- Grade K - 2 - Water Safety NAC
- Grade 3 - 8 - Water Safety NAC
- Grade 6 - 8 - Service Learning Beach Clean-Up
- Grade 8 - Washington Trip
- NJHS - Rising Treetops

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

Policy:

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

The first reading of the following revised policies of the Avon Board of Education:

- 5111.01 Tuition of Nonresident Pupils
- 9202 Civility

Roll call vote was in favor, Bing voted no, motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Mr. Szczepaniak inquired about suicide training. Dr. Herits reviewed the training and the assembly held for students.

Public Session: None

Motion to adjourn to executive session:

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Scrabis-Fletcher 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 (contract).
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.
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 7:58 pm.

It was moved by Bing and seconded by Rehbein 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 8:26 pm.

Meeting: March 13, 2024

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 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S Lerner

Amy S. Lerner, Board Secretary