



AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Committee:	Paul Chapman, Chairperson	Susan Deminico
	Shannon Sabree, Vice Chair	Shavon Bell
	Claudia Lucia, Secretary	
Student Advisors:	Zara Legerme	Mathilda Macenat
Superintendent:	Lori Jodoin	

AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2026

Regular School Committee Meeting – Tuesday Evening 5:30 p.m., AMHS Media Center, 285 West Main Street, Avon or Remote Via Zoom

I. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting Called to order by School Committee Chair, Paul Chapman.

II. Signing of Warrants

Warrants went around and were signed.

III. Public Comment

IV. Information

A. Student Reports

Student Advisors: Zara Legerme and Mathilda Macenat

AMHS-The past month has been filled with exciting activities and accomplishments at Avon Middle High School.

On April 29, student leaders from AMHS attended a Leadership Luncheon and participated in a leadership presentation led by Evren Gunduz. The school also celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in early May, recognizing staff members for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to students.

Students participated in several enriching experiences throughout the month. On May 5, sophomores, juniors, and seniors attended an engaging safe driving presentation by Think Fast Interactive. The AMHS Thespian Society welcomed 11 new members during its induction ceremony on May 6. District Arts Day, held on May 9, showcased the talents of students from both Butler Elementary School and AMHS through displays and performances in visual arts, music, drama, and creative writing.

The AMHS community also celebrated several memorable events, including the Junior/Senior Prom on May 16 at the Renaissance Hotel in Foxboro and a successful spring concert by high school musicians on May 21. Additionally, 35 middle school students traveled to Washington, D.C., where they explored historical landmarks and gained valuable educational experiences.

As the school year draws to a close, seniors are preparing for upcoming milestone events, including the Senior Cookout, Senior Awards Night on June 4, and Graduation on June 6.

Throughout May, students also completed numerous MCAS and Advanced Placement exams, demonstrating their dedication and hard work across all academic areas. We are proud of their efforts and accomplishments.

Butler- As Butler Elementary School enters the final weeks of the school year, students and staff continue to enjoy a variety of engaging activities and celebrations. The annual ABC Countdown is underway, featuring themed days that bring excitement to the school community. This year's activities were refreshed with the help of the Student Council, making the experience even more enjoyable for students.

District Arts Day was a tremendous success, highlighting the creativity and talents of Butler students through outstanding displays and performances. Families also joined the school for the Grade 4 Book Tasting event, where students proudly shared their writing and creative work with family members and staff.

We are pleased to report that all grade levels have successfully completed MCAS testing. We commend our students and staff for their hard work, focus, and perseverance throughout the testing process.

Looking ahead, students will complete the final sessions of MAP testing while also preparing for several exciting end-of-year events, including Flag Day, Field Day, Kindergarten Graduation, and Grade 5 Graduation. We look forward to celebrating these milestones and finishing the school year strong together.

B. Superintendent's Report

Presenter: Lori Jodoin, Superintendent

The Superintendent's Report highlighted several important district updates. The FY27 budget was approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2026, and the district appreciates the Town's continued support. In addition, funding was approved for a feasibility study for Butler Elementary School, an important step in the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process. The Town is expected to appoint a School Building Committee in the coming weeks.

The Superintendent also provided an update on upcoming end-of-year activities, including High School Graduation on June 6, Grade 5 Step-Up Day on June 24, and Grade 8 Step-Up Day on the evening of June 24.

Finally, the Superintendent congratulated the Class of 2026 on their post-secondary plans. Graduates will be attending a variety of colleges, universities, technical programs, and career pathways, including UMass campuses, Bridgewater State University, Salem State University, Stonehill College, Wheaton College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Roger Williams University, Massasoit Community College, and several other institutions.

C. Introduction of Director of Pupil Services

Presenter: Joseph Pumphrey

The Superintendent introduced Joseph Pumphrey as her recommended candidate for the position of Director of Pupil Services. Dr. Pumphrey holds a Doctorate in Curriculum, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership and a Master's degree in Special Education. His professional experience includes roles as a special education teacher at The New England Center for Children, a substantially separate classroom teacher in Scituate, and Assistant Director of Student Services at both the elementary and high school levels.

The interview committee unanimously recommended Dr. Pumphrey for the position, citing his extensive experience, leadership abilities, and strong interpersonal skills. The Superintendent expressed confidence that he will provide effective leadership and support for students, staff, and families in Avon Public Schools.

D. Resolution of support for Massachusetts House Bill H.4361 (formerly H.2932), an Act relative to benefits for teachers.

Presenter: Claudia Lucia

The School Committee considered a resolution supporting Massachusetts House Bill H.4361 and Senate Bill S.1884, legislation intended to provide a one-time opportunity for certain veteran teachers hired before July 1, 2001, to enroll in the RetirementPlus pension enhancement program. The legislation seeks to address an administrative issue that prevented many eligible teachers from participating in the program when it was originally established.

The resolution recognizes the service of long-time educators and notes that passage of the legislation would allow affected teachers to obtain enhanced retirement benefits comparable to those available to teachers who were automatically enrolled after July 1, 2001. The resolution also highlights the potential fiscal benefits to school districts by supporting the retirement of veteran educators and creating opportunities for natural staff turnover.

If adopted, the resolution directs the Superintendent to communicate the Committee's support of the legislation to the district's state legislative delegation, publish the resolution on the district website, and provide a copy to the Avon Teachers Association.

E. Butler end of year update

Presenter: Tenille Brennan, Principal

The presentation provided an update on Butler Elementary School's progress toward its strategic goals in the areas of teaching and learning, safe and supportive schools, and family and community engagement.

Under the Teaching and Learning objective, Butler piloted the Investigating History curriculum in Grades 3 and 4. Teachers reported increased student engagement and academic rigor, and the school secured grant funding to continue implementation during the 2026–2027 school year. The school also established common planning time and intervention blocks for grades K–5, allowing teachers to collaboratively analyze student data, develop targeted interventions, and share effective instructional practices.

As part of its Safe and Supportive Schools goal, Butler continued implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Staff participated in professional development, developed schoolwide expectations aligned with Responsive Classroom and CARES values, and implemented positive reinforcement strategies. The school reported a significant reduction in behavioral support calls throughout the year, demonstrating positive results from these efforts.

The Family and Community Engagement objective focused on increasing opportunities for families to connect with the school through events such as the Winter Concert, Family Engagement Night, Grade 4 Book Tasting, monthly after-school family events, and the upcoming Flag Day celebration. Butler also strengthened community partnerships through collaborations with organizations including the Avon Public Library, Avon Fire Department, Stoughton YMCA, and AMHS National Honor Society.

F. Technology update

Presenter: Lori Jodoin, Superintendent

The School Committee received an update on the district's technology infrastructure review conducted by Custom Computer Specialists (CCS). The review identified several areas where modernization and improvements are needed to maintain reliable, secure, and efficient technology systems.

CCS found that portions of the district's networking and wireless infrastructure are outdated and consist of equipment from multiple vendors, creating challenges for maintenance, security, and performance. The review recommends replacing aging networking equipment to improve reliability, strengthen security, and fully utilize available internet speeds.

The district's firewall systems are also approaching the end of their supported lifespan. CCS recommended updating firewall hardware and enhancing cybersecurity configurations to better protect district systems, sensitive information, and users from emerging threats.

Additionally, the review identified opportunities to strengthen security within Google Workspace by implementing two-step verification, stronger password requirements, enhanced protections against unauthorized access, and additional safeguards for personally identifiable information (PII). Recommendations were also made to improve email security through stronger protections against phishing, spam, and malware.

Overall, the review emphasized the importance of investing in technology infrastructure to improve cybersecurity, protect student and staff data, enhance system reliability, and ensure the district can continue to effectively support teaching, learning, communication, and daily operations.

G. School Choice

Presenter: Lori Jodoin, Superintendent

The presentation provided an overview of the impact of School Choice on Avon Public Schools. Currently, School Choice students make up approximately 22% of the district's total enrollment and include 18 sibling groups. School Choice students also represent 14% of the district's special education population and 6.3% of English Language Learners.

The presentation highlighted the positive contributions School Choice students make to the district. School Choice students are well represented in student leadership positions, National Honor Society membership, advanced coursework, athletics, and extracurricular activities. They also maintain strong attendance rates and account for a relatively low percentage of disciplinary incidents.

Financially, School Choice provides important revenue to the district without requiring additional staffing, as students are only accepted into available seats after resident enrollment is considered. The presentation noted that School Choice tuition and associated special education reimbursements provide meaningful support to the district's operating budget.

The presentation emphasized that School Choice helps sustain academic programs, staffing levels, athletics, arts, clubs, and elective offerings, particularly in a small district where enrollment numbers directly impact opportunities available to students. Maintaining consistent enrollment through School Choice also supports educational continuity, strengthens classroom communities, and helps preserve the financial stability of the district.

The presentation concluded by outlining considerations related to limiting School Choice, including potential reductions in revenue, staffing, programming, extracurricular opportunities, and overall enrollment, while also noting the challenges students may face when entering the district at later grade levels without earlier educational experiences in Avon Public Schools.

H. Action Items

a. Director of Pupil Services

A request to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Joseph Pumphrey as Director of Pupil Services.

- b. A request to motion that the Avon School Committee approve the Resolution in Support of Massachusetts House Bill H.4361 (formerly H.2932), An Act Relative to Benefits for Teachers, and Senate Bill S.1884, as presented

c. School Choice

A request to approve School Choice Participation for the 2026-2027 School Year.

- All votes passed unanimously

I. Subcommittee Updates

a. Personnel Subcommittee

AEA Contract Negotiations

J. Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes (Vote): April 16, 2026

- Passed

K. New Business

- a. Any Business not reasonably anticipated by the chair.

L. Upcoming Meetings

a. Special Town Meeting **Tuesday, June 2, 2026 -6:30pm -AMHS**

b. Regular School Committee Meeting **Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.**

M. **Adjourn**-Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm with a roll call vote to go into Executive Session.

N. **Executive Session**

A SESSION PURSUANT TO MGL CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21, QUALIFICATION #3, TO CONDUCT A STRATEGY SESSION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE AEA, AS THE CHAIR DECLARES AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.