AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Patrick Clark Drive | Avon, MA 02322 | 508.588.0230 | avon.k12.ma.us

AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

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

Regular Meeting | 5:30 p.m. | Town Hall, Mary T. McDermott Room, 65 East Main Street | Zoom

Zoom Meeting	Meeting ID	Passcode
Join Meeting	816 2240 2011	000055

This meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format. Remote participation is available through the Zoom video conferencing platform for convenience only. If the video conferencing platform is disrupted, remote access will be discontinued; however, the meeting will continue in person. This meeting is recorded by local cable and may be viewed on Channel 8, avontv.org, and avon.k12.ma.us. Anyone wishing to record the open session must inform the Committee so the recording can be announced. Public Comment is generally held near the beginning of the meeting for up to 20 minutes. Speakers must state their name and address, limit remarks to three minutes, address the full Committee through the Chair, and may speak only once unless permitted by the Chair. Comments may concern agenda items, announced public-comment topics, or matters within the Committee's authority. Improper, defamatory, or abusive remarks are out of order. The Chair may end a speaker's privilege to address the Committee for continued improper conduct or remarks. The Committee may rearrange the agenda to accommodate scheduled presenters.

I. Call to Order-
Meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Paul Chapman at 5:30pm.

II. Signing of Warrants-
Warrants went around and were signed

III. Public Comment

IV. Information and Reports

A. Student Reports

Presenters: Zara Legerme and Mathilda Macenat, Student Advisors

Butler-Butler's fourth- and fifth-grade Student Council held its first meeting, set goals, and began taking on responsibilities throughout the school. As part of Butler's school wide PBIS initiative, every classroom visited the Expectation Stations to review positive behavior expectations. Classes are also earning popsicle sticks for demonstrating positive behavior in the cafeteria.

The annual CARES Course brought students and families together for another successful event. Raffle winners arrived at school in Avon fire trucks, police cruisers, and DPW vehicles. The "Principal of the Day" winner made school wide announcements and even took part in a teacher evaluation. Butler thanked the ASA for organizing the event and the Avon Fire Department, Police Department, and DPW for making these experiences possible.

A visitor from the Investigating History program observed classroom lessons and saw how students are engaging with the curriculum. Upcoming math professional development includes a half-day session, a full day with district math consultant Dr. Alison Mello, and a voluntary Math Workshops book study led by math specialist Kerry Vrabel. These opportunities will help teachers strengthen math instruction, increase student engagement, and build consistency across grade levels.

Students are also looking forward to the Fall Festival, another opportunity for the Butler community to come together.

AMHS-AMHS teachers began working with Deborah Harris to strengthen inclusive practices and co-teaching. The professional development will continue throughout this school year and the following two years.

The AMHS Student Council hosted its first Destress event on September 24 to promote relaxation and student well-being. Administrators also launched monthly Panther Perspectives lunches, with separate gatherings for middle and high school students. Each month, a different group of students is invited to share what's working well at AMHS and what they'd like to see change.

On October 9, AMHS welcomed representatives from 31 colleges and universities to its College Fair. Students asked admissions representatives questions, gathered information, and explored options for life after high school. AMHS thanked Ms. Berardi for organizing the fair and the colleges and universities for participating.

The October calendar also included a National Honor Society Family Movie Night on October 16 to collect nonperishable donations for the Avon Food Pantry, the first middle school dance on October 23, and an October 26 informational meeting for sixth- and seventh-grade families interested in next year's Washington, D.C., trip.

B. **Superintendent's Report**

Presenter: Lori Jodoin, Superintendent

At the October 14, 2026, School Committee meeting, Superintendent Jodoin reported that Friday, October 30, would be a professional development day, with no school for students. The training was aligned with district priorities. Elementary staff would focus on mathematics instruction, while middle and high school staff would focus on inclusive practices. Several staff members would also participate in a full-day Crisis Prevention Institute training on preventing, de-escalating, and safely responding to challenging behaviors.

The Superintendent provided an update on the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) project. The district planned to submit a summary of its building maintenance practices by the end of October, completing the final deliverable for the Eligibility Period. The MSBA Board of Directors was expected to vote in December on whether the district could advance to the Feasibility Study phase. If approved, the School Building Committee would begin selecting an owner's project manager and designer to help evaluate options that meet the district's educational needs and make responsible use of public funds.

The Superintendent also reported that Frontline Education, the district's employee absence management provider, had notified staff of a data breach. Frontline took steps to contain the incident and offered credit monitoring to the six district employees identified as affected. The district continued to monitor the situation and confirmed that its firewalls were up to date.

Finally, the Superintendent reported that an expansion tank failure released approximately 35 gallons of water into the Business Office. No district records were damaged. The district was coordinating cleanup and flooring repairs.

C. Spotlight on Kids

Presenters: Butler Elementary School Students

D. Growth and Achievement Presentation

Presenters: Andrew Davey, AMHS Principal, and Tenille Brennan, Butler Elementary School Principal

The **2025–2026 Growth and Achievement presentation** reviewed MCAS results and fall-to-spring MAP performance at Butler Elementary and Avon Middle High School (AMHS). The presentation reported high average achievement and growth on MAP in grades 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Grades 3 and 6 showed lower achievement and growth, with growth at the 43rd and 30th percentiles, respectively.

At **Butler Elementary**, MCAS results identified Grade 3 as a priority for early intervention, particularly in mathematics. About 9% of Grade 3 students met or exceeded mathematics expectations, compared with about 27% in Grade 5. Mathematics achievement trailed English language arts (ELA) across all three tested grades, supporting a coordinated effort to strengthen math instruction across the school.

At **AMHS**, the presentation reported that the school moved from "Requiring Assistance" in 2025 to "Not Requiring Assistance," with moderate progress toward its goals, in 2026. Grade 8 ELA was identified as a priority, while approximately half of Grade 10 students met or exceeded ELA expectations. Mathematics remained an area for improvement, with planned support through IXL diagnostics, instruction informed by assessment data, and continued advocacy for a math coach.

Across both schools, the district identified **Grade 3 mathematics, Grade 8 literacy, and stronger math instruction and inclusive practices** as priorities. The presentation reported that multilingual learners generally showed patterns similar to their peers, while students with disabilities were making slower progress. Small grade and subgroup sizes can make percentages sensitive to changes in the results of just a few students.

Some achievement counts and percentages in the presentation do not reconcile. Verify the exact figures against the source data before using them in official minutes or a public report.

E. Teaching and Learning Update

Presenter: Laura Louko

The October 2026 Teaching and Learning Update highlighted work at Butler Elementary and Avon Middle High School (AMHS) to strengthen literacy, mathematics, social studies, and inclusive instruction.

At **Butler Elementary**, the district expanded Structured Literacy through Grade 2. In the prior school year, the percentage of kindergarten and Grade 1 students meeting the DIBELS benchmark increased from 34% in the fall to 75.5% in the spring. Butler also began the first year of its K–5 mathematics initiative, which includes longer math blocks, common assessments aligned with state standards, and regular Number Talks to help students explain their mathematical reasoning. Math consultant Alison Mello modeled Number Talks in classrooms at each grade level and was scheduled for eight visits during the school year.

The district expanded full implementation of **Investigating History** to grades 3 and 4, while grades 5–7 entered their second year. At AMHS, a DESE Civics Teaching and Learning Grant funded coaching to extend inquiry-based instruction into high school social studies and support the development of student civics projects and a showcase.

At **AMHS**, teachers began piloting the IXL Level Up Diagnostic in Grade 9 mathematics and science to identify learning gaps and guide instruction. Professional Learning Communities are reviewing assessment results and student work to improve instruction and align grading practices. The district also partnered with Deborah Harris to strengthen inclusive practices through staff training and focus groups with students, families, and educators. The work is focused on AMHS this year and is expected to shift to Butler next year.

F. Technology Presentation

Presenter: CJ Thomas

The October 2026 Technology Update reported that Avon Public Schools launched Incident IQ as a districtwide system for submitting and tracking technology support requests. Since the start of the school year, the average first response time was 1.8 days, compared with a goal of less than one day. The average resolution time was 4.8 days, within the district's five-day goal.

The district also reported that network equipment upgrades were complete at Avon Middle High School and underway at Butler Elementary, with completion targeted for the end of October. New Chromebooks purchased over the summer provided one device per student in all MCAS-tested grades. Reassigning the Chromebooks previously used by third-grade students allowed Butler Elementary to extend one-to-one access to second grade.

G. MASC Resolutions and Appointment of a Delegate

Presenter: Paul Chapman

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Resolutions Committee met on June 22, 2026, to review proposals submitted by member districts. The MASC Board of Directors approved forwarding five resolutions to the 2026 Annual Meeting for consideration by the Delegate Assembly.

The first resolution, **Safe Zones**, recommends that districts adopt a model policy to protect students' access to public education regardless of immigration status. It proposes referring immigration enforcement requests for school access or student records to the Superintendent's Office, establishing a rapid response team, and providing multilingual resources and preparedness training for families and staff. The second and third resolutions call for adding a member with vocational and technical

education experience to the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Board, respectively.

The fourth resolution urges the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to clarify the distinction between time-out and emergency seclusion and to provide practical guidance, statewide training, and grant funding for preventive behavioral supports. The fifth resolution calls for a legislative change that would allow regional school districts to access special education reserve funds by a majority vote of the school committee alone.

Three previously adopted resolutions were also presented for possible reauthorization. They address school transportation bidding practices, full and stable funding for METCO, and MSBA assistance for school construction and repairs. Under MASC's bylaws, these resolutions were scheduled to expire at the November Delegate Assembly unless delegates voted to reauthorize them.

https://www.masc.org/report-of-the-resolutions-committee-2026/

V. Consent Agenda

Items listed below are proposed for approval in one vote. Any member may request that an item be removed for separate discussion and action.

A. Appointment of Superintendent Lori Jodoin to the North River Collaborative Board of Directors.

B. Approval of Appointment of a delegate to the MASC Delegate Assembly.

C. Move to endorse all proposed MASC resolutions as presented.

E. Approval of revisions to the AMHS and Butler Elementary School student handbooks, including changes reflecting Policy JKAA: Time Out, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint of a Student, as presented.

F. Approval of the School Committee meeting minutes of September 16, 2026.

Vote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, excluding any items removed for separate consideration. Vote Required

***Consent Agenda passed anonymously.**

VI. Subcommittee Updates

A. Personnel Subcommittee

a. AFSCME Contract Negotiations

VII. New Business

A. Any business not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours before the meeting.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting	Session	Location
October 20, 2026	4:30 to 6:30 p.m.	Personnel Subcommittee	Negotiations	AMHS- Cancelled
November 10, 2026	4:30 to 6:30 p.m.	Personnel Subcommittee	Negotiations	AMHS
November 18, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Regular School Committee Meeting		Town Hall & Zoom
December 16, 2026	5:30 p.m.	Regular School Committee Meeting		Town Hall & Zoom

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.