



Special Meeting
Avon Board of Education
34 Simsbury Road, Avon, Connecticut

Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire in each student a joy and passion for learning and a commitment to excellence, personal integrity, and social responsibility.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 7:00 pm

Avon High School, Community Room

Minutes

Attendance

Members Present: Jackie Blea; David Cavanaugh (via phone); Debra Chute; Jeffrey S. Fleischman; Jason Indomenico (arrived 7:37 pm); Bogdan Oprica; Jay Spivak; Laura Young

Member(s) Absent: Houston Putnam Lowry

Administration Present: Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools; Myles Altimus, Director of Operations; Jim Connelly, Director of Security; Diana Devivo, AHS Assistant Principal; Maggie Dreher, Director of Nutritional Services; William Duffy, TBS Principal; Tim Filon, Director of Athletics; Tiffany Fox, Supervisor of Special Ed.; Jess Giannini, PGS Principal; David Kimball, AMS Principal; Jodi Kryzanski, Director of Programs; Dr. Kimberly Mearman, Director of Pupil Services; Roberto Medic, Director of Human Resources; Heather Michaud, Director of Fiscal Affairs; Dr. Donna Nestler-Rusack, Assistant Superintendent; Mike Renkawitz, AHS Principal; Noam Sturm, RBS Principal; Robert Vojtek, Director of Technology

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Debra Chute, Board Chair at 7:01 pm.

Chair Chute welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the Avon Mission Statement.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Communication from Public**

- Lisa Seminara, representing Friends of Avon Music Education (FAME) a 501c3 organization, to cultivate a relationship between the Board and the students and families who support the music programs in Avon. FAME is close to completion of providing a band shell at the high school and currently raising money for a marching band. FAME is asking the Board to consider a stipend be given to an orchestra group at AMS just as it offers stipends to choir and band.

IV. **Discussion regarding Proposed 2019-2020 Budget**

Dr. Carnemolla led a dialogue with the Board providing an overarching summary of the proposed 2019-2020 budget compared to the 2018-2019 budget:

- The budget object summary was explained – everything in the budget falls under eight (8) budget lines – salaries; benefits; property services; purchased services; other purchase services; general supplies & utilities; equipment; fees & memberships.

- The budget drivers were explained as:
 - Salaries \$707,911.69 - 1.95% variance
 - Administrators – 7.9% increase
 - Teachers – 1.82% increase
 - Custodians/Maintainers – 3.1% increase
 - Nurses – 3.21% increase
 - Para-educators – 4.19% increase
 - Secretaries – 1.3% increase
 - Tutors/Teacher Assistants – reduction of 22.85% due to moving positions to grant funds
 - Employee Benefits – 4.29% variance
 - Health Insurance – 2.48 % increase
 - Administrative Fees – 35.19% increase
 - Workers Comp - 8.51% increase
 - Pension Plan (non-certified) – 9.07% increase
 - Annuities – decrease of 12.45% due to a change in the superintendent’s contract
 - Post-retirement Benefits – 3.97% increase
 - Purchased Professional and Tech Services (Contracted Services) – decrease of 14.91%
 - Property Services – 2.27% variance
 - Other Purchased Services (Transportation, Tuition) – 4.74% variance
 - General Supplies & Utilities (Instructional Supplies, Textbooks) – decrease of 4.65%
 - Equipment (Athletics, Technology Leases) – 13.14% variance
 - Fees & Memberships – 3.3% variance
- Total gross budget increase for the 2019/2020 school year is \$1,140,542.20 or 1.98%

The Superintendent stated that the budget was developed using conservative measures and reviewing past trends of what was spent in past years. Aside from questions regarding the above budget drivers, the Board and the Superintendent had additional discussions including contractual issues/obligations, textbook requests, community engagement, supplies/materials requests, technology, virtual classrooms/online courses, SRBI salary, nutritional services, pupil services’ contracted health services/district physician. The Superintendent stated that the budget maintains what is already in place.

A question was asked from the Board whether an agreement was formed with the teachers’ union regarding the Chinese teachers. Dr. Carnemolla replied that the teachers’ union has agreed to a one year MOU to allow another year of Chinese instruction and that in school year 2019-2020 Chinese will only be offered in grades 6-12 by two teachers from the Confucius Institute.

It was also asked of the Superintendent to explain what the District provides versus what fundraising/booster groups provide. Dr. Carnemolla explained that if an item/equipment is a requirement of the student, then the District provides it. Booster clubs provide the above and beyond items/equipment or optional items that the team would like but not required. Also, generally, any personal gear that touches a student’s body or specific items the student prefers is usually bought by the student. When a student has a documented financial need the District will help meet those needs.

Board members asked for additional information regarding staff attendance in relation to what was budgeted for Kelly Services. Board members expressed their appreciation of the decrease in staff absences.

The Board thanked the superintendent and administrators for their efforts in building the budget, the precise budget information and presentation and for the administrators being available to answer questions at the evening's meeting. Chair Chute expressed her appreciation for the 1.96% number as the budget shows the effort of all.

The Superintendent reminded the Board that they will need to take action on the budget as the Town is expecting the budget information by January 25th.

V. Communication from the Public

There was no communication from the public.

VI. Adjournment

***Mr. Spivak moved, Mr. Indomenico seconded, to adjourn at 8:19 pm.
The motion carried 9-0-0.***

Minutes prepared by Shirley Moy, Board Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman 1/28/19

Board minutes are approved at the next regular monthly Board meeting, and any corrections to the minutes, if needed, will be made at that time.