



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Avon High School
Community Room
Wednesday August 8, 2018**

Attendance

Members Present: Jackie Blea, David Cavanaugh, Debra Chute, Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Jason Indomenico, Houston Putnam Lowry (arrived 6:09), Bogdan Oprica, Jay Spivak, Laura Young

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Dr. B. Heston Carnemolla, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Donna Rusack, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Teaching and Learning

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Debra Chute at 6:01 pm.

Ms. Blea moved, Ms. Young seconded, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the possible appointment of the Avon High School principal.

Motion carried 8-0-0 (Mr. Lowry was not yet present).

Invited into Executive Session were Superintendent, Dr. Carnemolla and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Rusack at 6:03 pm.

II. **Executive Session**

A. Discussion Concerning the Possible Appointment of the Avon High School Principal

Candidate A was invited to join Executive Session at 6:22 and left at 7:51pm.

Ms. Blea moved, Mr. Lowry seconded, to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:12 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

III. **New Business**

A. 18-19/01 Possible Action Concerning the Appointment of the Avon High School Principal

Chair Chute motioned, Mr. Lowry seconded, to appoint Michael Renkawitz as the Avon High School principal.

The motion carried 9-0-0.

Board Chair, Deb Chute, congratulated Mr. Renkawitz and commented that Mr. Renkawitz had proven himself since his arrival to the Avon Public Schools as a committed and talented member of the administrative team. Mr. Fleischman expressed his excitement of Mr. Renkawitz joining the high school team as an experienced administrator who has demonstrated commitment to the students and community, which is exactly the type of leader needed at the high school. Ms. Blea welcomed Mr. Renkawitz to the high school and expressed her excitement as well.

Mr. Renkawitz thanked the Board for the thoughtful questions the Board members asked which gave him further opportunity to reflect on this opportunity. Mr. Renkawitz expressed his own excitement to the new challenges and opportunities for new experiences and thanked the superintendent, assistant superintendent and his colleagues for their ongoing support. He is looking forward to expanding with Mr. Kimball, the Middle School principal, the 7-12 Connection model. Mr. Renkawitz expressed his sadness to leave Thompson Brook and his excitement to meeting those at the high school.

Mr. Lowry shared that although he had not had as much opportunity to work with Mr. Renkawitz, others have spoken very highly of him and looks forward to working more with him in partnership. The steady hand that Mr. Renkawitz presents, after a national search, is what made him rise to the top of the candidate pool and Mr. Lowry shared that sometimes you can look close to home to find what you're looking for, as in this case. Mr. Spivak added that Avon is very lucky to have Mr. Renkawitz given what he has done in the past with the students. The time is right to have Mr. Renkawitz join the high school. Ms. Young stated that Mr. Renkawitz's leadership style lends itself to bringing an opportunity to create an environment where all students' needs can be fully met; it is a great opportunity for the high school and the community. Ms. Young is excited about the 7-12 Connection and also for the fact that the freshmen, sophomore and junior class students already know Mr. Renkawitz having had him as their principal at Thompson Brook School. Mr. Indomenico expressed his regret that his son will not have Mr. Renkawitz as a principal this year at Thompson Brook School but is excited to know that he will have him as a principal in a couple of years. Mr. Indomenico was confident the Board picked the right person out of the pool of applicants and it was good to find the right choice was close to home. Mr. Indomenico is excited to see Mr. Renkawitz's work at the high school. Mr. Oprica added that he also is excited to work with Mr. Renkawitz. Mr. Renkawitz's strong leadership skills will be a great addition at the high school. Mr. Cavanaugh said that Mr. Renkawitz's leadership and track record is what got him to the top of the pool and what the Board is looking for at the high school. He will be a great addition.

Superintendent Carnemolla shared that after doing a national search and screening the applications, Mr. Renkawitz, as one of the candidates, rose to the top. The district was fortunate that, as mentioned, he was close to home. It became clear through the screening process that bringing Mr. Renkawitz to interview with the Board was the right choice. After having spent much time at the high school and within the community; speaking one on one with faculty, students, parents and community members; along with reading the feedback from the previous search done just last year it was clear Mr. Renkawitz fit the bill. Dr. Carnemolla expressed her pleasure to welcome Mr. Renkawitz to the high school. His administrative experience both inside and outside of Avon has given him the skills to create a positive culture and one of stability at the high school. Dr. Carnemolla is looking forward to working closely with Mr. Renkawitz and the staff to engage everyone at the high school and community to realize the vision to give students in Avon an excellent educational experience.

Dr. Carnemolla shared with the Board her concern that an administrator was lined up for Thompson Brook. The Superintendent expressed her appreciation to Ms. Rita Peretto, former assistant principal at Thompson Brook, who is now retired, for agreeing, to come and serve as interim principal as a search is conducted for the Thompson Brook principal, should Mr. Renkawitz be appointed. With this plan, there will be principals in place at both buildings when the school year begins.

Mr. Renkawitz added that the TBS staff and faculty have been doing outstanding work getting classrooms ready and the school shining but they will be relieved having a familiar face with Ms. Peretto, someone who had been at TBS even before his own arrival, will make for a smoother transition.

Mr. Fleischman moved, Ms. Blea seconded, to enter into a recess at 8:23 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lowery moved, Ms. Young seconded, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment contracts of the Director of Fiscal Affairs and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The motion carried 9-0-0.

Invited into Executive Session were Superintendent, Dr. Carnemolla and Shipman & Goodwin Attorney Jessica Ritter at 8:32 pm.

IV. Executive Session

B. Discussion Concerning the Employment Contracts of the Director of Fiscal Affairs and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Lowry moved, Mr. Indomenico seconded, to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 9:59 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

V. New Business

B. 18-19/02 Possible Action Concerning the Employment Contracts of the Director of Fiscal Affairs and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Chair Chute motioned, Mr. Lowry seconded, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to finalize and execute the employment contracts of the Director of Fiscal Affairs and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, subject to the parameters set by the Board.

The motion carried 9-0-0.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Lowery moved, Mr. Indomenico seconded, to adjourn at 10:00pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Shirley Moy, Board Recording Secretary

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeffrey S. Fleischman, Board Secretary

Jeffrey S. Fleischman, 8/16/18

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.