

# AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Patrick Clark Drive · Avon, MA 02322 · (508) 588-0230 · fax (508) 559-1081

## THE MISSION STATEMENT:

To educate all students to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens in a global society.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

*March 13, 2024*

**Regular School Committee Meeting 5:30 AMHS Media Center/ Zoom**

#### AVON SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Tracy Sheehan, Chair  
Anne Hagberg, Vice-Chair  
Maria Piccirilli, Secretary  
Claudia Lucia, Member-Not Present  
Paul Chapman, Member-Not Present

#### STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Brynn Gaynor and Gianna Rosa

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

Christine Godino

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**I.** The Meeting was called to order by the School Committee Chair, Tracy Sheehan, at 5:30pm.

**II. Student Advisory Update-Brynn Gaynor**

**Butler-** Butler School ASA had a very successful Bingo Night last Friday, attended by 175 members of the Butler Community. We thank our ASA for providing great events for the Butler Community to come and socialize at the school and spend time together as families.

We are excited to welcome families back to Butler for Family/Teacher conferences this Thursday and Friday. Thursday, we have evening conferences, and Friday is an early release day with afternoon conferences. Families should contact their child's teacher if you are still looking for a conference slot.

Butler teachers and students have been working hard to improve student writing this year. We are in the midst of administering the third writing benchmark, which teachers have been using to analyze student writing and adjust practice to meet student needs. Teachers commented that after our second benchmark, students have shown improvement with writing stamina, sounding out words, staying organized, being more confident, completing sentences, using correct punctuation, and adding details among other things, K-5. We are very proud of the work of our students and teachers to improve writing!

**AMHS-** The Class of 2025 is currently holding their March Basketball Tournament. It began last Friday and continued through this afternoon. It has been great to see so many students playing on teams and the vast amount of students and staff that came to support the students playing. Congratulations to the 9th grade class for winning the Tournament! Next year's tournament will continue to build on this year's success.

The student council is hosting Mr. Avon this Thursday afternoon. We have many staff members and students competing against one another and one lucky individual will be crowned Mr. Avon. We look forward to seeing the show tomorrow afternoon.

We will begin MCAS Testing this month with the 10th Grade ELA MCAS on March 26th and 27th. Then, on April 9th and 10th, all of our middle school students, grades 6-8, will take their ELA MCAS. Students have been working hard and are prepared to take the upcoming exams.

All Winter Sports will be recognized at the Winter Sports Awards Night coming up on March 20th at 6:00pm. We invite everyone to come support our student athletes and their hard work this winter season.

### **III. Superintendent Report**

The Superintendent and Business Manager, Kathy McDonald, attended a table top active shooter activity with the Town Department heads. Chief Partridge organized the meeting to stress the changes in the role of the fire department. A new Fire Chief has been hired. His name is David Charest and he is scheduled to begin on March 25, 2024.

The Superintendent will be bringing a vote for the Statement of Interest to MSBA for the Butler Elementary School to the next School Committee meeting. As you know the Board of Selectman also have to vote for the project and we will be sending the vote to them the beginning of next week.

### **IV. Student Opportunity Act-Laura Louko**

Laura Louko, Curriculum Coordinator, gave a presentation on the SOA. The SOA is an education reform act that requires districts to create a plan to ensure that every student receives the support and resources they need to succeed. For Butler Elementary School the target is improving the literacy skills for the high needs student population. The high needs category includes: students with disabilities, English Learners and low income students. For the Avon Middle School, the target is improving achievement for students with disabilities through high leverage instructional practices. In reviewing 2023 data for grades K-5, the DIBELS data shows that 71% of students on IEPs, 44% of ELL students and 34% of low income students were designated "at risk" in literacy. In 2023, the high needs students that met or exceeded ELA MCAS expectations are as follows: grade 3 (29%), grade 4 (23%), grade 5 (24%). The district's data in grades K - 5 shows the need for a focus on elementary literacy across all grade levels. The Butler School will focus on creating a more robust and accessible literacy program for all students. This year was the first year of using Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *into Reading* program. This curriculum is deemed as a highly qualified program according to the Department of Education's CURATE database and was selected by Avon through a focus group. The implementation process will continue with high quality professional development that focuses on: best practices in reading and writing and use of the program's screening, diagnostic and progress monitoring assessments and differentiation models. All general education teachers, special education teachers, specialists and building administration will participate in the professional learning. Data from Avon Middle-High School shows 20% of ninth grade students with disabilities passed all courses (2022), 65% of grade nine students with disabilities passed all courses (2023). MCAS data from 2023 shows that 33% of 10th grade students with disabilities met or exceeded expectations on the ELA MCAS and 17% met or exceeded expectations on the math MCAS. The MCAS data shows that

students with disabilities in grades 6-8 have low rates of meeting or exceeding expectations in Math and ELA as well. The district's data in grade 6 - 12 shows the need for a focus on improving instructional practices that are designed to support students with disabilities.

Avon Middle High School will use a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) process to implement academic supports and interventions that provide all students, particularly students with disabilities and multilingual learners, equitable access to deeper learning. A focus group will be formed to assess MTSS systems and structures currently in place and make recommendations to develop a more comprehensive MTSS model. The Student Support Team (SST) will address the academic, behavioral and social emotional components of MTSS. Professional development will begin with Universally Designed Lesson planning as a Tier I expectation. Additionally, professional learning for administrators, general education teachers, special education teachers, English Learner teachers and specialists will be provided on Tier II and Tier III interventions.

## **V. Curriculum Update- Laura Louko**

Laura Louko gave a MAP Data Update. Students in grade K - 8 are tested three times a year to measure achievement and growth. K -8 are assessed in Reading and Math. In grade 3, Language is added. In grades 5-8, Science is added. At the time of each assessment, achievement percentiles show us how our students compare to others in the same grade across the country at one point in time. Over the course of the year we can see growth percentiles showing us how our students grow compared to their grade level peers.

Teachers are provided with measurement and growth goals for students in these areas and can use this data to inform their practice and individually target student needs. The Winter achievement for the district went as follows.

**Reading:** 51st Percentile

**Language Usage:** 56th Percentile

**Math:** 53rd Percentile

**Science:** 52nd Percentile

A score in the 50th percentile is considered “Average,” meaning it is right in the middle of where students in that grade across the country score during that time of the year. Below is the Midyear growth for the district.

**Reading Growth:** 50th Percentile

**Language Usage Growth:** 53rd Percentile

**Math Growth:** 57th Percentile

**Science Growth:** 40th Percentile

Again a 50% is considered an “Average” growth score for participating students between the Fall and Winter testing. All students are assigned a RIT score in each tested area. RIT scores measure both achievement and growth. This is similar to marking a child's height on a growth chart. MAP sets goals for individual student achievement and growth based on their RIT Scores. At the elementary level, RTI teams at each grade meet every six weeks and use this data (in conjunction with other data) to cycle students into and out of intervention groups. At all levels K-8, teachers use the data to:

- address instructional needs
- differentiate for individual students in their classes,
- support conversations about individual student achievement
- set learning goals
- To narrow down teaching towards focus areas like: vocabulary acquisition, breaking down literary structures

Our future planning is to increase scheduled time during the school day for grade level and/or content level meetings to use MAP data to plan more targeted lessons, student groupings and assessments to improve growth in all content areas

To implement continued PD for teachers on using classroom level data as a means to engage students in their own goal setting and to support conversations with parents about individual student achievement.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS:**

A request to approve a fundraiser to raise money for NHS and NJHS through Meadow Farms Fundraising. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

A request from the AMHS Boosters to approve a Mother's Day Tulip Sale. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

A request from the AMHS Boosters to approve Spirit Wear sale fundraiser. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

A request to except donations from ASA for Butler's Outdoor Classroom. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

A request to ratify the Agreement between Avon School Committee and Avon Education Association. (AEA). Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Motion to appoint Interim Superintendent for Fiscal Year 25, subject to a negotiated agreement. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Motion to appoint negotiation authority to engage in contract negotiation with Lori Jodoin for the position of Interim Superintendent. Vote Item.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg                      Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

**VII. VOTE ON THE MINUTES OF:**

Regular School Committee minutes of February 28, 2024

Motion to waive the reading of the Regular School Committee minutes of February 28, 2024

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Motion to vote approve the Regular School Committee minutes of February 28, 2024

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

**VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- A. Policy Subcommittee Meeting at 5:00pm Thursday, March 14, 2024-Correction 6:15pm
- B. Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30pm Wednesday, March 27, 2024
- C. Regular School Committee Meeting and Budget Hearing at 5:30pm Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- D. Annual Town Meeting at 6pm Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at AMHS
- E. Regular School Committee Meeting at 5:30pm Wednesday, May 15, 2024

**IX. ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn.

Motioned by: Vice Chair Hagberg

Seconded by: Member Piccirilli

All in Favor: Aye Anne, Aye Maria, Aye Tracy. Vote passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm