

BOARD BRIEFS

Avoca School District 37

Dr. Kevin Jauch, Superintendent
2921 Illinois Road, Willmette, IL 60091
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Avoca Center Update

At the February 16, 2017 Board of Education (BOE) meeting, the district gave the Board an overview of the activity regarding Avoca Center. On January 13, 2017, the administrative team met with the Wilmette Park District administration to discuss considerations for a mutually beneficial option for the Avoca Center parcel of land. This meeting was a brain storming session allowing for open ideas to be shared between the school district and the park district. The district presented an updated action plan for Avoca Center at the March Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting. This plan was a timeline for pursuing three options to sell, raze, or pursue an agreement with the Wilmette Park District. Contributing factors for updating the timeline include the notification of termination of current Avoca Center tenant leases effective December 31, 2017 and the April 4, 2017 School Board elections.

New Board of Education Members Seated

At the April 4, 2017 elections, three new members, Dan Garbis, Gil Gibori and Jamie Taylor, were elected to the Board of Education (BOE), along with incumbent, Rick Zelinsky. On April 27th, the new Board was seated and took the Oath of Office. Mr. Zelinsky was elected Board President. Louise Dechovitz was voted Board Vice President. Dr. Kevin Jauch will resume his responsibilities as Board Secretary and Chief School Business Official, Beth Dever was appointed the authorized Agent for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

Food Service Provider Bid

The district typically requests bids for the food service provider on a five-year cycle for the purpose of reviewing the current services and needs of the district in comparison with other food service options available. Avoca has used Arbor Management, Inc. for over 20 years. The district hosted a pre-bid meeting on February 27, 2017. Three companies were represented; Arbor Management, Inc., Organic Life LLC: Smart Foodservice and Quest Food Management Services, Inc. The bid opening was held on March 13, 2017, and all three companies submitted a bid. The District reviewed the financials and narratives, conducted site visits in schools that are currently using the bidding food service companies and made reference checks. The Board will be asked to approve the Food Service bid in May.

Administrative Staffing 2017-2018

At the March 23, 2017 BOE meeting, the district presented the Board with their recommendations for Administrative Staffing for the 2017-2018 school year. The recommendation included offering Terry Sofianos a second one-year contract as the Director of Pupil Services and Beth Dever another three-year contract as the Chief School Business Official. The Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator position was new to Avoca for the 2016-2017 school year and was approved as a 100-day contract. The district indicated that due to the assertive nature of the 2017-2018 school year strategic action plan as it relates to curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development, there is either a need to expand the contract for the Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator to a 210-day contract or revisit the expectations for year two of the strategic plan. The increase in days would make the Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator a full time employee and would increase salary and benefits by approximately \$75,000. The Board will be asked to approve the Administrative contracts at the May BOE meeting.

Math Curriculum Recommendation

At the April 27, 2017 BOE meeting, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Jennie Winters, along with the members of the Avoca West Math Curriculum Committee (AWMCC) presented the Board with an overview of the work of the committee and their recommendation for the Avoca West Math Curriculum. The vision of the AWMCC is to develop a math program that consists of standards-based resources and practices, fosters a culture of mathematics learners as a community, provides guidance for students to grasp mathematical thinking, utilizes developmentally appropriate tools and strategies that apply to the real world and cultivates a coherent progression of student expectations that builds in complexity within and between grade levels. In order to meet their vision, AWMCC recommended the adoption of the ISBE Scope and Sequences, approval of the purchase of Bridges Mathematics teacher kits and intervention resources, and approval the Mathematics Curriculum Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan was highlighted in their presentation and can be found by visiting our website. The total anticipated cost will be \$64,100. The Board will be asked to approve the Math Curriculum Recommendation in May.

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Communication and Engagement Committee Recommendation

Superintendent, Kevin Jauch, along with members of the Communication and Engagement Committee (CEC) presented the Board with an overview of the work of the committee and their recommendations. The CEC was developed to identify the needs and wants of various constituent groups as applied to communication and engagement in the Avoca community and the best method for addressing them. The CEC determined that defining district expectations for communication, revamping the district website, creating a communications calendar and supporting social media endeavors would improve the communication in the district. The next steps are to formalize expectations in writing, create an implementation action plan, seek Board approval, distribute the expectations and action plan to those responsible for implementation, post the expectations and action plan to the website, and communicate the expectations and action plan to constituents. The Board will be asked to approve the CEC recommendations in May.

Strategic Plan Dashboard

On April 27, 2017, the district presented the Board with the new 2016-2021 Strategic Plan Dashboard, a new website that houses the goals and strategies of the current strategic plan and will give the community updates on the progress of the Strategic Plan. The future of the site will include an at-a-glance page to simplify the content as well as a more intuitive, advanced format for ease of navigation. To view the current dashboard, follow this link: <https://goo.gl/lbZxMS>

Technology Committee Update

At the April 27, 2017 BOE meeting, the district gave an update on the work of the Technology Innovation Committee (TIC). The TIC is a representative group comprised of instructional staff, support staff, parents, Board Members, administration and a technology consultant. The technology committee last met for their fourth meeting on April 26, 2017. The focus of this technology innovation strategic planning process is on improving the district's use of technology and innovative practices to enhance learning for both students and teachers. The vision of the TIC is to empower future-ready, globally competent, passionate learners by transforming learning through innovation, creativity, critical thinking and

digital citizenship, engage in communication within and beyond the Avoca community and optimize resources to elevate student and professional learning. As a result of this vision, the committee has developed four strategic priorities which are enhance instructional practices, explore new opportunities, prepare and support implementation and optimize investments in technology. These are the main foci of the current technology strategic plan and will be reviewed in 2020 when it is time to revisit the plan. The committee is still developing the goals for each of the strategic priorities. After the goals have been decided an action plan will be developed and organized into a visual tool to communicate the plan, progress and resources. The committee plans to present their recommendation to the Board at the June BOE meeting.

Key Action Items

2017-2018 Books/Materials, Technology and Transportation Fees

At the March 23, 2017 BOE meeting, the Board approved the student fees for the 2017-2018 school year as follows: Book/Materials- K -\$135; 1-4 -\$160; and 5-8 -\$175 (\$25 discount per child if paid by September 15, 2017). Technology- 1 Child \$175; 2 Children \$225; 3 Children \$275; and 4 or more Children \$325. A \$25 discount per family will be given if paid by September 15, 2017. Transportation- Both ways \$555 and one-way \$315. A discount will be given if more than one member of family is riding, also a \$75 discount per family is applied if fees are paid by June 30, 2017.

Staffing Plan for 2017-2018

At the March 23, 2017 BOE meeting, the Board voted to approve the Staffing Plan for the 2017-2018 school year. The approved staffing plan includes 51.02 FTE for Avoca West teaching staff, 13.5 FTE for Avoca West support staff, 27.93 FTE for Marie Murphy teaching staff and 9.19 FTE for Marie Murphy support staff. The Board approved this staffing plan with a contingency that an additional Kindergarten section at .75 FTE may need to be added as well as a .5 FTE EL position if enrollment increases.

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Key Action Items, Cont.

Athletic Director Stipend

At the March 23, 2017 BOE meeting, the Board approved the addition of an Athletic Director Stipend at 170 hours at a leadership rate of \$29.84 beginning with an equivalent of \$5,073 for fiscal year 2018.

Asbestos, Roof and Life Safety Bids

At the March 23, 2017 BOE meeting, the Board voted to approve the Summer 2017 life safety and facilities projects, which includes raising the walls to the roof deck to fire-seal between the rooms, asbestos abatement and upgrades to flooring and cabinetry in the fourth grade wing at Avoca West, and the final portion of roof replacement at Marie Murphy. These project bids were separated into 3 different requests: life safety and facilities, asbestos abatement and roof. The Board approved a bid from Chicago Commercial Construction to complete the life safety and facilities at a base bid of \$636,058 including an alternative to upgrade the flooring and cabinetry in room 25 at Avoca West bid at \$33,448 and an alternative to replace ceiling tile and frames in the entire construction area bid at \$92,255. DLA Architects LTD will oversee the projects at a fee of 10% of the construction costs.

The Board approved EHC Industries, Inc. to complete the asbestos abatement in the fourth grade wing at Avoca West with a base bid of \$38,500 and an alternative bid of \$5,850 to complete asbestos abatement in room 25. MKA Environmental will be managing the project at a fee of \$11,180.

The Board approved Malcor Roofing of Illinois, Inc. to complete the final portion of roof replacement at Marie Murphy School with a base bid of \$210,000. Tremco, Inc. will oversee the project for a fee of \$2,450 and a daily on-site rate of \$700.

Approval of 2017-2018 Board of Education Meeting Schedule

At the April 27, 2017 Special Organizational meeting, The Board Members agreed to hold regular monthly meetings on the second to last Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Joseph M. Porto Community Room at Marie Murphy School and the Committee of the Whole meetings on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Marie Murphy ITC. During the summer months, regular meetings will be held in the Marie Murphy ITC at 5:30 p.m.

The following exceptions were noted: COTW- Thursday, September 7, 2017, 5:30 p.m.; Public Hearing- Monday, September 25, 2017, 6:15 p.m.; Regular Board meeting- Monday September 25, 2017, 6:30 p.m.; COTW- Thursday, October 5, 2017, 5:30 p.m.; COTW- Thursday, January 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m.; and COTW- Thursday, April 5, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

A complete schedule of the meetings can be viewed by following this link:

<http://avoca37.org/boe/meetings/>

Dates to Remember

June 8, 2017-	Last Full Day of Student Attendance
June 14, 2017-	Summer School Begins
June 22, 2017-	4:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
July 20, 2017-	4:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
August 7, 2017-	5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole Meeting
August 24, 2017-	4:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
August 30, 2017-	First Day of Student Attendance

To view the Avoca School District 37 Calendar, please visit: <http://avoca37.org/district-calendars/>

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Summer 2017 Building and Grounds Projects

This summer we will continue to work on completing our life safety projects in the areas of roofing and fire safety. This work will be done during the months of June, July and August. Items identified in our life safety inspection report include the following: Replace roof at Marie Murphy over 7th/8th grade wing and ramp; extend hallway walls to underside of roof deck throughout both buildings; fire-seal wall penetrations throughout both buildings; point and patch interior masonry walls throughout both buildings. In addition to our life safety projects, we will also be working on the following facilities plan projects at Avoca West: 4th grade wing classrooms/storage, asbestos abatement, flooring and cabinet replacement; front hallway flooring replacement; Spanish and KIDS rooms - asbestos abatement, flooring and cabinet replacement. Both the 4th grade and ITC wings at Avoca West will be closed for most of the summer. The abatement will be done in June after school is out. The renovation work will be during July and August. Most hallways in both buildings will have work done throughout the summer so there will be limited access to rooms. Summer project work will be coordinated with summer school at Marie Murphy. Please be careful if you are in the buildings over the summer.



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