



The Board of Education Brief

Volume 4

January 17, 2013

This *Board Brief* is being provided to you as a means to keep you informed about the recent activities of the Board of Education. Each month, the Communications Subcommittee of the Board of Education will publish a brief and distribute it using the email communications systems of both the school district and that which connects to all town residents. Additionally, this brief will be posted under the Board of Education link at www.avon.k12.ct.us and will also be provided to local press contacts.

Meeting of January 15, 2013

The Board recognized the following "Avon Achievers":

Jan Cohen, Tim Feshler, Sue McCabe, Lori Sigan, and Lauren Torres, staff members of Pine Grove School, were recognized for their development and creation of two important school programs that highlight innovation and creativity – The Morning Walking club for students to exercise prior to the start of the school day and Piney's Performance Pieces to showcase student talent.

Ella Bernarduci, Halle Keane, Matthew Smith, and Veronica Suarez, students of Roaring Brook School, were recognized for their extraordinarily compelling essays on "What Veterans' Day Means to Me" and for the poised delivery of their essays during the annual Veterans' Day Program.

Students Jordan Lazinsk, of Avon Middle School, and Rebecca Rothstein, of Avon High School, were recognized for being selected this year's recipients of the Superintendent's Award as sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents due to their outstanding leadership abilities as well as service and excellence to their schools and community.

The Board received a presentation from Gary S. Mala, Superintendent of Schools, regarding Phase II and III of Safety and Security Recommendations. The recommendations were approved unanimously and were advanced to the Town Manager as parallel/additional requests for consideration by the Town Council of the 2013-2104 Capital Improvement Budget. A copy of the powerpoint presentation is available on the district website at www.avon.k12.ct.us. The recommendations approved are as follows:

AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO SAFETY AND SECURITY PROCEDURES IN ALL SCHOOLS

SUBMITTED TO THE AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION BY ITS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

JANUARY 15, 2013

The Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations participated in a state-wide security symposium on January 7, 2013, and a meeting of the Avon Town Manager, Avon Chief of Police,

Avon Director of Emergency Management, Chief of Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Director of the Avon Department of Public Works and district officials was held on January 9, 2013.

The following list of recommendations was compiled after a preliminary safety and security audit of all schools was led by the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations. Please note that this list represents one that has drawn upon the knowledge base, skills, training and experience of the heads of all of Avon's emergency departments working cooperatively and collaboratively with school district staff. This is and always will be a work in progress as we, as one community, work to preserve the safe and secure environments we are accustomed to frequenting.

Phase II Recommendations (As of January 15, 2013):

1. Maintain annual training in emergency response procedures for all faculty and staff including but not limited to substitute staff, volunteers, student teachers, coaches, advisors and after school program supervisors (district and non-district).
STATUS: Complete.
2. Maintain annual training in emergency response procedures for all students.
STATUS: Complete.
3. Implement use of identification cards for all faculty and staff, volunteers, visitors and student teachers.
STATUS: To be completed by February 1, 2013.
4. Maintain unarmed security at Avon High School on scheduled school days (during school hours and after).
STATUS: Complete.
5. Implement system whereby all classroom doors are maintained in a locked position at all times.
STATUS: Complete.
6. Request random exterior patrols of all schools by Avon Police Department.
STATUS: Process for making such requests complete.
7. Request unannounced random "walk-throughs" of all schools by Avon Police Department.
STATUS: Process for making such requests in place. Reported as existing practice.
8. Provide interior master key to all faculty and staff to allow staff access to all rooms designated (cost included in #12). Note: Duplication and distribution of keys commenced week of January 6, 2013.
STATUS: To be completed by February 1, 2013.
9. Install District anonymous "tip line" to facilitate proactive system for communications.
STATUS: To be completed by January 25, 2013.
10. Maintain "Frequently Asked Questions" section on District and Town Websites.
STATUS: To Be Completed by January 18, 2013.
11. Conduct Request for Proposals (bids) for Security Audit (communication systems, locking mechanisms and video surveillance systems) of all schools.
STATUS: Request specifications to be completed by January 25, 2013.

12. Rekey all exterior doors and identified interior rooms (“head end” rooms, utility closets, etc.) with new master key and log access to all master keys.

AHS	\$1,560
AMS	\$ 600
TBS	\$ 540
RBS	\$ 780
PGS	<u>\$ 780</u>

\$ 4,260 Note: Commenced week of January 6, 2013 within current budget.

Note: Alternate – Included schools on system used to secure Town Hall, Police Department, Fire House, DPW and Library (see #18 below).

STATUS: To be completed by February 1, 2013 using appropriated district operating budget funds.

13. Update radio system and propose in 2013-2014 Capital Budget Request (currently requested for CIP funding in 2014-2015). District-wide: \$58,000 * * Current CIP Request

STATUS: To be submitted to Board of Education for approval to submit to Town Manager and Town Council for consideration. Under review with local Department of Emergency Management and its external consultant.

14. Install audible alarms on all exterior doors.

AHS	\$15,002	(52 x \$288.50)
AMS	\$ 5,770	(20 x \$288.50)
TBS	\$ 5,193	(18 x \$288.50)
RBS	\$ 7,501	(26 x \$288.50)
PGS	<u>\$ 7,501</u>	(26 x \$288.50)
	\$40,967 **	** - New CIP Request for 2013-2014

STATUS: To be submitted to Board of Education for approval to submit to Town Manager and Town Council for consideration.

15. Install annunciator panels in all schools to provide visual monitoring of audible alarms on all exterior doors.

AHS	\$ 9,200
AMS	\$ 6,600
TBS	\$ 6,200
RBS	\$ 6,200
PGS	<u>\$ 6,200</u>
	\$34,400**

** - New CIP Request for 2013-2014 or 2012-2013

STATUS: To be submitted to Board of Education for approval to submit to Town Manager and Town Council for consideration.

16. Install primary locking hardware in each classroom to allow locking doors from inside.

AHS	\$11,250	(modify 75 existing doors x \$150)
AMS	\$20,000	(install 80 new door hardware x \$250)
TBS	\$ 0	(does not need new hardware)
RBS	\$12,500	(install 50 new door hardware x \$250)
PGS	<u>\$ 9,000</u>	(modify 60 existing doors x \$150)
	\$52,750 **	** - New CIP Request for 2013-2014

STATUS: To be submitted to Board of Education for approval to submit to Town Manager and Town Council for consideration.

17. Expand the presently installed video surveillance system at Police Department, Fire Stations, Department of Public Works Facility and Library to identified locations at all schools. Maintain recordings on district network servers for specified period of time.

AHS	\$ 7,800	(6 x \$1,300)
AMS	\$ 3,900	(3 x \$1,300)
TBS	\$ 3,900	(3 x \$1,300)
RBS	\$ 3,900	(3 x \$1,300)
PGS	\$ 3,900	(3 x \$1,300)
Software	<u>\$ 20,000</u>	
	\$ 43,400**	** - New CIP Request for 2013-2014

STATUS: To be submitted to Board of Education for approval to submit to Town Manager and Town Council for consideration.

Phase III Recommendations (In Process):

18. Secure pricing to equip all school facilities with the external keying system presently in place in all town operated buildings.

STATUS: Under review with Department of Public Works and its external consultant.

19. Secure pricing to install wire mesh glass at identified locations in all schools.

STATUS: To be reviewed via Request for Proposals (bids) for security audit of all schools.

20. Inform Town Manager of concerns raised by Parent Teacher Organization Leadership regarding lack of cellular service at Roaring Brook School. Intermittent service also present at Avon High School.

STATUS: Complete.

Plans not being considered and recommended at this time (requires consultation with emergency personnel and related consultants):

21. Secure pricing to install anti-ballistic glass at identified locations.
22. Secure pricing to maintain unarmed security at all schools.
23. Secure pricing to maintain armed police at all schools.
24. Secure pricing for maintaining manned external security kiosks at entrances to all school.

The Board unanimously approved the 2013-2014 School Calendar. It is now available on the district website at www.avon.k12.ct.us.

The Board unanimously approved Policy #6111 - School Calendar Setting and Graduation Date. This new policy combines two other Board policies into one; it provides the administration more flexibility with starting a school year before Labor Day and the use of scheduled vacation periods to make up necessary school days when needed. Policy #6111 is posted on the district website at www.avon.k12.ct.us.