



The Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NOT A REPORT GIVEN EACH MONTH

June 2020 - Six children will be graduating from 8th Grade at the Avalon Elementary school this month. AHLOA will participate and provide traditional awards.

May 2010 -The school budget was passed. The teacher contract is under negotiation. Repairs have been carried out to the heating and air-conditioning system.

The cost to send 25 students to Middle Township High School was \$388,422.

A new code of ethics booklet is under development.

March 2010 - State aid figures will be announced on March 17. Public hearings on the budget will be held.

The School Board election will be held on April 20 - John McCorriston and Monica Coskey are not running for re-election.

Feb 2010 - The Stone Harbor Board has decided not to join with Avalon. Future discussion on amalgamation was tabled.

Under the proposal no teachers would have lost jobs in an amalgamation. Stone Harbor has decided to try to recruit additional students from outside the Borough.

AHLOA has responded to the Avalon Board on the subject.

Jan 2010 - The Stone Harbor Board is still up in the air about the possibility of amalgamation of the two schools on the island, any vote was postponed until the January meeting. As a result, the Avalon Board has not yet voted on the topic.

Dec 2009 - More comments have been received from Stone Harbor than from Avalon on the topic of school amalgamation. The Stone Harbor Board of Education is in favor of retaining the status quo. The Avalon Board was to meet on December 16.

Oct 2009 - A comprehensive report was presented on the school consolidation study findings that were presented at a special joint Avalon/Stone Harbor School Board Meeting. The study presented four alternatives:

Do nothing and keep the schools as they are.

Develop a sending/receiving relationship between Avalon and Stone Harbor with the lower grades at Stone Harbor and the higher grades at Avalon.

Close Stone Harbor Elementary School and establish a new regional school for both Avalon and Stone Harbor in Avalon.

Combine with Middle Township for K-12.shed because of the small size of the school.

The advantages of each alternative were presented by the consultants who carried out the study. The Boards can elect to choose alternative 1 by doing nothing; choose alternative 2 by a School Board vote of each Board; choose alternative 3 by a referendum vote in each town; or choose alternative 4 by a referendum vote in Avalon, Stone Harbor and Middle Township.



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AHLOA has historically taken the position that the elementary schools of Avalon and Stone Harbor should combine, but has not taken a position on any of the newly presented alternatives. Further discussion by those present did not yield a consensus. Jim Thatcher made a motion that a draft written position be presented at the November AHLOA meeting. The motion was seconded by Abner Dowdell. The motion was passed with one abstention - Mickey Coskey (who is a member of the Avalon Board of Education) recused herself from the vote. B A schedule has been issued for use of the school facilities during the summer. Many activities have been planned.

Sept 2009 In July it was stated that Avalon students were poor in math and science. The opposite is true; Avalon is in the top 5%, but the results could not be published because of the small size of the school.

The results of the school amalgamation study have been published. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment at a meeting on October 7.

Because of the length of the Special Presentations there was not time for additional Committee Reports.

July 2009 Two studies on school amalgamation have been carried out by the School Boards of Avalon and Stone Harbor. Copies of these have been requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOA). There has been no response. It was proposed by Jim Thatcher, seconded by Ab Dowdell, that AHLOA go to counsel to get guidance to get this information under the FOA.

June 2009 - Although AHLOA has made a request under FOI for data on the studies carried out by the Stone Harbor and Avalon oards of Education regarding school amalgamation no information has been forthcoming

May 2009 - The budget was passed by a 2 to 1 margin. The average cost per student includes the costs of the Library loans, and does not include the money paid by the library to the school.

The Association needs to keep the question of consolidation in focus. It is not know when the results of the consultant's report on consolidation will be available.

March 2009 - The position of AHLOA is to look at consolidation of the Avalon and Stone Harbor schools. The School Boards have conducted two studies relating to personnel and other situations. The preliminary results have been reviewed in closed session. Full data should be revealed shortly.

January 2009 - Procedurally the studies on school consolidation are on track and the reports could be out in March. Letters are being prepared on the student/substitute teacher ratio. Qualified substitute teachers are needed and are sometimes difficult to obtain. Given the low student to pupil ratio the question has ore comments have been received from Stone Harbor than from Avalon on the topic of school amalgamation. The Stone Harbor Board of Education is in favor of retaining the status quo. The Avalon Board was to meet on December 16.

A question been raised as to whether classes could be combined if necessary. It has also been suggested that the Cape May County Superintendent of Schools be approached about the feasibility of creating a clearing house for teachers at the County level to enable competition to occur.



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December 2008 - The Boards of Education of Stone Harbor and Avalon are waiting for information on the studies on consolidation. No further information is available at this time. The annual audit of the Avalon school was essentially flawless.