



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER ALBRIZIO

Science teacher Alexandria Dougherty [center] received a \$2,005 mini grant during last week's board of education meeting from the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation. Presenting the check were foundation board members Michelle Gioia [from left], Kathleen Bellezza, Peggy Bonanno, foundation secretary, and Tess Nielsen, foundation president.

Teacher receives mini grant from education foundation

BY AMANDA STONE
THE COAST STAR

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — The new year stepped off on the right foot for one teacher in the school district, who became one of the first benefactors of the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation.

Science teacher Alexandria Dougherty was awarded a \$2,005 mini grant from the newly-formed foundation during the Avon Board of Education meeting held last Wednesday.

The mini grant will go toward the purchase of Lego Mindstorms NXT software, which, in return, will help Mrs. Dougherty launch a robotics course in the school.

The mini-grant program received five applications, according to Tess Nielsen, president of the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation, with Mrs. Dougherty's selected as the winner.

"We opened the program at the beginning of the school year in September," Mrs. Nielsen said. "We were looking for any kind of project."

The foundation initially planned on awarding a \$1,000 grant, however, decided to increase the amount to \$2,000 after reviewing Mrs. Dougherty's application.

"We thought it was such a good project," Mrs. Nielsen said.

Ken Child, board of education president, thanked the foundation for their donation.

"On behalf of the board of education, this is something we looked forward to when you started the foundation," Mr. Child said. "We look forward to many more of these to come."

The Avon-by-the-Sea

Education Foundation was created in January 2011, began as a grassroots movement by local residents who wanted everyone living in the area to have the chance to learn and grow — not just students attending Avon Elementary School.

The nonprofit's mission is to raise money and secure grants to support education, as well as enrichment programs for both students and adults in the community.

To learn more about the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation or to donate, visit its website at www.avonbytheseafoundation.org.

For any questions about the foundation, email info@avonbytheseafoundation.org.

Amanda Stone covers Avon-by-the-Sea for The Coast Star. She can be reached at astone@thecoaststar.com or 732-223-0076 Ext 23.



SPOTLIGHT ON Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation

Founded
January 2011

Members
11

Mission
To promote educational outreach through grants and private donations targeted toward fundamental educational programming

Website
avonbytheseafoundation.org

Board of education swears in incumbents, selects leadership

Votes cast during last week's meeting keep status quo in Avon

BY AMANDA STONE
THE COAST STAR

AVON-BY-THE-SEA — The board of education here held its reorganization meeting last week, where familiar faces were sworn in to new, three-year terms.

Incumbents Laura Davey and Barbara DeLuca were sworn in during the board's meeting last Wednesday, after they were the only two candidates to run in last year's election for the two

available seats.

Mrs. Davey took roughly 53 percent of the vote, with 631 votes, while Mrs. DeLuca took roughly 47 percent of the vote, with 560 votes, according to the board of education.

Mrs. DeLuca, who is a retired school nurse, has lived in Avon-by-the-Sea for the last 13 years.

Mrs. Davey, who is currently employed by the Bank of New York Mellon in New York City, where she is a compliance manager, has resided in the borough for 23 years.

The board of education also voted on its leadership,

including president and vice president positions, during its meeting last week.

The board members voted for Ken Child to serve as president and Robert Shafer to serve as vice president — the same rolls they both held in 2012.

Mrs. Davey and Mrs. DeLuca, in addition to Mr. Child, Mr. Shafer, Laura Etienne, Andrea Magovern and John Magrini, will comprise the seven-member board of education in 2013.

Amanda Stone covers Avon-by-the-Sea for The Coast Star. She can be reached at astone@thecoaststar.com or 732-223-0076 Ext 23.

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