

**Avonworth School District**  
**258 Josephs Lane**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**Avonworth Board of School Directors**  
**Minutes – General Purpose Meeting – January 25, 2021**  
**Avonworth School District – Virtually**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY (Roll Call Taken & Verified by Voices & Video):**

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson,  
Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Danielle White

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Kristin Thompson

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.	Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary
Mr. Komol Kotwal, Parent	Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Revesz, Teacher	Ms. Alicia Mielnicki, Parent
Ms. Laura Dzadovsky, Parent	Ms. Courtney Kuzma, Parent
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent	Mr. Ken Kalb, Parent
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent	Ms. Abby Van Korlaar, Parent
Ms. Siobahn Gallaher, Parent	Ms. Jennifer Yoder, Parent
Ms. Beth Hendrickson, Parent	Ms. Jamie Sundo, Parent
Ms. Ellen Cernich, Parent	Ms. Torri Robinson, Parent
Mr. Dave Farrah, Parent	Ms. Melissa Loch, Parent
Ms. Lisa Stevens, Paraprofessional	Ms. Becky Marszalek, Paraprofessional & AESPA President
Ms. Stephanie Wetzel, Parent	Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent
Ms. Jenny Anderson, Parent	Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent
Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent	Ms. Natalie McMurtrie, Parent
Mr. Brian Fashion, Teacher	Ms. Kim Gallucci, Parent
Ms. Mallory Accamando, Teacher	Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Teacher
Mr. Kyle Petak, Community Member	Ms. Laura Ludwig, Parent
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent	Ms. Jaime Mary, Parent
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent	Ms. Heather Sabala, Parent
Mr. Clarence Reagan, Parent	Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher & AEA President
Ms. Julia Udovich, Teacher	Ms. Mary Dening, Parent
Ms. Rebecca Pietrusinski, Parent	Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent
Mr. Paul Pietrusinski, Parent	

**Call to Order**

*Board President, Ms. Vicki Carlson, called the General Purpose Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.*

**PERSONNEL – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** K. Monti; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-5:

1. To approve an extension of **Ms. Chelsey Billick’s** assignment as a Day to Day Substitute at the Primary Center at \$150/day through January 29, 2021. *(Ms. Billick was previously approved through January 21, 2021.)* *DTD Sub Extension*
  
2. To hire the following as Long Term substitutes for the Primary Center commencing February 1, 2021 through June 10, 2021, pending requirements of the District, at the wage and benefits as shown on the attached: *APC LTSS*
  - A. **Ms. Chelsea Billick – Grade 1**
  - B. **Ms. Miranda Broniak – Specials**
  - C. **Ms. Alexis Cogis - Kindergarten**
  - D. **Ms. Ellen DeFrances – Grade 2**
  - E. **Ms. Abby Gonzales – Grade 2**
  - F. **Ms. Marisa Kreider – Kindergarten**
  - G. **Ms. Margo Marsh – Grade 1**
  - H. **Ms. McKenna Robinson – Grade 1**
  - I. **Ms. Gracie Wiles – Grade 2**
  
3. To hire the following as Long Term substitutes for the Elementary School commencing February 1, 2021 through June 10, 2021, pending requirements of the District, at the wage and benefits as shown on the attached: *AES LTSS*
  - A. **Ms. Juliana Gidaro**
  - B. **Ms. Elise Wilson**
  - C. **Ms. Lynn Martucci**
  
4. To approve **Ms. Anastasia Simpson** as a Long Term Grade 4 Substitute retroactive to December 4, 2020 through June 10, 2021, with benefits, pending requirements of the District. *LTS Gr. 4*
  
5. To approve **Mr. Garrett Vulcano** as a Paraprofessional commencing February 4, 2021, according to the current AESPA contract. Clearances are on file in the District office. *Paraprofessional*

*Mr. Brandt asked for confirmation that no benefits were attached to the hiring of the Day to Day Substitutes. Dr. Ralston said that is correct, there are no benefits.*

*Dr. Ralston referred to Item #3 and said we continue to interview elementary school candidates. We needed three in order to bring students back in Grade 3 and for Science and Social Studies synchronous instruction for Grades 4 and 5. Interviewing continues. We hope to identify two more candidates tomorrow.*

*Dr. Ralston referenced #4 and said this hire is for the leave of one of our teachers. Anastasia Simpson is working in the district for a leave for a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and will fill in for another 4<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher who will be going on leave when the other leave ends.*

*Dr. Ralston referenced #5 and said Garret Vulcano may be familiar because he is currently our Wrestling Coach. His hire will be an advantage because he will be here in the high school building and will be available for students.*

*Mr. Brandt asked if we anticipate issues with retention with the long term substitute positions. Dr. Ralston said he would hope that with our offering a per diem salary and benefits we will get a commitment for the rest of the school year. We have offered a competitive salary. Ms. Cheng referenced a recent New York Times article about the shortage of substitute teachers everywhere. Mrs. White asked how the day to day subs work and if ESS sets the day to day substitute rates. Dr. Ralston said we have adjusted our sub rates based on the things Ms. Cheng just mentioned. The day to day subs we have at a certain rate because they could be in a different role each day. It's when they do lesson plans, grading, and communication with parents that the rate increases. In those instances we would bump them up to a higher rate.*

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – P. Stewart/S. Bolain, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** S. Bolain; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-2:

- 1.** To declare 28 copies of *The Radical Write*” textbook as obsolete and to donate/dispose of accordingly. This textbook was used in Journalism 1 curriculum through the early 2010’s and is now obsolete.
- 2.** To declare 11 copies of the AP Style Guide for 2017 as obsolete and to donate/dispose of accordingly. New guides are heavily updated each year by Associated Press to reflect trends in language changes, social views and how journalism is consumed.

*Obsolete Textbooks*

*Obsolete AP Guides*

### **Old Business**

*No Old Business*

### **New Business**

*Mrs. Monti announced that two Avonworth students are AWBCC Students of the Month: John Pfleuger for Automotive Collision Technology and Corissa Otstot for Sports Medicine.*

*Discussion regarding the need to authorize Dr. Ralston to offer employment to additional substitute candidates who are currently being interviewed and ratify their hire at the February meeting. Mr. Blaser questions the rates. Dr. Ralston said they are planning to discuss the rates tomorrow to determine if we need to adjust those rates. Mr. Waters said the rates are in line with the AEA contract. Mrs. Bolain asked if we need special rates through the pandemic. Mr. Stewart said we could authorize to alter the sub teaching rates.*

**MOTION FROM THE FLOOR:**

**Motion:** B. Blaser; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the following:

To grant the Superintendent temporary authority to extend offers of employment to hire Long Term Substitutes to carry out and maintain plans and to grant this authorization through February 28, 2021. Hirings to be ratified by the Board at the March 1 Board meeting.

*Supt. Authority to  
Hire LTSs*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the General Purpose Meeting at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary