

**Avonworth School District  
258 Josephs Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Avonworth Board of School Directors  
Minutes – Regular Meeting – August 14, 2017  
Avonworth School District – Board Room  
7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. Jeff Carraway** (*arrived 7:40 PM*), **Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Mr. Eric Templin** (*via phone until his arrival at 8:10 PM*), **Mr. David Oberdick**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Kristin Thompson**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent  
Dr. Ken Lockette, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management  
Mr. James Berent, Esquire, Andrews & Price LLC  
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal  
Mr. David Como, School Counselor  
Mr. Aaron Pellicano, School Counselor  
Ms. Rachael MacKenzie, Parent  
Mr. John Turbidy, T.O.A.  
Mr. Lukas Helsel, High School Student  
Mrs. Beate Helsel, Parent  
Mr. Jay Helsel, Parent  
Nancy White, *The Citizen*  
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

**Call to Order**

*Board President, David Oberdick, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.*

**Visitors' Comments**

*No Visitor Comments*

*High School Junior, Lukas Helsel, was recognized for being selected as a member of the 2017 NAFME All-National Honor Ensemble (Orchestra – Trombone). He will travel to Disney in Orlando, Florida in November to participate in the Ensemble Program.*

*Mr. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal, discussed the New Tech Network program being piloted by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. He reviewed the training he and staff members attended in San Jose, CA and St. Louis, MO over the summer and explained the program goals. The New Tech Network program focusses on literacy and follows a model that is personalized to the needs of the school. Students will be assessed on how they do in a group and not the group as a whole. Mr. Hall also briefly discussed the ECHO system which is a*

*learning management system the middle school is using which is specifically designed for PBL.*

*Dr. Ralston noted we are connecting students to things they are passionate about.*

*Ms. Dwulit, Mr. Como, and Mr. Pellicano provided an update on the middle and high school guidance offices. Mrs. Levis will handle college and career for grades 7-12, Mr. Como will be responsible for the academic, social, and emotional needs for grades 10-12, and Mr. Pellicano will be responsible for the academic, social, and emotional needs for grades 7-9.*

Mr. Oberdick read the following:

- *The Athletic Committee met August 7, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss athletic matters.*
- *The Curriculum Committee met this evening at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss curriculum matters.*

*Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent*

*Dr. Ralston wrote a welcome back letter to parents/guardians for publication in The Citizen. Dr. Ralston reported that twelve new teachers have been hired, 600 computers were distributed last week, there has been a lot of professional development for teachers, and 80% of teachers have moved classrooms. He reported that last week, elementary Principal, William Battistone, successfully defended his doctorate. Dr. Ralston invited all Board members to lunch and the opening meeting on Friday, August 25 beginning at 11:30 AM at the Primary Center.*

*Report of Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Ken Lockette*

*Dr. Lockette reported that the new and second year teachers met with their mentors today. He discussed meetings that have occurred regarding diversity. High School Science curriculum has been written and Dr. Lockette created a tutorial that he will share with the Board so they can access it. During tonight's Curriculum Committee meeting, members met with Professor David Cosby of Carnegie Mellon University to discuss opportunities in computer science and programming. Edline will no longer be supported as of December. Dr. Lockette and Ms. Carlson are working on a new website and meetings have been scheduled with vendors. Website will be ADA compliant and have a much requested search button.*

*Report of the Solicitor – Mr. James Berent, Esq.*

*No report at this time.*

*Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Mr. Jeff Carraway/Mr. Beau Blaser*

*No report at this time. The next AWBCC meeting is on August 24.*

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2017 and the General Purpose Meeting of July 19, 2017 (Voice Vote)

### **FINANCE – J. Carraway/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** J. Carraway; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.4 and items 2-11:

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for July, 2017, beginning with Check #42120 and ending with Check #42282 in the total amount of \$837,076.60. *General Fund*
- 1.2 Ratify the July, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$771,423.56. *Payroll*
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for June, 2017. *Treasurer’s Rpt.*

### **ADDENDUM ITEM (1)**

- 1.4 Approve Capital Project Fund payments of \$2,090.00. *Capital Project Pmt.*
- 2. To approve the EITC letter of support for Community College of Allegheny County, retroactive to July 20, 2017. *EITC CCAC*
- 3. To approve the Kennywood School Picnic Agreement for Saturday, May 12, 2018. *Kennywood*
- 4. To approve **Dr. Ken Lockette** to write an AIU Career Readiness Mini-Grant (State) Mini Grant in the amount of \$5,000 retroactive to July 28, 2017 and payment of \$75.00 for writing the grant. *Mini Grant*
- 5. To enter into an agreement with Human Services Administration Organization to provide services for the Student Assistance Program for the 2017-2018 School Year. *SAP Agreement*

### **ADDENDUM ITEMS (6)**

- 6. To amend the motion of May 8, 2017 approving Plan Con J to include the audit certification as attached. *Plan Con J*
- 7. To approve the revised NASTS (Northern Area Substitute Teacher Service) Coordinator Terms of Employment. *NASTS*
- 8. To approve the renewal of the Contract of Service by and between the Pennsylvania Educators’ Clearinghouse, PA-Educator.net and the Avonworth School District. The term of this agreement is one (1) year commencing July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 with a user fee of \$1,500.00 *as attached.* *PAEducators’ Contract of Svc.*

**Finance, continued**

9. To approve the Title I Non-Public Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for non-public services during the 2017-2018 School Year at a cost of \$2,937.00 (to be paid using allocated Title I funds). *Title I Agreement*
  
10. To approve the Title IIA Non-Public Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for non-public services during the 2017-2018 School Year at a cost of \$1,616.07 (to be paid using allocated Title II funds). *Title IIA Agreement*
  
11. To approve **Dr. Scott Miller** to write an Opportunity for Prenatal-Third Grade (P-3) Prototype Stipend (State) grant offered by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) in the amount of \$6,000 and payment of \$85.00 for writing the grant. *Grant*

**PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/D. Oberdick, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-5:

1. To move to record in the Minutes of this meeting the following Employee has attained Professional Employee status and will be issued a Professional Employee contract as per PA School Code #1108 and #1121:  
**Ms. Alisha Fahlgren.** *Prof. Emp. Status*
  
2. To approve **Ms. JoAnne Bova** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Full Time Speech Therapist for the 2017-2018 School Year, commencing August 16, 2017, at Category M, Step 2, with benefits, according to the AEA contract. *Temp. Prof. Emp.*
  
3. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Ashley Kelley**, paraprofessional, retroactive to June 2, 2017. *Resignation*

**ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)**

4. To approve the following as Paraprofessionals for the 2017-2018 School Year commencing August 21, 2017, at a salary according to the AESPA contract, with benefits, pending requirements of the District: *(See web folder)*  
A. **Ms. Melinda Weinzierl**  
B. **Ms. Deeptha Cowlagi**  
C. **Mr. John Foster**  
D. **Ms. Alyssa Arnold** *Para Hires*
  
5. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Melissa Petrick**, Paraprofessional, retroactive to August 11, 2017. *Resignation*

*Dr. Ralston feels a seventh section of Kindergarten is needed due to the enrollment numbers. There are presently 23 students per Kindergarten class and we had wanted to keep the number to 20-22 per class. He feels hiring a Literacy Coach should be put off at this time. We are contracted with Pitt to provide literacy and instruction for Grades 3-6. A Literacy Coach is important but Dr. Ralston feels it's important for kindergarten students get off to a good start. In one to two months, Mr. Stewart would like to revisit hiring a Literacy Coach. Dr. Ralston met with a Kindergarten teaching candidate this afternoon and, if approved, she can begin work tomorrow. She was the runner up during teacher interviews over the summer.*

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to create a 7th section of Kindergarten commencing with the 2017-2018 School Year.

*Create 7<sup>th</sup> Section of Kindergarten*

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to hire **Ms. Tracy Kreppel** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Kindergarten Teacher commencing August 15, 2017, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District.

*Teacher Hire*

### **ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/E. Templin, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-6:

1. To approve the Ross-West View Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Agreement for the 2017- 2018 School Year at a cost of \$750.00. *EMS Agreement*
  
2. To create an additional PM Bus Duty supplemental position at the Elementary School beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year. *PM Bus Duty*
  
3. To change the title of Grade 9 Team Leader to Grade 9 Grade Level Chair beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year. *Gr 9 Team Leader Title Change*
  
4. To accept the resignation of Ms. Natalie Barkovich as Grade 9 Class Sponsor retroactive to July 31, 2017. *Gr. 9 Chair Resig.*

### **ADDENDUM ITEMS (4)**

5. To hire **Mr. Ahmed Affaneh** as Assistant Middle School Boys' Soccer Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year pending coaches' training. *Asst MS Soccer Coach*

**Athletics & Activities, continued**

- 6. To create an additional Girls on the Run supplemental position at the Elementary School beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year. *Girls on the Run*
- 7. To approve **Mr. Doug Haskins** as the Grade 9 Grade Level Chair for the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Gr. 9 Chair*
- 8. To approve **Ms. Kathy Galecki** as Middle School Literary Magazine Sponsor for the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Lit. Mag. Sponsor*

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – E. Templin/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** E. Templin; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-3:

- 1. Approval to advertise for bids for the LGI project at the Middle/High School campus. *LGI Bid Advertisement*
- 2. To declare the following High School Biology items obsolete and unusable and that they be disposed of: *Obsolete Biology Items*
  - a. One 100 g. aquarium with equipment, pumps, and stand
  - b. One 6-foot shelf/metal rack on wheels
- 3. To increase the cost of a student parking permit from \$5.00 to \$25.00. *Parking Pass*

**POLICY – V. Carlson/K. Monti, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** K. Monti; **Second:** P. Stewart; to approve items 1(a) and 1(c) **Motion amended** by D. Oberdick to include item 1(c) being approved in form subject to final edits for clarity. **Second:** P. Stewart. **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1(a) and 1(c) as stated.

- 1. The following handbooks for the 2017-2018 School Year: *Handbook Approvals*
  - a) Avonworth High School Personal Pathways Program Handbook
  - ~~b) Avonworth School District Faculty Handbook~~
  - c) Avonworth School District Student Handbook and Discipline Code

*Dr. Ralston is meeting with AEA representatives tomorrow to review the Faculty Handbook. This item will be placed for vote on the September agenda.*

**Policy, continued**

2. A minimum of four (4) Ohio Township canine visits throughout all areas of District facilities, including parking lots and one visit to the elementary school and primary center during the 2017-2018 School Year

*Canine Visits*

*Discussed canine searches before field trips being separate from canine visits.*

*Discussed the drug and alcohol piece of the Student Handbook. Student discipline infractions do not carry over into the next school year but can be considered if discipline is ongoing.*

**Old Business**

*Last week Mr. Oberdick has asked the Board to think about random drug testing and breathalyzer testing for students. He feels we need to be more proactive. Discussed beginning drug testing next school year.*

**New Business**

*No New Business.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:10 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary