

**Avonworth School District  
258 Josephs Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Avonworth Board of School Directors  
Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 9, 2017  
Avonworth School District – Board Room  
7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Mr. Eric Templin (*arrived 8:30 PM*), Ms. Kristin Thompson**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent  
Dr. Ken Lockette, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management  
Mr. William Andrews, Esquire, Andrews & Price LLC  
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services  
Ms. Nicole Levis, High School Counselor  
Ms. Samantha Abate, Middle School Teacher  
Mr. Terrence Johnson, T.O.A. Sewickley Ridge  
Mr. John Turbidy, T.O.A. Sewickley Ridge  
Mrs. Lisa Nutter, Parent  
Mr. Ryan Nutter, Parent  
Nancy White, *The Citizen*  
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

**Call to Order**

*Board President, David Oberdick, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.*

**Recess**

**Motion:** P. Steward; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice  
Vote to recess to an Executive Session at 7:33 P.M. to discuss student discipline.

**Reconvene**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:20 PM.

**Visitors' Comments**

*No Visitor Comments*

*Mr. Oberdick read the following; The Athletic Committee met October 2, 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 Student Representative – Ms. Megan Robbbaro

*Ms. Robbbaro reported the high school students are preparing for Homecoming this weekend with events such as Spirit Week, PJ Day, and Luau Day. Student Council fundraisers include Chick-fil-A sandwich orders and a monthly themed raffle. Student Council Present and Vice Presidents attended a Student Council Conference to learn ideas from other schools. They decided to have a Birthday Board, College/Future Signing Day, a Mix-It Up Day during lunches, and postcards for teachers to send home to parents noting their child's achievements. They will also make a video highlighting the high school activities and clubs that are available for students.*

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

*Dr. Ralston participated in the AIU's Professional Development for Superintendents in Hershey and went to Harrisburg for advocacy work with legislators. Discussions included a good sound funding system for schools, looking at mandates some schools have to deal with, i.e., PSEER's. A key piece emphasized communication with us when new policies are enacted to get a sense of the impact it will have on school districts. Dr. Ralston and the superintendents spent time at Central York School District to hear more about programs discussed in a previous visit, including how we can make schools more meaningful to students. A hot topic of discussion was changing school start times.*

*Dr. Ralston recognized Mr. Pat Stewart for his 12 years of service on the School Board and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.*

*Dr. Ralston introduced Ms. Nicole Levis, High School College and Career Counselor, who provided an update on College and Career counseling. Through a grant, Mrs. Levis recently attended a conference in Boston where she toured college campuses and networked with college counselors. Mrs. Levis held a Penn State application day last week for seniors who could apply or finish their application to Penn State and Penn State waived the \$65 application fee. 35 students applied. She is working with other colleges on a similar application day with application fees being waived. Ms. Levis will discuss Naviance in Mr. Pastore's 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Mr. Stewart asked how to prepare parents who are experiencing the college process for the first time. Mrs. Levis holds Junior class meeting to instruct them on what to do to apply to colleges. Mr. Stewart thinks talks should start in the middle school. Mr. Oberdick suggested a FAQ sheet be written for parents.*

Report of Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Ken Lockette

*Dr. Lockette said the Diversity program trainers shared with the Diversity Committee what they are doing. Dr. Christine Herring will train secondary staff during the next two-hour delay day with Ms. Dwulit and Mr. Hall. They will take a global approach to cultural and global competency. Dr. Lockette said one more vendor meeting will be held this week in the search to replace Edline. Virtual backpack for elementary students and a search button are features we are looking at. Plans are to rollout the new website over the summer. We are looking at increasing our College in High School courses and are meeting with the different departments.. Additionally we are looking at offering at least one full on-line course – more than likely through English and Social Studies electives. Next week*

college counselors will come in to talk about transcripts and what looks good on them. Dr. Lockette invited Board members to the Elementary Library Grand Opening the evening of October 18. He will provide further details. He add that Mrs. Osborn has done an incredible job.

Report of the Solicitor – Mr. William Andrews, Esq.

Mr. Andrews provided a Status Update on real estate tax assessment appeals. For 2017 there are 98 residential appeals of which 31 31 decisions were received and one commercial appeal. 2016 appeals are coming to an end with \$106,000 in additional taxes received and five residential and two commercial appeals remaining.

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

Mr. Blaser said at the last AWBCC meeting they met the new teachers for Vet Tech and Sports Medicine. Automotive collision technician, automotive technician, carpentry, and HVAC are now accredited classes. AWBCC has updated and increased their wireless capacity. Upcoming events include working with McCandless Police Department on an active shooter program on October 9 and Open House is October 12 from 5:30-8:30 PM. There is no AWBCC JOC meeting in October. The next meeting is November 16.

**Motion:** J. Carraway; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the Work Session of September 5, 2017 and the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017. (Voice Vote)

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve all items as presented on the Agenda and Addendum.

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

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|---|---|
| <p><b>1.1</b> Ratify payment of General Fund bills for September, 2017, beginning with Check #42478 and ending with Check #42726 in the total amount of \$7,504,024.60. <i>Note: includes \$7 million check to PSDLAF for District investment.</i></p> <p><b>1.2</b> Ratify the September, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$1,074,568.96.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Treasurer’s Report for August, 2017.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for August, 2017, beginning with Check #2484 and ending with Check #2490 in the total amount of \$17,849.78.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Approval of Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$59,109.36.</p> <p><b>1.6</b> Approval of Year-end 2016-2017 Budget transfers as attached.</p> | <p><i>General Fund</i></p> <p><i>Payroll</i></p> <p><i>Treasurer’s Report</i></p> <p><i>Fd. Svc. Fund</i></p> <p><i>Capital Project Fund</i></p> <p><i>Budget Transfers</i></p> |
| <p><b>2.</b> To approve <b>Dr. Ken Lockette</b> to write a Studio A 2018: Designing Creative PBL Regional Teacher Summer Institute foundation grant in the amount of \$58,590 retroactive to September 25, 2017 and payment of \$115.00 to Dr. Lockette for writing the grant.</p>  | <p><i>Grant</i></p>   |

**Finance, continued**

3. To approve application for alternative education for disruptive youth program placement with Community School West for the next two school years and a non-refundable application fee of \$400, retroactive to September 25, 2017. *Comm. School West*
4. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** and **Mr. Brandon Gary** to attend the League of Innovative Schools Fall Meeting and EdSurge Fusion Conference in South San Francisco, CA October 31-November 3, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$3,100.00. A portion of the expense will be reimbursed by the League of Innovative Schools. *Conference*
5. To accept the proposal from Neopost for the renewal of the 5 year lease agreement for the District mail machines (a total of 4) at a cost of \$376.45/month. *Neopost*

**ADDENDUM ITEM**

6. To accept the award of \$6,000.00 for the Opportunity for Prenatal-Third Grade (P-3) Prototype Stipend (State) grant offered by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and payment to **Dr. Scott Miller** in the amount of \$85 for monitoring the grant implementation and \$180 for receipt of the grant. *Grant Award*

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

1. To approve the transfer of 22 sick days for **Ms. Kaitlin Remensky** which were accumulated during her employment with the South Butler County School District. *Transfer of Sick Days*
2. To approve the request of **Ms. Sarah Flower** for FMLA from December 11, 2017, through January 22, 2018. *FMLA*
3. To approve a change in assignment for **Mr. James Funderwhite**, Elementary School Food Service Worker from 9:00 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. (4.5 hours/day) 7:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. (5.5 hours/day), retro- active to August 22, 2017. *Fd. Svc. Change in Assignment*

**ADDENDUM ITEM**

4. To approve a change in status for **Ms. Toni Zusinas** from an extended Day-to-Day Primary Center 2nd Grade Substitute, to a Long Term 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Substitute retroactive to August 21, 2017, with benefits, at Category B, Step 1. Clearances are on file in the District Office. *Change in Status DTD to LTS*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS – P. Stewart/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs**

1. The amount of \$800 to cover the cost of meals and transportation for the Senior Citizen dress rehearsal of the Fall play **Radium Girls** by D. W. Gregory, on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. *Fall Play*

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

1. To approve the following winter sports coaches for the 2017-2018 School Year: *Winter Coaches*
  - Girls' Senior Basketball Head Coach – **Mark D'Alesandris**
  - Girls' Senior/JV Basketball Assistant Coach – **Ms. Julie Tullar**
  - Boys' Senior Basketball Head Coach – **Mr. Dan Bradley**
  - Boys' Senior Basketball Assistant Coach – **Mr. Mike Donovan**
  - Boys' 8<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Mike Murray**
  - Boys' Senior Wrestling Head Coach – **Mr. Tim Giel**
  - Boys' Middle School Wrestling Assistant Coach – **Mr. Brandon Wasko**
  - Boys' Senior Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Duke Johncour**
  - Boys' Senior Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Phil Coffin**
  
2. To approve **Ms. Tiffany White** and **Ms. Jennifer Wickert** as shared sponsors of the Unified Club for the 2017-2018 School Year. *Unified Club*
  
3. To approve **Ms. Karen Russell** as PM Bus Duty monitor retroactive to October 4, 2017. *PM Bus Duty*

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

1. To declare the following Food Service Fund supplies as obsolete and unusable and that they be disposed of: *Obsolete Fd. Svc. Items*
  - a. 111 Pyrex dinner plates
  - b. 21 Pyrex 10 oz. bowls
  - c. 112 Pyrex saucers
  - d. Two Pyrex tea cups
  - e. 354 Pyrex bread plates
  - f. 25 Pyrex 5 oz. bowls
  - g. One cookie machine
  - h. Two boxes of paper pie boxes
  - i. One box of paper chef hats
  - j. Two boxes of misc. silverware
  - k. Two countertop warmers – inoperable
  - l. One portable warmer – inoperable
  - m. Two 6-foot tables

**ADDENDUM ITEM**

2. To declare the following Music items as obsolete and unusable and that they be sold via Ebay by Volkwein's Music. Volkwein's Music will keep 20% of the earnings and issue Avonworth School District store credit to be used on purchases/repairs: *Obsolete Music Items*
  1. 1 Pair of Sabian 13" hi-hat cymbals

Minutes – Regular Meeting October 9, 2017

2. 1 Zildjian 14" hi-hat bottom
3. 1 Dixie Snare Drum
4. Bell Kit + Stand
5. 27 "Spotlight on Music" textbooks and CD set
6. 24 Harmony Recorders
7. 4 Toy Wooden Drums

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

1. To approve an overnight field trip for the sixth grade to Washington D.C. May 7 and 8, 2018. Trip will be chaperoned by teachers and paraprofessionals. Staff and students will miss two days of school. Transportation via Lenzner Coach Lines. The number of substitutes for the two days is to be determined. *Gr. 6 DC Trip*
2. To approve an overnight Band field trip for approximately 60 Middle/High School students, four teachers and ten parent chaperones to Chicago, IL departing Friday, April 27, and returning Monday, April 30, 2018. Staff and students will miss one day of school. Transportation via Lenzner Coach Lines. Four substitutes will be needed for one day. *(Note: Friday, April 27 is a Reserved Snow Make-Up Day – schools are closed unless needed as a snow make-up day.)* *Band Trip to IL*

**Old Business**

*No Old Business*

**New Business**

*Dr. Ralston reminded Board members there would not be a Work Session/General Purpose meeting on Tuesday, November 28. In lieu of the meeting, Drs. Christine and Chuck Herring will conduct diversity training.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:00 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss security, litigation, and contract negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary