

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 5, 2021
Avonworth School District – LGI Room & Virtually
7:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM (Roll Call Taken):

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Ms. Kristin Thompson

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

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Danielle White

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.	Mrs. Beate Helsel, Parent
Ms. Lea Helsel, Student	Mr. Will Guess, Teacher
Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Solicitor	Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher	Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent	Ms. Jennifer Revesz, Teacher
Ms. Andrea Jacobs, Parent	Ms. Trish Monahan, Parent
Ms. Tracy Cassidy-Klinedinst, Parent	Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent
Ms. Sherah Rothman, Teacher	Ms. Jen Wickert, Teacher
Ms. Makenzie Wetzal, Parent	Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent
Ms. Audra Blackson, Parent	Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher/AEA President
Ms. Maureen Sweeney, Parent	Ms. Michele Kline, Parent
Ms. Jaime Mary, Parent	Ms. Julie Brown, Parent
Ms. Lindsay Sharding, Parent	Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse
Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Teacher	Ms. Susan Geist, Parent
Ms. Kelly Frank, Parent	Ms. Maureen Odell, Parent
Ms. Maureen O'Connor, Parent	Ms. Diann Brown, Parent
Ms. Julie Navilliat, Parent	Mr. Len Tena, Teacher
Ms. Kate Campbell, Parent	Ms. Valery Ciarimboli, Parent
Mr. Mike Hall, AMS Principal	Ms. Jeannette Davis, Parent
Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent	Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Ms. Keera Dwulit, AHS Principal	Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent
Ms. Julie Mannion, Parent	Ms. Pam Homol, Parent
Ms. Jarijane Antkiewicz, Parent	Ms. Renee Knipp, Parent
Ms. Melanie Neal, Parent	Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Ms. Linda Werner, Parent	Ms. Patricia Veleke, Parent
Ms. Laurie Mathie, Parent	Ms. Chris Conklin, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Lindell, Parent	Ms. Natalie McMurtrie, Parent
Ms. Briana Watts, Parent	Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Parent/Paraprofessional	Ms. Beth Zelinko, Parent
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher	Ms. Briana Watts, Parent

Others Present Virtually. continued

Ms. Carrie Brady, Parent
Ms. Bobbie Farrah, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Sapolsky, Parent
Ms. Melissa Wiggins, Parent
Ms. Monica O’Neil, Parent
Ms. Tanya Schmigel, Parent
Ms. Stephani Machen, Parent
Ms. Kristin Schleis, Parent
Mr. Robb Pfeil, Parent
Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent
Mr. James Loutzenhiser, Parent
Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Ms. Pam North, Parent
Mr. Joe Bandi, Teacher
Mr. Bill White, Teacher
Ms. Tanya Schmigel, Parent
Ms. Allison Beck, Parent
Ms. Christine Kohler, Parent
Ms. Jodie Tabano, Parent
Ms. Sara Croft, Teacher
Ms. Jenni Galbraith, Parent
Ms. Halle Archey, Student
Ms. Kim Chekan, Parent
Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent
Ms. Anne Blaser, Parent
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Melissa DeSimone, Teacher
Ms. Pamela Hershey, Parent
Ms. Hayzes Robinson, Student
Ms. Beth Schuster, Parent
Ms. Carly Spahr, Parent
Mr. Tim Gannon, Parent
Mr. Kevin Gollings, Parent
Ms. Danica Raich, Parent
Ms. Pamela Hershey, Parent
Mr. Cory Bonnet, Parent
Ms. Michele D’Ambrosio, Parent
Ms. Rachel Wisniewski, Parent
Ms. Kayleigh Kelleher, Student
Ms. Rachel Latore, Parent
Ms. Ava Coyne, AHS Student Council Representative

Ms. Kelly Frank, Parent
Mr. Erich Dinkfelt, Parent
Ms. Heather O’Brien, Parent
Ms. Joyce Raymond, Paraprofessional
Ms. Gail Lipchak, Parent
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent
Ms. Tracy Smallwood, Parent
Mr. Matthew Kline, Parent
Mr. Jay Helsel, Parent
Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent
Ms. Nicole Milojevi, Parent
Mr. Brayden Wisniewski, Student
Ms. Michelle Dawley, Parent
Ms. Tara Geouque, Parent
Ms. Lindsey Stover, Parent
Mr. Scott Majesky, School Counseling Intern
Ms. Lynn Hartle, Parent
Ms. Gretchen Crawford, Parent
Ms. Jodi Walsh, Parent
Ms. Carrie Velisaris, Parent
Mr. Ron Antkiewicz, Parent
Ms. Sherry Knable, Parent
Mr. Oscar Matous, *The Citizen*
Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, MS/HS Asst. Principal
Ms. Brooke Johncour, Student
Ms. Liana Simmons, Student
Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent
Ms. Lea Ann Lope, Parent
Ms. Amy Maddalena, Parent
Mr. Karim Alshurafa, Parent
Ms. Megan Dolan, Parent
Mr. Jose Amayo, Parent
Ms. Miracle Bynum, Student
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent
Mr. Dave Farrah, Parent
Ms. Katie Coyne, Parent
Mr. Sam Kohler, Student
Mr. Joshua Hollywood, Parent
Mr. Jon White, Student

Call to Order

Board President, Ms. Vicki Carlson, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35P.M.

Visitors’ Comments

No visitor comments

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Ms. Lea Helsel was recognized by the School Board for her musical accomplishments:

<i>PMEA District 1 Honors Band 2017 2nd Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA Region 1 Band 2020 2nd Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 Honors Band 2018 2nd Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA Region 1 Band 2021 1st Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 Honors Band 2019 1st Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA Western Region Orchestra 2019 2nd Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 Honors Band 2020 1st Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA Western Region Orchestra 2020 1st Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 West Band 2019 1st Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA Western Region Orchestra 2021 1st Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 West Band 2020 2nd Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA All-State Orchestra 2019 2nd Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 West Band 2021 1st Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA All-State Orchestra 2020 1st Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 Orchestra 2019 1st Chair Horn</i>	<i>PMEA All-State Wind Ensemble 2021 1st Chair Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 Orchestra 2020 2nd Chair Horn</i>	<i>NAfME All-Eastern Orchestra 2021 1st Horn</i>
<i>PMEA District 1 Orchestra 2021 1st Chair Horn</i>	<i>NAfME All-National Orchestra 2020 2nd Horn</i>
<i>PMEA Region 1 Band 2019 2nd Chair Horn</i>	

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Ava Coyne

Ms. Coyne reported this was Spirit Week at the High School. AHS Student Council is sponsoring “Pay it Forward” for Kindness Month. Students document a random act of kindness weekly on a Google form. A drawing will be held each week to promote kindness and winners will receive a prize. April 7 is World Health Day and students will complete a Google form offering advice for what they do to keep healthy. Suggestions will be used to create WordArt with strategies to promote wellness and post on Instagram.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston reported the Seniors returned on March 27 and students in grades 4-6 returned today. The Federal government passed additional stimulus funds to support students. We are planning summer learning opportunities which include a combination of skills-oriented and project-oriented learning experiences. We are planning 1-2 week blocks in July. ESSER funds will be used for summer workshops and things needed in the coming year to help students accommodate for any learning loss they experienced during the pandemic. These ESSER funds must be used by 2023.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley recognized Ms. Jana Stahl, AES Computer Science teacher, for her work connected to the PAsmart Targeted Grant K-8 Pathway. Dr. Hadley invited several teachers to give a brief presentation to the Board in May about the work they accomplished with the PAsmart grant. Dr. Hadley reported that our eSports Club team is currently 3-0 and is competing in the PIEA tournament. The PSSA and Keystones will be given in the Spring. Further information will be provided by the building Principals.

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

Mr. Andrews provided his Quarterly Report on Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals. For 2021 176 residential and one commercial appeal have been filed. Hearing dates are being scheduled for these appeals beginning in April. For 2020, 146 residential and one commercial appeal were filed and of those, three appeal are left. These assessments brought in \$147,640.94 in additional school taxes. Three 2019 appeals are still pending. The 2019 assessments brought in \$149, 505.29 in additional school taxes. \$84,248.45 in delinquent taxes have been collected in the first three months of 2021.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti/Ms. Kristin Thompson

Mrs. Thompson reported that the Culinary students at AWBCC served Irish stew at the March 25th meeting. Dr. Mannarino asked Mrs. Thompson to relay his thanks to Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley for the incredible job they have done over the past year. AWBCC has revised their hybrid schedule effective April 12th and the students could choose between in-person four days or remotely for five days. This schedule will be in place until the end of the school year. 700+ students have enrolled in AWBCC so far for the 2021-2022 School Year. The Curriculum Director discussed college in high school classes, specifically the Early Childhood Education program at Carlow University where the students can earn 3 college credits and also gain experience by working in the Carlow University childcare facility. The Sports Medicine and Veterinary Medicine programs are being developed with California University. The students can also earn college credits through CCAC in 11 different programs.

Mrs. Carlson noted a Curriculum Committee Meeting was held this evening at 6:30 PM virtually and in the LGI Room. This evening's Athletic Committee Meeting was cancelled.

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2021 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the Minutes of the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

Minutes

FINANCE – D. White/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs

Motion: D. White; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.6 and item 2:

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for March, 2021, beginning with Check #51100 and ending with Check #51247 in the total amount of \$2,400,739.03. | General Fund |
| 1.2 | Ratify the March, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$1,293,458.81. | Payroll |
| 1.3 | Treasurer's Report for February, 2021. | Treasurer's Rpt. |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for March, 2021, beginning with Check #3100 and ending with Check #3109 in the total amount of \$21,414.78. | Food Svc. Fund |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for March, 2021, beginning with Check #9250 and ending with Check #9260 in the total amount of \$780. | Athletic Fund |
| 1.6 | To ratify the March capital project payments in the amount of \$12,450. | Capital Projects |
| 2. | To approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 2021-2022 Services Agreement, IDEA Use of Funds Agreement, and Notice of Adoption of Policies, Procedures, and Use of Funds. | AIU Svc. Agreemt. |

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

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** Y. Cheng; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-7:

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | To approve the request of Mr. Greg Wolfe for an educational sabbatical for the 2021-2022 School Year. | Ed. Sabbatical |
|----|---|----------------|

Personnel, continued

2. To accept the Letter of Intent to Retire from **Ms. Angela Schlumpf** effective August 8, 2021. *Intent to Retire*

3. To approve the following mentors for elementary school Long Term Substitutes for the 2020-2021 School Year:
Ms. Jennifer Revesz for Ms. Mallory Accamando
Ms. Morgan Bassaly for Mr. Frank Cardone
Ms. Jessica Kostewicz for Ms. Anastasia Simpson *Mentors*

4. To create the position of Custodial Supervisor as an Act 93 position and approve the accompanying job description. (This replaces the Maintenance Supervisor position that was eliminated at the January 18, 2021 meeting.) *Create Custodial Supervisor Position*

5. To accept the resignation of **Mr. Nick Labella** as Lead Custodian under the AESPA bargaining agreement effective April 7, 2021. *Resignation*

6. To approve **Mr. Nick Labella** as Custodial Supervisor at a salary of \$43,000 with benefits according to the current Act 93 Agreement effective April 7, 2021. *Custodial Supervisor Hire*

7. Approve **Ms. Taylor Alexander** as an extended day-to-day substitute teacher (\$140/day with no benefits) April 29, 2021 through June 10, 2021. *DTD Sub*

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – J. Brandt/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs

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

1. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Megan Campedel** as Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach effective March 19, 2021. *Coach Resignation*

2. The Administration recommends approval of **Ms. Nicole Findon** as the Middle School Yearbook sponsor for the 2020-2021 School Year, effective January 15, 2021, pending requirements of the District. In the event that this activity is shortened, payment for the affected supplemental position shall be reduced on a pro rata basis. This appointment does not guarantee Ms. Findon that her position will be needed and in place or that it will continue uninterrupted during the 2020-2021 School Year. *MS Yearbook Sponsor*

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

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

1. To accept the proposal from Gateway Engineers to provide surveying and geotechnical services for the High School Expansion Project at a cost not to exceed \$25,000. *Gateway Eng. Proposal*

Buildings & Grounds, continued

2. To authorize the Administration to advertise to solicit bids for the parking lot expansion at the Middle/High School campus as specified in the bid documents presented by Gateway Engineers.

Solicit Bids

Dr. Ralston gave a brief presentation on his recommendation for returning students in grades 7-12 to school.

Mrs. Carlson invited questions and comments from the virtual audience as well as from Board members.

Ms. Lisa Dugan, parent, asked why we were departing from following CDC guidelines, what are the thresholds, and how are we evaluating? Dr. Ralston said we are doing our best at distancing at the elementary school. We did pass a motion last month regarding bringing students back to school.

Mr. Brayden Wisniewski, student, expressed concern about students returning in-person because he feels it's a recipe for an outbreak. Wednesdays are important for students to catch up on work, meet with school counselors and therapists. He asked the Board to reconsider bringing students back five days a week in-person.

Ms. Halle Archey, student, said she struggles with this educational format and doesn't think it's worth the risk of half the school getting sick. She feels there's a need to be more stern about mask-wearing.

Mr. Blaser asked if the virtual option would be the same as the virtual academy. Dr. Ralston said it would be merged with students attending in-person and virtually.

Mrs. Monti asked if we had information on how significant bringing students back has affected other school district. Dr. Ralston did not have those statistics. There is not strong data that transmission happens in schools. It's the adults who are transmitting the virus, not students. Mrs. Monti asked about the thoughts of our collaborating physicians. Dr. Ralston said they recognize the importance of students coming back to school. They offer us their scientific information but they recognize these are decisions we have to make for ourselves.

Mrs. Thompson asked about the stats on the slides in the presentation. Dr. Ralston said they were from last week.

Ms. Cheng asked how distancing would be managed. Dr. Ralston said he talked with Mrs. Remensky and Mrs. Dwulit about creative solutions which include students joining class virtually from another location in the building.

Mrs. Bolain wondered if there was an in-between model with asynchronous Wednesdays. She feels it has been good experience for students to manage their Wednesdays. Mrs. Carlson said students are meeting with teachers on Wednesdays and asked if we have

a plan if we take away those Wednesdays. Dr. Ralston said the high school schedule does have lead time built in for students to see their teacher or counselor. The Band and Chorus teachers have been lenient if a student needs to see someone.

Ms. Liana Simmons, a Senior who chose to stay hybrid, is concerned about prom and commencement. She feels students scheduled for Band should be in class because it is a graded class. Having Wednesdays as a work day allows people to mentally reset and gives students the whole day to get things done. She feels having students log in virtually from another part of the building is not the same as being together in class. Dr. Ralston said schedules wouldn't require a student to meet virtually in a different location for their entire schedule.

Ms. Allison Beck, parent, feels distancing and masking has been lax and asked how we were going to enforce these restrictions. Dr. Ralston said the expectation is for everyone to wear a mask and this will be reinforced with staff and students.

Mr. Brandt asked for clarification of CDC guidelines and cohorting which allows for middle schoolers in high to be at a 3 ft. distance if they are cohorted. Dr. Ralston said we can cohort 50 students. Consistent seating charts help with contact tracing. Mr. Brandt said he understood we couldn't do 6 ft. distancing for grades 4-6 but we could do 3 ft. Dr. Ralston said not 3 ft. but we could guarantee 6 ft. distancing at lunchtime when students would have their masks off. Mr. Brandt asked how often students were in other locations within the buildings. Dr. Ralston said it wasn't happening with the seniors. Several classes are using the auditorium. Mr. Brand said he's uncomfortable 1) we have prided ourselves in following the science but hears officials are not letting up. We are going against CDC now while numbers are up. He would hate to see us pull the trigger while we are at a new high. Would like to wait for this bump to pass before bringing other high schoolers back.

Mr. Hebor, parent, thanked Dr. Ralston. Feels we are at a point where it's time to bring students back. He feels Wednesdays should be an educational day. Asked if the Virtual Academy is going to remain. Dr. Ralston said yes, that is correct.

Ms. Valery Ciarimboli, parent, supports Dr. Ralston's recommendation. Feels students are struggling by not being in the building. Feels we should focus on the science but we don't know the science of mental health.

Mr. Killian Horigan, student, doesn't think students should go back to school on Wednesdays. Feels Wednesdays are good for mental health and getting homework done. The musical is important to him and hopes it doesn't get cancelled again this year.

Mrs. Thompson asked for clarification on the recommendation for returning 5 days a week for grades 7-12 and asked what the benefit was over a four day week with Wednesdays as a flex day. Dr. Ralston said the advantage is for a more active and productive learning experience. Mrs. Thompson feels we must make sure we are on top of mask wearing.

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Mrs. Monti asked if synchronous Wednesdays would have an impact on virtual students. Dr. Ralston said he recognizes people see value in Wednesdays but there are other opportunities for students to engage with teachers.

Mrs. Jackie Karwoski, parent, expressed concern that we are rushing to bring everyone back since we are so close to the end of the school year. She feels the increased risk to Seniors would be devastating to them. She feels Wednesdays are a way to get away from screen time and teachers have open office hours.

Ms. Patricia Monahan, parent, feels we should not be second guessing Dr. Ralston since he is in a position to make these decisions. We owe it to the kids and community to get students back in school. For parents who are concerned, there is the Virtual Academy.

Mr. Cory Bonnet, parent, does not see how we are entertaining Wednesdays as a float day when the last survey shows 78% of responders support full in-person 5 days.

Ms. Cheng asked if there is a solution to bring students back 5 days a week but rethink Wednesdays. Feels following CSC guidelines is different in the middle and high schools. With middle school we are able because of cohorting but it's harder in the high school. Feels we need to figure out how to monitor mask wearing. What is the correct model for 9-12 returning full time?

Ms. Megan Amayo, parent, would love to see kids come back 5 days but feels they don't have the stamina. Feels Wednesdays gives the chance to air out and clean the buildings. Feels we need to consider the mental well-being for students and needs of the teachers.

Mr. Mike Hetcko, parent, feels the School Board represents the community. He feels Wednesdays are wasted.

Ms. Christie Kohler, parent, feels kids need to be in school as much as possible. There's an increased stress level with constantly changing the model. Likes the 4 day model with Wednesdays open for students to meet with teachers and do their work.

Mr. Sam Kohler, student, feels the vast majority of students use Wednesdays as a productive day. It's a helpful day for him.

Ms. Melissa Nelson, parent, agrees that kids need to get back at some point. Feels masks are a problem. Feels the Board members were elected to represent families and she'd never want the Board to make a decision based on what parents want. She encouraged to make decisions on what they have found. Feels transitioning from two to five days will be socially difficult. Wednesdays would be a break from being 6 ft. to 3 ft. away from people.

Mr. Jim Loutzenhisser, parent, feels straying from the numbers doesn't seem the way to go.

Ms. Jodie Tabano, parent, commended teachers. Said it's not always easy for students to connect with their teachers on Wednesdays.

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Ms. Keyaira Cameron, Senior, has been virtual all year. Values Wednesdays and uses those days to work and talk with her teachers.

Mr. Stewart feels the motion to bring back students full time should be broken down.

Ms. Bolain and Dr. Ralston discussed the hybrid, virtual and in-person options for grades 9-12. Ms. Bolain feels Seniors should have a choice.

Mrs. Dwulit said there is complication in transitioning in and out of models. The Senior class having options has worked well.

Mrs. White said you have classes of mixed grade levels. 9-12 needs to be the same. Middle and High school teachers are shared. Ms. Cheng asked about the complications of 9-12 hybrid. Mrs. Dwulit said rotating Day 1 and Day 2 scheduled. If we provide a hybrid and 5 days is challenging but can be figured out. With 5 day hybrid it would take intense planning for it to make sense for students and teachers.

Mr. Stewart asked if Wednesday was virtually consistent for everyone. Mrs. Dwulit said they'd have to figure out which days were hybrid for which students.

Mrs. Bolain said she heard of the importance of Wednesdays for virtual students. Can we agree to adopt Wednesdays for 9-11? Is it possible to do the hybrid for 9-11 so we have some reduced quarantining in the building?

Mrs. Dwulit said they can use Wednesdays to the fullest scenario. Cautioned if Middle School is five days and high school is not – some teachers teach grades 7-12.

Mr. Blaser said Dr. Ralston presented rationale for his recommendation. Our focus needs to remain on core academics and take Dr. Ralston's recommendation to bring students back five days. We have other options that will need meet their educational needs. We need commitment from administration and staff that students will keep masks on unless they are eating.

POLICY – S. Bolain/K. Monti, Co-Chairs

Motion: S. Bolain; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 1:

- 1.** To offer students in grades 7-8 the option to participate in full, five-day in-person learning beginning April 12, 2021. Physical distancing of 6 ft. will be maintained during lunch periods. Students will continue to practice mitigations including wearing masks and distancing in classrooms, hallways, and other areas to the extent possible. Increased ventilation, hand washing and cleaning will also continue to be emphasized. Measures will be followed to allow for effective contact tracing and quarantine of exposed students and staff.

Return Gr. 7-8

Policy, continued

Motion: S. Bolain; **Second:** B. Blaser to approve item 2:

2. To offer students in grades 9-12 the option to participate in full, five-day in-person learning beginning April 12, 2021. Physical distancing of 6 ft. will be maintained during lunch periods. Students will continue to practice mitigations including wearing masks and distancing in classrooms, hallways, and other areas to the extent possible. Increased ventilation, hand washing and cleaning will also continue to be emphasized. Measures will be followed to allow for effective contact tracing and quarantine of exposed students and staff.

Failed Motion

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** J. Brandt to modify the motion for grades 9-12 to a four day model with an asynchronous Wednesday. **Motion Failed by Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Blaser – nay; Mrs. Bolain – yes; Mr. Brandt – yes; Ms. Cheng – nay; Ms. Monti – nay; Mr. Stewart – nay; Ms. Thompson – nay; Mrs. White – nay; Mrs. Carlson – nay.

Discussion followed and another motion was proposed.

Mrs. Carlson asked how many teachers teach both middle and high school students. Dr. Ralston said mainly specials teachers are shared – 8-10 teachers. Mrs. Monti feels middle/high school Day 1 and Day 2 would be confusing.

Mrs. White feels the varying opinions regarding asynchronous day reflect different learning styles and asked Dr. Ralston if his recommendation for returning to 5 day instruction has changed based on the discussion up to this point. Dr. Ralston thinks the optimal environment is to be in school when teachers and kids interact. He feels strongly that the 5 day a week model works best for our kids.

Motion: S. Bolain; **Second:** B. Blaser. **Motion Carried by Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Blaser – yes; Mrs. Bolain – nay; Mr. Brandt – nay; Ms. Cheng – yes; Ms. Monti – yes; Mr. Stewart – yes; Ms. Thompson – yes; Mrs. White – yes; Mrs. Carlson – yes.

3. To offer students in grades 9-12 the option to participate in full, five-day in-person learning beginning April 12, 2021. Physical distancing of 6 ft. will be maintained during lunch periods. Students will continue to practice mitigations including wearing masks and distancing in classrooms, hallways, and other areas to the extent possible. Increased ventilation, hand washing and cleaning will also continue to be emphasized. Measures will be followed to allow for effective contact tracing and quarantine of exposed students and staff.

Return Gr. 9-12

Old Business

Mr. Waters said he will provide an updated estimate for the year ending 2020-2021 budget at the May meeting. The 2021-2022 proposed final budget will also be presented at the May meeting. In June the final budget will be adopted and the millage rate set.

New Business

Ms. Cheng shared that she participated in PSBA Advocacy Day on March 22 and met with Representatives Gaydos and Kulik as well as Senators Fontana and Costa. The focus of the conversation was on charter school funding reform and waivers for individual bill mandates. In addition, Ms. Cheng shared how Avonworth School District has managed through the pandemic, including proactively addressing learning loss and the importance of mental health.

Adjournment

Motion: B. Blaser; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary