

**Avonworth School District**  
**258 Josephs Lane**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**Avonworth Board of School Directors**  
**Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 8, 2019**  
**Avonworth School District – Board Room**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Ms. Vicki Carlson**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent**  
**Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal**  
**Mr. Michael Warren, Teacher**  
**Ms. Julie Tullar, Teacher**  
**Ms. Tatiana Glasgow, Parent**  
**Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Andrews & Price LLC**  
**Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen***  
**Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

**Call to Order**

*Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:55 P.M.*

*The April 1, 2019 Work Session was cancelled.*

*A Board Visionary meeting was held at 6:30 PM on April 1, 2019 in the Board Room.*

*The April 8, 2019 Curriculum Committee meeting was cancelled.*

*The Athletic Committee meeting was moved from April 1 to this evening at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss athletic matters.*

**Visitors' Comments**

*Mrs. Glasgow presented a letter to the Board which was signed by parents and staff, requesting a full time School Resource Officer be permanently stationed at the Elementary/Primary campus. Dr. Ralston said the SRO on the middle/high school campus increased from two days per week to full time. The District contracted with the Ohio Township Police Department to have shift officers on the elementary/primary campus but those officers were pulled if they were needed elsewhere in the area. OTPD provided a quote for a second on-site SRO who would provide assistance with SAP, truancy, home visits, etc. He noted we have not yet heard about the grant we applied for that would help offset the cost.*

Minutes – Regular Meeting April 8, 2019

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Isabella Salerno/Ms. Mara Bett

Ms. Salerno and Ms. Bett reported: \$560 was made from the Sadie Hawkins Dance of which \$200 was donated to Children’s Hospital and the remainder will be kept for future events; another Walk for the Thankful is being planned for next year; May 24<sup>th</sup> is Wear Your Future Day where seniors will wear a shirt that represents their future, i.e., a college or work shirt. High School Student Council is making a video of teachers and students discussing what they like about our school or something our school has accomplished. The video will be played at the Awards Assembly at the end of the school year.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston received a letter from Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education, congratulating our District on being recognized as a “Best Community for Music Education” by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM). He reported that in lieu of a Board Work Session on April 1, a Board “Visioning” Session was held to discuss how we measure success for ourselves. The current Strategic Plan ends in 2020 and he is putting together a team to plan where the next Strategic Plan will lead us. Department of Education representatives visited our District last week and were blown away by what is happening in our district, especially with the arts.

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

Mr. Andrews discussed his April Status Report on Real Estate Tax Assessment appeals. 156 residential and 4 commercial appeals have been filed in 2019. He last reported there were still 20 unresolved appeals from 2018 totaling \$101,801.09. 11 have since been resolved for an additional \$6,600. There are nine appeals with pending decisions.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Mr. Jeff Carraway/Ms. Kate Monti

Mr. Carraway said at the last AWBCC meeting they discussed an update on the budget. The Kiddie Tech Daycare is performing very well. They approved 28 students to attend Skills USA state competition in Hershey later this week. Avonworth student, Erin Zdrojowy, was named Student of the Month for Cosmetology.

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2019 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

**Motion:** J. Carraway; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1.1-1.5 and Items 2-10:

- |            |   |                  |
|------------|---|------------------|
| <b>1.1</b> | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for March, 2019, beginning with Check #46223 and ending with Check #46405 in the total amount of \$2,486,552.44. | General Fund     |
| <b>1.2</b> | Ratify the March, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$1,118,881.27.   | Payroll          |
| <b>1.3</b> | Treasurer’s Report for February, 2019.  | Treasurer’s Rpt. |
| <b>1.4</b> | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for February, 2019, beginning with Check #8775 and ending with Check #8782 in the total amount of \$677.50.    | Athletic Fund    |

**Finance, continued**

- 1.5 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for February, 2019, beginning with Check #2623 and ending with Check #2632 in the total amount of \$20,861.28. *Fd. Svc. Fund*
2. To approve **Ms. Katy Tarasi** to attend the International Literacy Association’s National Conference in New Orleans, LA October 10-13, 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$1,300 (registration, airfare, hotels, and meals) to be paid from Title IV Professional Development funds. *Conference*
3. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** to attend the Young Leaders of America Program at Harvard Business School in Boston, MA June 23-28, 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$400. *Conference*
4. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** to attend the Forum for Western PA Superintendents at the Oaklander in Oakland, PA April 10-12, 2019 at no cost to the District. *Conference*
5. To enter into an agreement with Microsoft Philanthropies Technology Education and Literacy in School (TEALS) Program. *TEALS Agreement*
6. To approve the ASSET STEM Education Materials Purchase Agreement at a cost of \$30,867. *ASSET STEM*
7. To approve the EITC Letter of Support for the following to accompany their applications for inclusion for educational improvement organizations to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development. *EITC Ltrs.*
  - A. The Senator John Heinz History Center retroactive to March 28, 2019
  - B. The Pittsburgh Public Theater retroactive to April 1, 2019
  - C. ASSET, Inc. retroactive to April 3, 2019
8. To retroactively approve **Ms. Colleen Barcaskey** to write an American Heart Association Wellness (Foundation) grant for up to \$5,000) to create a “Calm Space” in the Health Office and to approve a stipend for Ms. Barcaskey in the amount of \$75 for writing the grant. *Grant*
9. To retroactively approve **Mr. Bill White** to write an America Makes – G. E. Additive Education Program (Corporate) grant in the amount of \$2,500) and to approve a stipend for Mr. White in the amount of \$75 for writing the grant. *Grant*
10. To accept the award of \$10,000 for the Project Lead The Way (corporate) grant and approve payment to **Mr. Bill White** of \$500.00 for receipt of the grant. *Grant Award*

**PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** K. Thompson; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-8:

1. To approve **Ms. Kathryn Trent** as a Substitute Food Service Worker for the 2018-2019 School Year, with no benefits, retroactive to April 2, 2019, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Fd. Svc. Worker*
2. To approve **Ms. Nancy Sullivan** as a Substitute Food Service Worker for the 2018-2019 School Year, with no benefits, retroactive to March 19, 2019, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Fd. Svc. Worker*
3. To approve **Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Ms. Sara Knable, Ms. Kari Johnson, Ms. Ashley Randall,** and **Mr. Mike Murray** as Kindergarten Transition summer tutors with an hourly rate per the AEA contract. *Summer Tutors*
4. To create the following new positions beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year: *New Positions*
  - A. One Elementary teaching position
  - B. One Elementary Reading Specialist position
  - C. One High School Science position
5. To change the position of Half Time Computer Teacher to Full Time Computer Teacher beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year. *Chg. HT to FT Position*
6. To accept the letter of Intent to Retire from **Mrs. Kathy Stiscak**, High School Secretary, effective August 2, 2019. *Retirement*
7. To approve the request of **Ms. Julie Selep** for an educational sabbatical for the 2019-2020 School Year. *Sabbatical*
8. To approve **Ms. Lucy Negron** as a tutor commencing April 8, 2019, with an hourly rate according to the current AEA contract. *Tutor*

*Ms. Dwulit explained an additional High School Science teaching position is needed to meet students' needs. Dr. Ralston and the Board acknowledged Mrs. Stiscak's 33 years with the District and the assistance she has provided staff, students, and families over the years.*

**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 approve the proposal from HHSDR Architects to provide an expansion evaluation for the school district at a cost of \$8,800.00. *HHSDR Proposal*

**Buildings & Grounds, continued**

2. To accept the proposal from Waste Management of PA, Inc. to provide refuse removal and recycling services for five years beginning July 1, 2019. *Waste Mgmt. Proposal*

**ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/J. Brandt, Co-Chairs**

**Mr. Oberdick noted during this evening’s Athletic Committee meeting, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss athletic personnel matters.**

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-8 and Items 9-10 added from the Floor:

1. To correct the motion of March 11, 2019 to read: To approve the following coaches for the 2018-2019 Spring sports, pending requirements of the District: *Coach Correction*  
**Softball Varsity – Shared Assistant                      Mr. David Bibey**  
**Softball Varsity – Shared Assistant                      Ms. Casey Scott**
2. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Sara Todd** as Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach retroactive to March 18, 2019. *Coach Resignation*
3. To approve **Ms. Brittney Livesay** as Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Coach Hire*
4. To approve **Ms. Katie Straley** as Co-Sponsor of the Middle School Student Council retroactive to the beginning of the 2018-2019 School Year. *MS Student Council Co-Sponsor*
5. To approve **Ms. Megan Sudsina** as Interim Middle School Student Council Co-Sponsor from April 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019. *Interim MS Student Council Co-Sponsor*
6. To create an additional ASSET Coordinator supplemental position beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year. *ASSET Coordinator*
7. To accept the resignation of **Mr. Brody Zangaro** as Assistant Football Coach effective April 8, 2019. *Coach Resignation*
8. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Moriah Eck** as Assistant Volleyball Coach effective April 8, 2019. *Coach Resignation*

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (2)**

9. To approve **Ms. Sarah Doherty** as Head Varsity Volleyball Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Coach Hire*
10. To open the position of Head Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach. *Open Coach Position*

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

**Motion:** K. Monti; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-4:

1. To amend the motion of March 11, 2019 as follows: To approve **Ms. Tiffany White** as the Lopes Lounge Coordinator retroactive to ~~January 15, 2019~~ the beginning of the 2018-2019 School Year. *Amend Motion*
  
2. To approve an overnight field trip for the sixth grade to Washington D.C. May 22-23, 2019. The trip will be chaperoned by staff as well as a nurse and two administrators. Staff and students will miss two days of school. Transportation via Lenzner Coach Lines. Five substitute teachers will be needed for two days. AEA members will be compensated per the AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. *Overnight Trip*
  
3. To approve an overnight field trip for **Mr. Michael Warren** to take three Middle/Elementary School students to the American Young Voices Music Festival in Fairfax, VA on June 3, 2019. The cost of the trip is not to exceed \$280 plus mileage. One substitute teacher will be needed for 1.5 days. *Overnight Trip*
  
4. To approve an overnight event in the High School Gym from 7:00 PM on May 17, 2019 until 7:00 AM on May 18, 2019. This is the first G.O.L.D. night of leadership and growth activities. All attendees are Grade 9-12 female students and will be chaperoned by staff and parents who have their clearances. *Overnight Event*

*Ms. Dwulit noted that if activities for the G.O.L.D. overnight event could not be scheduled for the entire event, then event would end at 11:00 PM. Per Mr. Brandt's request, she will schedule a police officer to be on hand for the event.*

**Old Business**

*No Old Business.*

**New Business**

*Dr. Ralston thanked Board members for attending last week's visioning session. Mr. Blaser told the Board of the thank you letter he received from PSBA for re-adopting the Principles for Governance and Leadership. He invited all Board members to sign the new wall poster affirming the Principles.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary