

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 10, 2020
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. Danielle White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Management
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Mr. Dave Como, High School Counselor
Ms. Bre Maisner, Teacher
Mr. Michael Warren, Teacher
Ms. Jada Guiste, Student
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

Ms. Baillie Holmberg, Student
Mrs. Michele Holmberg, Parent
Mr. Shawn Holmberg, Parent
Ms. Hannah Palmer, Student
Mr. Tom Angell, Soccer Coach
Ms. Kim Palmer, Parent
Ms. Macey Schriefer, Student
Ms. Nancy Whyte, *The Citizen*

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35P.M.

Visitors' Comments

No visitor comments.

Ms. Baillie Holmberg, a sophomore, was presented with the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence 2019. She is interested in the medical field and traveled to Boston last summer to watch a knee replacement surgery.

High School students discussed their application to create a new school club called the Social Justice Club. The club would promote equity, inclusion and fair opportunities for all students.

Dr. Hadley, Mrs. Dwulit, and Mr. Como presented recommendations for changes in the graduation requirements.

Mr. Blaser said the Curriculum Committee met this evening in the Board Room at 6:30 P.M. to discuss curriculum matters.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston recapped his and Dr. Hadley’s recent trip to San Diego where they and 20 other educators visited six schools in five days courtesy of a grant from the Grable Foundation. One school used the Holland RAISEC Test which identifies the qualities and characteristics a person may have and the associated careers connected to those qualities and characteristics. Students begin taking the RAISEC in elementary school and retake it periodically over corresponding years as we recognize that our interests and abilities change over time based upon our experiences. Other schools had well-developed internship experience requirements and college in the high school options for their students.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley also discussed the trip to San Diego and the schools they visited. Dr. Hadley reported that using Peachjar to distribute flyer information to our families is working really well.

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

No report at this time.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti

Mrs. Monti reported that students in grades 9 and 5 recently toured the A. W. Beattie Career Center.

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

Minutes

Board members moved Item 9 ahead on the Addendum for approval:

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

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 9:

9. To approve adding Boys’ Soccer to the Co-Op agreement with the Northgate School District beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year.

Soccer Co-Op

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

Motion: D. White; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1.1-1.6 and Items 2-3:

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for January, 2020, beginning with Check #48188 and ending with Check #48392 in the total amount of \$669,261.06.
- 1.2 Ratify the January, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,172,346.61.
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for December, 2019.
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for January, 2020, beginning with Check #2706 and ending with Check #2709 in the total amount of \$16,667.04.

General Fund

Payroll

Treasure’s Rpt.

Fd. Svc. Fund

Finance, continued

- | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for January, 2020, beginning with Check #9032 and ending with Check #9074 in the total amount of \$4,580.00. | <i>Athletic Fund</i> |
| 1.6 | To approve capital project payments of \$5,896.45. | <i>Capital Project Pmt.</i> |
| 2. | To approve Mr. Mike Hall, Ms. Keera Dwulit, and Dr. Bill Battistone to attend the annual New Tech Leadership Summit in Dallas, TX May 25-27, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$3,500. | <i>New Tech Trip</i> |
| 3. | To approve Ms. Katy Tarasi to attend Fellow training with Great Minds/Wit & Wisdom in Nashville, TN on the following dates: March 12-13, 2020 and April 23-24, 2020 at no cost to the District. | <i>Training</i> |

PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/V. Carlson, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-14 and Items 16-17:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 1. | To accept the resignation of Ms. Tommie Murray. (Employee may be held up to 60 days beginning with the resignation date of January 16, 2020 per PA School Code.) | <i>Resignation</i> |
|-----------|---|--------------------|

Dr. Ralston noted the District is not going to hold Ms. Murray for 60 days. February 28 will be her final day.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| 2. | To accept the resignation of custodian, Mr. Anthony Andrews effective January 10, 2020. | <i>Resignation</i> |
| 3. | To accept the resignation of Food Service Worker, Ms. Mary Winghart, effective January 31, 2020. | <i>Resignation</i> |
| 4. | To accept the resignation of substitute Food Service Worker, Ms. Angela McDowell, effective January 15, 2020. | <i>Resignation</i> |
| 5. | To accept the resignation of Ms. Ann Tadler, Substitute Food Service Worker, effective February 21, 2020. | <i>Resignation</i> |
| 6. | To approve Ms. Kristen Bailey as a Day-to-Day substitute at a rate of \$100/day with no benefits effective February 6, 2020 through March 2, 2020. | <i>STD Sub</i> |
| 7. | To approve Ms. Kristen Bailey as a Day-to-Day Middle/Elementary School Physical Education Substitute effective March 3 through June 5, 2020 at \$140/day with no benefits, pending requirements of the District. | <i>DTD PE Sub</i> |

Personnel, continued

8. To approve **Ms. Vonnie Hornburg** as a Long Term Middle/High School Art Substitute retroactive to January 15, 2020 through June 5, 2020, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract pending requirements of the District. *LTS Art Teacher*
9. To approve **Ms. Amanda Lemon** as a Long Term Substitute School Nurse for the 2020-2021 School Year, at Category M+24, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *LTS Nurse*
10. To approve **Ms. Colleen Barcaskey** as mentor for the Long Term Substitute School Nurse for the 2020-2021 School Year. *Mentor*
11. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Danielle Wilkinson** from a Day-to-Day Substitute for Grade 4 Math/Science/Social Studies at \$140/day with no benefits, to a Long Term Substitute with benefits, at Category M, Step 1, retroactive to August 16, 2019 through June 5, 2020. *Chg. in Assignmt.*
12. To approve the request of Custodian, **Mr. Gary Wilhelm**, for intermittent FMLA beginning February 3, 2020. *Intermittent FMLA*
13. To approve the request of **Mr. Bill Bauer**, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, for FMLA effective January 28, 2020 through April 21, 2020 *FMLA*
14. To appoint **Mr. Brant Colamarino** as interim Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds retroactive to January 2, 2020 at a salary of \$60,000.00, pro-rated. *Interim Sup. of Bldgs. & Grounds*
16. To approve the Memorandum of Understanding 02-10-20 between the Avonworth School District and the Avonworth Educational Support Association (AESPA). *MOU*

ADDENDUM ITEM

17. To approve **Ms. Carla Zimmerly** as a substitute Paraprofessional effective February 11, 2020, at a rate of \$14.25/hour, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Para*

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 15:

15. The request of **Ms. Janelle Schweitzer** for an educational sabbatical for the 2020-2021 School Year. *Sabbatical*

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

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-2:

1. To declare several Elementary School library books as obsolete and to donate/dispose of accordingly. *Obsolete Lib. Books*
2. To declare various old athletic equipment as obsolete and to donate/dispose of accordingly. *Obsolete Sports Equipment*

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Y. Cheng/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 1:

1. To approve the amount of \$1,300 to cover the cost of meals for the Senior Citizen dress rehearsal of the Spring Musical, *Young Frankenstein*, on Thursday, March 26, 2020. (First Student has once again generously offered to donate a bus to transport senior citizens from the Emsworth Borough Building to the dress rehearsal and back.) *Sr. Cit. Dress Rehearsal Dinner*

RECESS

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to recess to an Executive Session at 9:50 PM to discuss personnel matters.

RECONVENE

Motion: B. Blaser; **Second:** K. Thompson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 10:20.

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

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-8 and Items 10-12:

1. To approve **Ms. Marnie Arnold** as supplemental sponsor for the Innovative ARTS & Communication Personal Pathway (pro-rated), retroactive to January 15, 2020. *Pathway Sponsor*
2. To approve **Mr. Joseph Manning** as Head Junior Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *Coach Hire*
3. To approve **Mr. Shawn Manning** as Assistant Junior Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *Asst. Coach Hire*

Athletics & Activities, continued

4. To approve the following coaches for the 2019-2020 Spring sports, pending requirements of the District: *Spring Coaches*

Baseball – Assistant	Mr. Jake Filipowski
Middle School Baseball - Assistant	Mr. Jason Smith
Softball Varsity – Head	Ms. Jenna Muncie
Softball Varsity – Assistant	Mr. David Bibey
Softball Varsity – Assistant	Ms. Casey Scott
7/8 Softball – Head	Mr. Bill Kuban
7/8 Softball – Half Time Assistant	Ms. Alexandra Kleer
7/8 Softball – Half Time Assistant	Mr. Richard Schmidt
Track & Field – Head	Mr. Brian Hoffman
Track & Field – Head Assistant	Mr. Brian Veshio
Track & Field – Assistant	Mr. Jeff Shirey
Track & Field – Assistant	Mr. Bill White
Track & Field – Volunteer	Ms. Carolyn Binnig
Middle School Track – Head	Mr. Steve Tinker
Middle School Track - Assistant	Ms. Julie Raitano
Middle School – Volunteer Assistant	Mr. John Geisler
Middle School – Volleyball Head	Mr. Doug Vandervort
Middle School – Volleyball Assistant	Ms. Melissa Costantino

ADDENDUM ITEMS (8)

5. To approve the following additional coaches for the 2019-2020 Spring sports, pending requirements of the District: *Add'l Spring Coaches*
Track & Field – Assistant **Mr. Bill Silay**
Middle School Track & Field – Assistant **Mr. Sean Buzzard**
6. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Sarah Doherty**, as Head Girls’ Varsity Volleyball Coach effective January 15, 2020. *Coach Resignation*
7. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Brianna Frakes**, as Assistant Girls’ Varsity Volleyball Coach effective January 15, 2020. *Coach Resignation*
8. To approve the football staff to attend the Glazier Football Clinic in Greentree, PA February 28-March 1, 2020, at a cost not to exceed \$499. *Coaches’ Clinic*
- ~~9. To approve adding Boys’ Soccer to the Co-Op agreement with the Northgate School District beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year. *Soccer Co-Op*~~

Athletics & Activities, continued

10. To approve the renewal of the following Co-Op agreements with the Northgate School District: *Co-Op Agreements*
- Boy’s Golf
 - Girls’ Soccer
 - Wrestling
 - Boys’ & Girls’ Swimming
 - Boys’ & Girls’ Track
11. To approve the renewal of the Boys’ Volleyball Co-Op agreement with OLSH. *Boys’ Volleyball Co-Op*
12. To approve the sub-lease agreement with the Avonworth Girls’ Athletic Association (AGAA) for district use of the Ohio Township softball field. *AGAA Sub-lease*

POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 1:

1. To approve retiring the following polices, per PSBA’s recommendation, due to the adoption of updated Policies 103: Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - School and Classroom Practices and 104: Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - Employment Practices which contain all information pertinent to nondiscrimination and discriminatory harassment. *Policy Change*
- #248 Unlawful Harassment – Pupils
 - #348 Unlawful Harassment – Administrative Employees
 - #448 Unlawful Harassment – Professional Employees
 - #548 Unlawful Harassment – Classified Employees

ADDENDUM ITEM

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

Motion: S. Bolain; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 1:

1. To approve Resolution #021020 Calling for Charter School Funding Reform. *Resolution*

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Mr. Warren said he and the three other music teachers nominated Dr. Ralston for the 2020 Outstanding Superintendent Award given by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) and Dr. Ralston won. The award will be presented to Dr. Ralston on April 24 at the Kalahari Convention Center in the Poconos. Dr. Ralston thanked the teachers for the nomination and said he would accept the award on their behalf.

New Business, continued

Mr. Waters and Mr. Stewart discussed the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium’s School Board Trustee vacancy position. The Board may nominate one person for the Trustee position which is for a two-year period effective March 30, 2020. Nominations are due February 28, 2020. No one expressed an interest in serving in this capacity.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:25 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary