

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 14, 2019
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Brandt

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Ms. Anna Bradley, Student
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent	Ms. Lucy Myers, Student
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management	Mr. Noah Quinn, Student
Dr. Bill Battistone, Elementary School Principal	Ms. Jen Bradley, Parent
Ms. Julie Raitano, Middle School Teacher	Ms. Sydney Shields, Student
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services	Mr. Jimmy Quinn, Student
Ms. Claire Pappas, AES Student Council Sponsor	Ms. Melanie Quinn, Parent
Ms. Amy Besterman, AES Student Council Sponsor	Ms. Becky Myers, Parent
Ms. Isabella Salerno, Student Council Representative	Ms. Rachel Shields, Parent
Ms. Mara Bett, Student Council Representative	Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary
Ms. Angela Giglio, Esq., Andrews & Price LLC <i>(left 7:40PM)</i>	
Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Andrews & Price LLC <i>(arrived 7:40 PM)</i>	

Call to Order

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

PRESENTATION: Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston thanked the School Board for their service to our district, staff and students. He presented each Board member with a certificate honoring them for volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community.

JANUARY, 2019 SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH

WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in the Commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE, that this proclamation hereby recognizes the Avonworth Board of School Directors for their outstanding efforts, difficult decisions, attention to educational success, and the invaluable amount of time they dedicate to making the Avonworth School District an outstanding educational institution.

STUDENT BOARD RECOGNITION

Ms. Claire Pappas and Ms. Amy Besterman, Elementary Student Council Sponsors were present this evening with Elementary Student Council representatives, who call themselves “The Game Changers.” Each student presented books on behalf of the School Board for the Elementary and Primary Center Libraries. Books chosen for the Primary Center are: Finchosaurus by Gail Donovan, Roar by Stephanie Warren Drimmer, I Do Not Like Books Anymore by Daisy Hirst, Dreamers by Yuyi Morales, Carmela Full of Wishes by Matt de la Pena and Christian Robinson, and Wicked Nix by Lena Coakley. Books chosen for the Elementary School are: Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly, Louisiana’s Way Home by Kate DiCamillo, One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare, Front Desk by Kelly Yang, and Mayday by Karen Harrington. High School Student Council Representative, Isabella Salerno presented To The Moon by Jeffrey Kluger and Ruby Shamir from the Middle School Student Council and Mara Bett presented Code Girls by Liza Mundy from the High School Student Council for the Middle/High School Collaboration Center.

Visitors’ Comments

No visitor comments

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

The High School is planning a Sadie Hawkins Dance on February 15 with teachers volunteering to chaperone. The Chamber Choir is hosting a Valentine chocolate and singing gram event. Student Council sold 100 cookies donated by AWBCC to raise money for Children’s Hospital.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston ordered “Beyond Test Scores: A Better Way to Measure School Quality” books for Board members for discussion at a future meeting. On Friday, Dr. Tyler Frew, Avonworth Class of 2006 and plastic surgeon, spoke to students in the Health & Medicine Personal Pathways Class.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley reviewed items he discussed at the Curriculum Meeting, including curriculum pilot updates in Elementary Reading and Middle/High School Math. He also discussed the new statewide Safe2Say school safety program. Anyone may anonymously use a tip line to report threats which are screened in one place. Five people in our district can respond to keep someone safe. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal and Safety Committee Chair has been instrumental in leading this program. On Wednesday, Dr. Hadley will send out a test call of our alert system.

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

Mr. Andrews provided his quarterly report which was also a year-end report. He is gathering together the 2019 residential and commercial appeals and will follow the same protocol as in the past. For 2018 all but seven received a decision which netted a gain of \$100,000 for the District. There are still \$14,000 in appeals pending. There are no outstanding appeals for 2017. For 2016 two residential appeals remain to be decided.

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

Mr. Carraway and Ms. Monti reported they attended the December dinner at AWBCC and the AWBCC Board moved every item on the agenda.

Mr. Blaser read: The Athletic Committee met on Monday, January 7, 2018 to discuss athletic matters. The Curriculum Committee met this evening to discuss curriculum matters.

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes November 27, 2018 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the December 3, 2018 Reorganization and Regular Meetings. (Voice Vote)

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

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.7 and items 2-8:

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|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for December, 2018, beginning with Check #45646 and ending with Check #45807 in the total amount of \$482,960.83. | General Fund |
| 1.2 | Ratify the December, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$1,138,521.76. | Payroll |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for November, 2018. | Treasurer |
| 1.4 | Ratify Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$63,020.56. | Capital Projects |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for December, 2018, beginning with Check #8673 and ending with Check #8709 in the total amount of \$3,662.50. | Athletic Fund |
| 1.6 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for December, 2018, beginning with Check #2599 and ending with Check #2607 in the total amount of \$21,943.36. | Fd. Svc. Fund |
| 1.7 | To approve the December Budget transfers as attached. | Budget Transfers |
| 2. | RESOLUTION #011419A: To continue membership in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Joint Purchasing Program as attached. | Resolution |
| 3. | To approve Official Avonworth School District Resolution #011419B Limiting Authority to Increase the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2019-2020 by More Than the Index of 2.3% as attached. | Resolution |
| 4. | To approve the 2017-2018 Audited Financial statements as presented by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, & Wood, LLC. | Audit Approval |
| 5. | To approve the proposed settlement for the 2018-2019 Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeal of One Best Drive LP for Block and Lot #213-G-225 as recommended by the District Solicitor as attached. | Real Est. Tax Settlement |

Finance, continued

6. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** and **Dr. Jeff Hadley** to attend the South By Southwest Education Conference March 3-7, 2019 in Austin, TX at no cost to the district. Expenses are covered by the 20/20 grant written by Dr. Ralston and Dr. Brian White of Butler Area School District. *Conference*
7. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** and **Dr. Jeff Hadley** to attend the League of Innovative Schools Spring Conference March 25-27, 2019 in Seattle, WA. A portion of the expenses will be reimbursed by the League of Innovative Schools. *Conference*

ADDENDUM ITEM

8. To retroactively approve **Mr. Will Guess** to attend the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, IL, December 20 and 21, 2018, at a cost of \$581.70. *Band Clinic*

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

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-12. **Motion amended to change the Crossroads Agreement end date to March 22, 2019:** K. Thompson; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 12 as amended:

1. To accept the Letter of Intent to Retire for **Ms. Judy Kalinoski**, Food Service worker, retroactive to December 21, 2018. *Retirement*
2. To approve a change in assignment for **Mr. Mervin Doerfler**, Middle/High School Food Service Worker from 9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. (4 hours/day) to Middle/High School Food Service Worker 8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. (5 hours/day), retroactive to December 6, 2018. *Change in Assignmt.*
3. To change the status of **Mr. Gary Wilhelm** from Substitute Custodian to Building Custodian retroactive to December 17, 2018, according to the AESPA contract, pending requirements of the District. Clearances are on file in the District Office. *Change in Status*
4. To approve **Mr. Bill McMillion** as Lead Custodian according to the AESPA contract, retroactive to December 17, 2018. *Lead Custodian*
5. To approve the request of **Mr. James Funderwhite** for an extended leave of absence from January 2, 2019 through January 11, 2019. *Extended Leave*
6. A salary increase for **Mr. Bill Bauer**, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, of 1% retroactive to July 1, 2018. *Salary Increase*
7. To approve the changes to the Elementary Counselor job description. *AES Counselor Job Desc.*

Personnel, continued

ADDENDUM ITEMS (5)

8. To approve the changes to the Middle School Counselor job description. *AMS Counselor Job Desc.*
9. To approve the changes to the High School Counselor job description. *AHS Counselor Job Desc.*
10. To approve the College and Career Counselor job description. *Col./Car. Coun. Job Desc.*
11. To approve **Ms. Ashley Hanzes** as a Primary Center Paraprofessional commencing January 15, 2019, according to the current AESPA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Para Hire*
12. To approve the Agreement with Crossroads Speech & Hearing to provide speech/language services January 21, 2019 through March 20, 22, 2019 (45 student days) at a cost of \$11,750. *Crossroads Agreement*

CURRICULUM – J. Brandt/V. Carlson – Co-Chairs

Motion: V. Carlson; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 1:

1. To approve the Kindergarten Program Guide for the 2019-2020 School Year as attached. *(Informational: No major educational content changes were made this year, only annual dates, times, etc. were updated.)* *K Program Guide*

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

1. To approve **Ms. Kara Mihalik** as the Paraprofessional supporting the Unified Sports/Bocce program, retroactive to December 6, 2018. *Bocce Para*

ADDENDUM ITEM

2. To approve **Ms. Melissa Reagle** and **Ms. Breanna Maisner** continue as Interim shared Sponsors of the Student United Nations Club for the second semester of the 2018-2019 School Year with a shared stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Interim Shared Sponsors Student UN*

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

1. To approve the District’s 2019-2022 Comprehensive Plan, previously on display for 30 days, and submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. *209-2020 Compr. Plan*
2. To re-adopt PSBA’s Principles for Effective Governance and Leadership *as attached.* *Adopt PSBA Principles*

Policy, continued

ADDENDUM ITEMS (3)

3. To approve a High School Basketball Pep Band for the remainder of the 2018-2019 School Year. The Pep Band would practice one hour before and play during the boys’ and girls’ home basketball games, not to exceed a total of six games per season. **Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi** would be the sponsor and receive a stipend of \$100/game for each game attended. If the Pep Band plays at more games than anticipated or in an extended season situation, administrative approval is needed. *Create AHS Pep Band*

4. To approve **Ms. Pamela Bouvy** as a First Student bus operator, having qualified under the laws and regulations as required by PA State Regulations. *Bus Operator*

5. To approve the application for a B.A.S.S. Club as a Provisional Club for students in Grades 7-12 beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year, with a stipend according to Policy 122.4. **Mr. Phil Coffin** will be the volunteer Sponsor for this club. Meetings will be held one to two times per month after school. *Create BASS Club*

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

No New Business

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn to an Executive Session at 8:10 P.M. to discuss a legal matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary