

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – July 9, 2018
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Patrick Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Ms. Kaitlyn Remensky, Asst. Principal
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services
Ms. Jill Shumaker, Half-Time Computer Teacher Candidate
Mr. Harley Shumaker
Ms. Sara Knable, Half-Time Art Teacher Candidate
Ms. Sherry Knable, Resident
Dr. Laura Hartzell, Resident
Mr. Russell Patterson, Intern with Dr. Ralston
Mr. Chris Binley, Parent
Mr. James Berent, Esquire, Andrews & Price
Mr. William Andrews, Esquire, Andrews & Price
Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen*
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

Visitors' Comments

Dr. Hartzell thanked Dr. Ralston and the Board for the letter that was sent to the community explaining the tax increase. She commended them for the decisions they make that benefit our students.

Mr. Binley thanked the Board for approving the JV Cheer team. He asked if an update could be given to parents on the status of the team, the coach, practice schedule, etc. He also volunteered his services to help fundraise or in any other area. Mr. Oberdick and Dr. Ralston advised him of the process and said parents would be updated as soon as possible.

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Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston recapped the Administrative Retreat held the second week of June at the BNY Innovation Center and at PPG. The retreat focused on administrators' individual growth and as a team.

Ms. Dwulit provided an update on the new schedule which is in its final stages of completion. She will send the updated schedule to each teacher. Student schedules will be sent out in August. This year's theme is "Who am I? Who am I becoming? and Who do I hope to be?" and will focus on mental health first aid. Ms. Dwulit and Ms. Remensky are working with the group, Stand Together, to help with mental health issues.

Dr. Ralston reported that the LGI addition will be ready by the August Board meeting. He introduced Dr. Russell Patterson, a Principal with Pittsburgh Public Schools, who will be interning with him this summer.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley reported the new District website is up and running. He and Ms. Dwulit have met with CCAC, LaRoche, RMU, Carlow University and others regarding the College In High School program. Dr. Hadley reported it was too late in Pitt's process to make any of our courses college in high school through Pitt for the upcoming school year. A plan will be developed. The Brain Hub grant is in the final stages. Mr. Hall and Dr. Hadley met with Dr. Brian Galla, Asst. Professor of Psychology in Education at the University of Pittsburgh. The focus of the grant is a collaboration with Pitt to help us develop a greater understanding of the teenage brain, as well as to utilize their expertise to assist our students with a wellness project that will occur in our seventh grade. Dr. Hadley gave the Board a draft of the Communications Plan which gives a good overview of our district and outlines our goals. Ms. Bolain suggested sending information about the new website to the community. Dr. Hadley, Mr. Hall, Ms. Remensky and the Eighth Grade Teachers are going to New Tech Network in St. Louis, MO for training on July 11.

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

Mr. Andrews gave a status report on the real estate tax assessment appeals. No decision has been made yet for the 2018 properties. The 2017 appeals are coming to a close. The 98 residential and one commercial appeal have brought in a little over \$82,000 in school taxes.

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

Mr. Blaser reported that AWBCC approved their Student, Staff, and Health Handbooks. Enrollment is currently at 809 students. The June 19 edition of the Tribune Review ran a cover story on an AWBCC teacher and student for developing a high efficiency oil furnace. Skills USA was held the end of June at the Kentucky Exposition Center and two students from Pine-Richland and one from North Allegheny won a gold medal. The next AWBCC meeting is in August.

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2018 Budget Hearing and Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the June 11, 2018 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** B. Blaser to revise the motion to approve items 1.1-1.5 and items 2-5 (Item #1.6 was numbered incorrectly); **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.5 and items 2-5:

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for June, 2018, beginning with Check #44410 and ending with Check #44598 in the total amount of \$850,027.10. *General Fund*
- 1.2 Ratify the June, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$1,508,742.38. *Payroll*
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for May, 2018. *Treas. Report*
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for June, 2018, beginning with Check #2558 and ending with Check #2568 in the total amount of \$21,682.35. *Fd. Svc. Fund*
- 1.65 Approve Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$183,191.90. *Capital Projects*

2. To approve **Mr. Greg Wolfe** to attend the AAPT Conference in Washington D.C. July 28 – August 1, 2018 at a cost not to exceed \$915.00. *Conference*

3. The transfer of \$180,000 from the 2017-2018 General Fund Budget to the Capital Projects Fund for the Elementary Bathroom Renovation Project. *Transfer funds*

4. To accept a grant from the Grable Foundation for 2020 Creating Vision by Opening Eyes in the amount of \$75,000 to be used for Superintendent professional development in the region. *Grant*

Dr. Ralston said he co-authored the grant with Dr. Brian White, Superintendent of the Butler Area School District. It will provide funding to support area superintendents as well as provide professional development. The superintendents would meet once every other month.

5. To approve the EITC Letter of Support for the Pittsburgh Opera, retroactive to June 13, 2018, to accompany their application for inclusion for educational improvement organizations to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development. *EITC*

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

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-10:

1. To approve the transfer of five sick days for **Ms. Brittany Rene Mills**, Speech & Language Teacher, which were accumulated during her employment with the Fox Chapel Area School District. *Trans. Sick Days*

2. To accept the Letter of Resignation from High School Learning Support Teacher, **Ms. Elaine Tierney**, retroactive to June 25, 2018. *Resignation*

3. To approve **Ms. Tessa Babcock** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Fourth Grade Teacher commencing August 17, 2018, at Category B, Step 2, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Hire Gr. 4 Teacher*

Personnel, continued

- 4. To approve **Ms. Sara Knable** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Half Time Elementary Art Teacher commencing August 17, 2018, at Category B, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Hire HT Art Teacher*

- 5. To approve **Ms. Jill Shumaker** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Half Time Computer Science Teacher commencing August 17, 2018, at Category M+15, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Hire HT Comp. Teacher*

- 6. To create two Full Time School Security Officer positions beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year. *Create Security Officer Positions*

Dr. Ralston recently attended the Dr. Samuel Francis Legal Symposium where one of the topics was what schools should look for when hiring officers. Clear guidelines need to be established for the officers. We may not have the officers in place at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Andrews noted it would take at least 30 days for a judge to sign the petition to hire the officers and swear them in.

- 7. The salary increases for Act 93 personnel per attached Document P-2. *Act 93 Salary Incr.*

- 8. The salary increases for non-union personnel per attached Document P-3. *Non-Union Sal. Incr.*

- 9. To approve the contract with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services for summer ESY services to be delivered to a student, effective July 9, 2018. *Pgh. Behav. ESY*

- 10. To approve the contract with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services for consultation/training for the 2018-2019 teaching team, effective July 9, 2018. *Pgh. Behav. Training*

Dr. Ralston introduced newly hired teachers, Ms. Sara Knable and Ms. Jill Shumaker.

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

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

- 1. To declare eight tables and 34 chairs in the Collaboration Center classroom as obsolete and that they be donated/disposed of. *Obsolete Tables/Chairs*

- 2. To declare four classroom sets (approximately 25 per set) of student desks in the Middle School classrooms as obsolete and that they be donated/disposed of. *Obsolete Student Desks*

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-3. **Motion to rescind approving item 2:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to rescind approval of item 2. Need to clarify if this is a volunteer position.

1. To approve **Ms. Marley Jenkins** and **Ms. Jenna Kreutzer** as volunteer Assistant Middle School Cheerleading coaches beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year, with no benefits, pending requirements of the District. *Vol. Cheer Coaches*

2. To approve ~~**Mr. Kevin Dexter**~~ as an Assistant Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach for the 2018-2019 School Year, with a stipend according to the AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Rescinded Motion*

3. To approve the Ross-West View Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Agreement for the 2018- 2019 School Year at a cost of \$750.00. (*Note: This amount has remained the same for the past four years.*) *Ross/W View EMS*

Ms. Bolain asked for a list of coaching staff. Mrs. Donovan will provide the list to the Board.

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

Motion: V. Carlson; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to table item 1 until the August meeting in order that clarification can be determined.

Discussed if this is considered a club that is open to all or if students would need to audition.

1. ~~To waive the provisional status of the Avonworth High School Chamber Choir and approve it as a club commencing with the 2018-2019 School Year. The sponsor for this club is Mr. Michael Warren, with a stipend according to the AEA contract. The waiver is based on the Chamber Choir running for the past year with the sponsor volunteering his time.~~ *Tabled Motion*

Old Business

The Board discussed PSBA's recommendation of opposing Senate Bill 2 Opposing the ESA Voucher Program.

LEGISLATIVE – S. Bolain/J. Carraway – Co-Chairs

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Resolution 070918 Opposing ESA Voucher Programs as attached.

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New Business

Dr. Ralston indicated the need for a General Purpose Meeting be held in July to approve hiring new staff members.

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to hold a General Purpose Meeting on July 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM. Mrs. Donovan will advertise the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting to an Executive Session at 8:55 P.M. to discuss personnel and contract matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary