

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 8, 2020
Avonworth School District – Board Room & Virtually
7:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. Patrick Stewart

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti,
Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. Danielle White

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Management
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent	Mr. John Shantz, Parent
Mr. Doug Haskins, Teacher/AEA V.P.	Ms. Tresa Amoscato, APC Principal Intern
Ms. Alexandra Martin, Teacher Candidate	Mr. Will Guess, Teacher
Mr. Michael Warren, Teacher	Ms. Kristin Schleis, Parent
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent	Mr. Tim Gannon, Parent
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent	Mr. James Talarico, Parent
Ms. Julie Kolenda, Parent	Mr. William Andrews, Solicitor
Dr. Matt Erickson, Partner, KeySource Solutions	Ms. Nancy White, <i>The Citizen</i>

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Visitors' Comments

No visitor comments

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston reported that professional development was held last week for our teachers and was facilitated by teachers.

After the death of George Floyd we have been thinking how we can support families and students of color. At the Young American Leadership Program Dr. Ralston attended at Harvard a person talked about the need for us to stay in this place for a while in order for it to resonate and realize if the country doesn't make a change we won't move forward. We will focus on dialogue with families and we have identified actionable items.

We had a tremendous turnout and community support for the senior car cruise this past Friday. Dr. Ralston thanked everyone involved in planning the car cruise celebration. Graduation is still scheduled for July 17.

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Dr. Ralston said the School Design Team will travel to Cleveland to visit three schools who will share their innovative designs at their schools.

The State came out with guidelines for face-to-face learning in the fall. We are preparing a health and safety plan for Board approval. There are a few families in the community who are dealing with pre-existing conditions. Our recent survey showed 7% of our families desire a virtual learning option. We have until July 13 to submit our plan to the State.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley reported that teachers spent 1.5 days with the Carnegie Learning trainer and Grades K-5 teachers spent time with Sally Kaan from Great Minds. The original quote from Carnegie Learning was for \$46,000 but Dr. Hadley was able to reduce the cost to \$41,000 by partnering with Quaker Valley. Elementary Counselor, Ms. Alaina Schrader, attended a Train the Trainer workshop and was able to tailor her learning to help with COVID-19 pandemic. Jai Li, Chinese teacher, was approved to teach a Chinese College in High School class through Pitt.

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

Mr. Andrews will provide his quarterly report at the July meeting.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti

Ms. Monti reported AWBCC is getting ready for the fall classes. The Kiddie Tech Program that provides daycare will be reopening on Monday, June 15.

Mr. Blaser reported that Mr. Mike Hall, School Safety Coordinator, provided the annual Safety Report required by the Department of Education, during an Executive Session at 7:00 P.M. this evening.

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2020 Work Session and the May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

Motion: D. White; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.5 and items 2-11:

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for May, 2020, beginning with Check #48833 and ending with Check #49022 in the total amount of \$217,775.93. | <i>General Fund</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the May, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,190,145.46. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer's Report for April, 2020. | <i>Treasurer's Report</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for April, 2020, beginning with Check #2728 and ending with Check #2748 in the total amount of \$3,798.90. | <i>Food Svc. Fund</i> |
| 1.5 | To approve capital project payments of \$4,496.22. | <i>Capital Projects</i> |
| 2. | To approve the MOU with the Ohio Township Police Department for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 School Years. | <i>MOU OTPD</i> |

Finance, continued

3. The Board “commit” \$1,000,000 of the June 30, 2020 Ending General Fund Balance for the future expenses related to the projected employer contributions to the Pennsylvania State Employer Retirement System (PSERS). *Gen. Fund - PSERS*
4. To approve the Final Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year in the amount of \$35,319,185 as presented on State Form PDE-2028. *Final Budget 2020-21*
5. The adoption of Resolution 060820-A to establish millage at 19.53 mills for the 2020-2021 School Year as attached. *Resolution*
6. The adoption of Resolution 060820-B Homestead and Farmstead Resolution as attached. *Resolution*
7. Approval of Resolution #060820-C to authorize the refinancing of the Series 2011, Series A-1 of 2015, Series A-2 of 2015 and Construction/Capital Improvements to various district facilities. *Resolution*
8. The following depositories for school funds for the 2020-2021 School Year: **PNC Bank, Citizens Bank, PA School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF)**. *Depositories*
9. The 2020-2021 Renewal Coverage for the District’s insurance coverage for “Package, Property, Automobile, Excess Liability, and Errors & Omissions” through UTICA at a total annual premium of \$76,839 and “cyber coverage” through PSBA at an annual premium of \$4,248. *Insurance Renewal*
10. District Worker’s Compensation program renewal through PSBA/CM Regent for the 2020-2021 School Year at an annual premium of \$120,199. *Worker’s Comp.*
11. To approve meal prices for the 2020-2021 School Year as listed below. *Meal Prices*
(This is a 10¢/breakfast and lunch price increase.) *(See web folder)*
 - Breakfast (all schools): \$1.70
 - Primary Center/Elementary Lunch: \$2.80
 - Middle/High School Lunch: \$2.90; Premium Lunch: \$3.55
 - Adult (all schools): Breakfast: \$2.10; Lunch: \$4.20

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

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

1. To accept the Letter of Intent to Retire from **Ms. Diane Fabian**, Paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2020. *Retirement*
2. To accept the Separation Agreement and the Letter of Intent to Retire from **Mr. Tim Giel**, Athletic Director, effective June 30, 2020. *Retirement*
3. To rescind the motion of November 11, 2019 approving the request of **Ms. Mara Alterio**, for an educational sabbatical for the 2020-2021 School Year. *Rescind Ed. Sabbatical*

Personnel, continued

4. To rescind the motion of February 10, 2020 approving **Ms. Amanda Lemon** as a Long Term Substitute School Nurse for the 2020-2021 School Year. *Rescind LTS Nurse*
5. To approve **Ms. Alexandra Martin** as a Professional Employee with an assignment as Music Teacher commencing August 18, 2020, at Category B, Step 4, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Hire Prof. Employee*
6. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Sara Croft** from Half Time Art Teacher to Full Time Art Teacher beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year. *Chg. in Assignment*
7. To approve the three-year agreement with KeySolution Staffing, L.L.C. for Student Services support, at an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per year. *KeySolution*
8. Approval of the following Summer ESY Program Staff commencing July 6, 2020, at a rate per the current AEA and AESPA bargaining agreements: *ESY Staff*

Teachers

Ms. Pam Rawlings, ABA	Ms. Rebecca Kolesar
Ms. Erica Snyder	Ms. Katie Straley

Paraprofessionals

Ms. Pam Wingfield	Ms. Lisa Simmons
Mr. Arlon McGaha	Ms. Deeptha Cowlagi
Ms. Amy Kantenwein	

YMCA

Ms. Pam Rawlings, Coordinator (limited hours)	
Ms. Pam Wingfield	Mr. Justin Campalong

ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)

9. To approve **Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi** as mentor for **Ms. Alexandra Martin**, Music Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year. *Mentor*
10. To approve summer hours for the following: *Summer Hours*
 - A. **Ms. Alaina Schrader, Elementary School Counselor – 4 days**
 - B. **Ms. Sara Osborn, Elementary Media Center Specialist – 2 days**
 - C. **Ms. Barb Bauer, Primary Center Counselor - 4 Days**
 - D. **Ms. Katy Tarasi, APC/AES Literacy Coach- 4 Days**
 - E. **Mr. Aaron Pellicano, Grades 7-9 Counselor - 15 Days**
 - F. **Mr. Dave Como, Grades 10-12 Counselor - 15 Days**
 - G. **Ms. Nicole Levis, College & Career Counselor - 10 Days**
 - H. **Ms. Patty Clark, High School Guidance Secretary - 70 Hours**
 - I. **Dr. Sandra Swen, School Psychologist – 10 Days**

Dr. Ralston virtually introduced Ms. Alexandra “Sasha” Martin, our new Music teacher, and Dr. Matt Erickson, Partner with KeySolution Staffing LLC.

Mr. Blaser thanked Mr. Giel for his ten years of service and his contributions to the District. During his tenure, the District won their first PIAA State championship, three State Runner-ups, seven WPIAL championships, six WPIAL Runner-Ups, 21 Section Titles, seven individual PIAA Champions, 28 individual WPIAL champions, 13 students were named to their all-state teams, four students were named to their respective all American teams, over 200 students named to their all-section or conference or WPIAL teams. We've earned two PIAA Sportsmanship awards, the National Athletic Trainer Society recognized us a safe sports school from 2015-2021, only 25 other schools have received that honor. We finished 4th the last two years in our division in the Trib High School Sports Cup standings which measures the strength of the athletic program in WPIAL schools.

ADDENDUM ITEM

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

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

1. To approve the continuation contract with New Tech Network for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 School Years.

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

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-6:

1. To approve the 2020-2021 Student Athletic Insurance underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company at an annual premium of \$6,950. *Student Ath. Ins.*
2. To approve **Mr. Dave Thomas** as Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District, at a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Asst. Coach Hire*
3. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Sherah Rothman** as Assistant Cross Country Coach effective May 29, 2020. *Coach Resignation*

ADENDUM ITEMS (3)

4. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Alexandra Kleer** as shared Assistant Middle School Softball Coach as of May 13, 2020. *Asst. Coach Resignation*
5. To accept the resignation of **Mr. Mike Donovan** as Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach as of June 1, 2020. *Asst. Coach Resignation*
6. To reinstate the 9th Grade Boys' Basketball team for the 2020-2021 School Year. *Reinstate 9th Gr. Basketball*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)

POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1 and 2:

1. To approve the changes to Policy 122.1 Establishing New Club Sports as attached. *Pol. 122.1 Change*
2. To approve the changes to Policy 122.5 Outside Club Sports as attached. *Pol. 122.5 Change*

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Dr. Ralston said we should be able to return to our normal format for the July Regular meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary

RESOLUTION #060820-A
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MILLAGE 2020-2021

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District, under and pursuant to the authority of the Public School Code of 1949, its supplemental and amendments that, for the school year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 the following tax is levied and assessed:

A tax of 19.53 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all property assessed and certified for taxes, and taxable for school purposes within the School District, being \$19.53 for each \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation.

All taxpayers subject to the payment of taxes, assessed by the taxing district, shall be entitled to a discount of two per centum from the amount of such tax upon making payment of the whole amount thereof within three months after the effective date of the tax notice. Thereafter, all taxpayers who fail to make payment of any such taxes charged against them after six months of the effective date of the notice shall be charged a penalty of ten per centum, which penalty shall be added to the taxes by the tax collector and be collected by him/her, or the appointed delinquent real estate tax collector. Any statutorily permissible penalty during the initial six-month payment period shall be set at zero per centum.

In accordance with Avonworth School District Resolution No. (b) Collection of Installment Payments – Real Estate dated June 13, 2001, homeowners with a homestead or farmstead property approved pursuant to Section 341 of the Act are eligible to pay real property taxes in three (3) equal installments with each payment being one-third (1/3) of the total face amount of said taxes due and owing as billed by the school district’s local Real Estate Tax Collectors.

Such payments will be due on or before:

- a. August 31
- b. October 31
- c. December 31

A ten per centum (10%) penalty shall be charged for any late payment.

RESOLVED, this 8h day of June, 2020

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cindy S. F. Donovan, Board Secretary

Beau Blaser, Board President

**RESOLUTION #060820-B
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDING
THE HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION AS MANDATED BY ACT 50 AND ACT 1**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2020, under provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 2008 and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$3,577.09.
2. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$3,577.09.
3. For the purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report received by the School District from the County assessment office on or before May 1st pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341(g) (3), based upon homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County assessment office on or before March 1st. This tax notice shall apply only to notices issued based upon the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1st and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.
4. The relevant calculations in reference to said exclusion shall be prepared in an appropriate form document by the School District Business Office and made available upon request.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District at a regularly convened meeting held on the 8th day of June, 2020.

ATTEST:

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cindy S. F. Donovan, Board Secretary

Beau Blaser, Board President