

**Avonworth School District**  
**258 Josephs Lane**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**Avonworth Board of School Directors**  
**Minutes – Regular Meeting – March 8, 2021**  
**Avonworth School District – LGI Room & Virtually**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM (Roll Call Taken):**

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Kristin Thompson

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY (Roll Call Taken & Verified by Voices & Video):**

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Danielle White

**OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:**

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent  
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.  
Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Solicitor

Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent  
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Mr. Ron Lantzy, Parent  
Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent  
Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent  
Mr. Matt Kline, Parent  
Ms. Michele Kline, Parent  
Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent  
Ms. Bobbie Farrah, Parent  
Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent  
Ms. Kate Campbell, Parent  
Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent  
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent  
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent  
Ms. Maureen O'Dell, Parent  
Ms. Kristin Schleis, Parent  
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher  
Ms. Maureen O'Neil, Parent  
Ms. Sherah Rothman, Teacher  
Mr. Joshua Cable, Intern to Superintendent  
Ms. Jessica Grande, Parent  
Mr. Oscar Matous, *The Citizen*  
Ms. Melanie Neal, Parent  
Ms. Mallory Accamando, Teacher  
Ms. Jennifer Revesz, Teacher  
Ms. Carrie Velisaris, Parent  
Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent  
Ms. Kristy Alberts, Parent  
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent  
Ms. Shawn Fissore, Parent

Ms. Pam Homol, Parent  
Ms. Allison Beck, Parent  
Ms. Melissa Wiggins (Vietmeier), Parent  
Ms. Tracy Cassidy, Parent  
Mr. Michael Klaum, Parent  
Ms. Stephanie Sapolsky, Parent  
Ms. Andrea Jacobs, Parent  
Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher  
Ms. Gretchen Crawford, Parent  
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent  
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Parent/Paraprofessional  
Ms. Lea Ann Lope, Parent  
Ms. Stephani Machen, Parent  
Mr. Bill White, Teacher  
Ms. Keera Dwulit, HS Principal  
Ms. Chris Conklin, Parent  
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent  
Mr. Dave Chekan, Parent  
Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher/AEA President  
Mr. Scott Majesky, HS Counseling Intern  
Dr. William Battistone, ES Principal  
Mr. Robb Pfeil, Parent  
Ms. Melissa Mohn, Parent  
Ms. Christine Hebor, Parent  
Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent  
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent  
Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse  
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent

**Others Present Virtually, continued**

Ms. Melissa Lesko, Parent	Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, MS/HS Asst. Principal
Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent	Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent	Ms. Katie Coyne, Parent
Mr. Greg Smolinski, Parent	Ms. Joyce Raymond, Paraprofessional
Ms. Jen Wagner, Parent	Ms. Karen Baker, Parent
Ms. Megan Dolan, Parent	Mr. Karim Alshurafa, Parent
Mr. Karim Alshurafa, Parent	Ms. Julie Brown, Parent
Mr. Randy Vulakovich, Parent	Mr. Brant Colamarino, Blgs./Grounds Supvrs.
Ms. Maureen O'Connor	Ms. Halle Archey, Student

**Call to Order**

*Board President, Ms. Vicki Carlson, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:34P.M.*

*Mrs. Carlson read the following statement:*

The continuation of our discussion on returning students to school will occur toward the end of this meeting under “Old Business.” We will be discussing the following topics at that time:

- Reaffirming our commitment to the Avonworth Virtual Academy
- Bringing the senior class back to school
- Vaccinations for Avonworth School Staff
- The Community Transmission Model that Avonworth will use for the remainder of the year
- Bringing students back, by discussing each school building separately, starting with elementary (grades 4-6), the middle school (grades 7-8) and then the remaining HS grades (9-11).

**Visitors' Comments**

*No visitor comments*

**Report of Student Representative – Ms. Kyra Carlson**

*Ms. Carlson reported the High School Student Council is holding weekly drawings in March for students to answer Avonworth or Pittsburgh related trivia questions. Prizes are Lopes Lounge gift certificates. They are interviewing musical actors and crew to recognize the Drama Club. They created the Mint ‘Lopeccino’ for a St. Patrick’s Day theme to promote the Lopes Lounge.*

**Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent**

*Dr. Ralston recognized the girls’ swim team for being the WPIAL champions and the boys’ swim team as runners-up. He said at the Federal level there appears to be more stimulus money coming our way which would be used to expand our summer offerings to include a lot more students and focus on wonderful learnings and projects teachers would be able to provide. Dr. Ralston reminded everyone of the upcoming event with speaker Candi Castleberry Singleton on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. She will discuss how we can work to create a better sense of belonging.*

Minutes – Regular Meeting March 8, 2021

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley recognized 6<sup>th</sup> grade Calc-U-Solve students who won first place, Shakespeare Monologue students, Ms. Hart and Ms. Reagle for being named PSMLA Global Educators, and Jake Abbott for being named one of A. W. Beattie Career Center’s top automotive technology students. Dr. Hadley discussed the Parent Training Series coming in the Spring. The registration flyer was emailed to families.

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

Mr. Andrews had no report at this time but will have his Quarterly Report in April.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti/Ms. Kristin Thompson

Mrs. Monti said there was no AWBCC meeting in February. She acknowledged Riley Carroll, Stephanie Cunningham, Colin McPhearson and Jermaine Woods who have been named as National Technical Honor Society nominees. Sean Boaks (Emergency Response Technology program) and Stephanie Cunningham (Health Science Technology program) have been recognized as AWBCC January/February Students of the Month.

**Motion:** J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2021 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the Minutes of the February 15, 2021 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

*Minutes*

**Motion:** S. Bolain; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to move the Agenda items **with the exception of Personnel Motion #5, Curriculum Motions #1 and 2, and #4 and 5 under Finance on the Addendum which will be voted upon separately.**

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1.1</b> Ratify payment of General Fund bills for February, 2021, beginning with Check #50669 and ending with Check #50841 in the total amount of \$866,004.66.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Ratify the February, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$1,413,225.77.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Treasurer’s Report for January, 2021.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for February, 2021, beginning with Check #2786 and ending with Check #2791 in the total amount of \$19,675.21.</p> <p><b>2.</b> To approve the Agreement with The Meadows Psychiatric Center for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years.</p> <p><b>3.</b> To approve the solicitation of bids (if necessary) for General Supplies, Arts, and Athletics, for the 2021-2022 School Year.</p> | <p><i>General Fund</i></p> <p><i>Payroll</i></p> <p><i>Treasurer’s Rpt.</i></p> <p><i>Fd. Svc. Fund</i></p> <p><i>Meadows Agreement</i></p> <p><i>Solicit Supply Bids</i></p> |
|---|---|

**Finance, continued**

**Motion:** D. White; **Second:** Y. Cheng; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 4 and 5 on the Addendum:

**ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)**

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 4. | To approve the agreement with School Assist Consulting LLC for the School Board Workshop in the amount of \$350.   | <i>School Assist<br/>Consulting Agreement</i> |
| 5. | To approve the agreement with Three Rivers Music Therapy, LLC for the SEMTAP evaluation at a cost of \$150 and an hourly rate of \$100/hour (\$50 per 30 minutes) for the 2020-2021 School Year. | <i>Three Rivers Music<br/>Therapy</i>         |

**PERSONNEL – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** K. Monti; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 5.

- |    |  |                                   |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | To approve <b>Ms. Morgan Waddell</b> as mentor for Mr. Michael Shoats, 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Long Term Substitute Biology teacher effective March 1, 2021. | <i>Mentor</i>                     |
| 2. | To approve the request of <b>Ms. Alexandra Imbrogno</b> for FMLA from August 18, 2021 through October 29, 2021.  | <i>FMLA</i>                       |
| 3. | To accept the resignation of <b>Mr. William Bauer</b> , Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, with Intent to Retire.   | <i>Retirement</i>                 |
| 4. | To change the status of <b>Mr. Brant Colamarino</b> from Interim Buildings & Grounds Supervisor to Buildings & Grounds Supervisor.                         | <i>Status Change</i>              |
| 5. | To approve the renewal of <b>Dr. Thomas Ralston</b> , Superintendent’s contract for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.                         | <i>Supt. Contract<br/>Renewal</i> |

*Board members expressed their appreciation for Dr. Ralston’s accomplishments and hard work and recognized that people look to him for leadership.*

**CURRICULUM – Y. Cheng/J. Brandt, Co-Chairs**

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

- |    |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | To approve the adoption of Wit & Wisdom by Great Minds for Grade 6 beginning with the 2021-2022 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00. | <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom<br/>Grade 6</i> |
| 2. | To approve the 2021-2022 High School Course Guide.   | <i>HS Course Guide</i>              |

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

1. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Elizabeth Donovan** as Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach effective March 1, 2021. *Cheer Coach  
Resignation*
  
2. The Administration recommends approval of the following Spring coaches for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District. In the event that an athletic season or other activity is shortened or cancelled in its entirety, payment for the affected supplemental positions(s) shall be reduced on a pro rata basis. This appointment does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his/her position will be needed and in place or that it will continue uninterrupted during the 2020-2021 School Year. *Spring Coaches*

<b>Assistant Varsity Track Coach</b>	<b>Ms. Jamie Grossman</b>
<b>Assistant Varsity Track Coach</b>	<b>Ms. Emily Cropper</b>
<b>Volunteer Assistant Track Coach</b>	<b>Mr. Jerry Veshio</b>

**POLICY – S. Bolain/K. Monti, Co-Chairs**

1. The Administration recommends removing the provisionary status of the following clubs and approving them as Avonworth Co-Curricular clubs/organizations commencing with the 2020-2021 School Year. In the event that an athletic season or other activity is shortened or cancelled in its entirety, payment for the affected supplemental position(s) shall be reduced on a pro rata basis. This appointment does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his/her position will be needed and in place or that it will continue uninterrupted during the 2020-2021 School Year. *Remove Prov. Status*
  - A. The Steel City Codes Club. The sponsor for this club is **Ms. Jill Shumaker** with a stipend according to the AEA contract. *Steel City Codes*
  - B. The eSports Club. The sponsor for this club is **Ms. Jill Shumaker** with a stipend according to the AEA contract. *eSports*
  - C. The Social Justice Club. The co-sponsors for this club are **Ms. Sonia Ewell, Ms. Michelle George, and Ms. Jill Shumaker** with a stipend according to the AEA contract. *Social Justice*
  
2. To approve **Ms. Judith Callaghan** as a school bus driver who has qualified under the laws and regulations as required by PA State Regulations. *Bus Driver*

**Old Business**

*Mrs. Carlson read the following: Thank you to everyone in attendance tonight and for your patience as we did our best to move quickly through our agenda items to get to the discussion we started at last week's work session regarding Avonworth Schools.*

*Last week we reminded everyone that our state and federal governments and corresponding health agencies have specifically chosen to NOT mandate instructional decisions. Instead they have created models and guidelines as recommendations with some requirements within those models. This requires school districts, specifically School Boards, to make decisions that are specific to their school district. So that is what we're here tonight to do.*

*For those of you who might feel like you're stuck in the movie "Ground Hog Day" where the same discussions and decisions are taking place month after month in every Board meeting – I completely understand. However, I encourage all of us to remember that any decision that we all make every day are made within a specific context. Unfortunately, our context in making instructional model decisions in the midst of COVID has been continually changing. This requires Avonworth to revisit the decisions that we made under a different context.*

*At the end of February, the CDC released new recommendations. Last week PA announced that our state was designating its allotment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccinations for school staff. These items as well as our ever-changing community COVID transmission levels has changed the context yet again, which requires further discussion as we move towards the last nine weeks of school.*

*Tonight we will structure our decision making similar to the way we did it back in November. We will look at one topic at a time, taking some of the foundational topics first and then working up to the more complex decisions that are impacted by the first few decisions.*

*I will introduce the topic. We will ask the administration for an update on that topic, and their recommendations. We will then open discussion (on that topic only) for both the Board and the public. I would ask Board members to not make any motions until all discussion is finished on that topic. As the discussion wraps up, I will invite a motion to be made and after discussion of that specific motion, we will vote, until a clear decision is reached by a majority vote of the Board. All votes in this segment will be a roll call vote this evening.*

*Are there any questions before we get started? There were no questions.*

**Discussion #1** – My understanding is that the board and administration has been clear that we will continue to provide the Avonworth Virtual Academy through the end of the 2020-21 school year. However, we have received emails from parents that indicate a concern that we will take that option away in our decision tonight. So let's start with re-affirming that commitment.

*Dr. Ralston said we will continue the Virtual Academy for K-12 for the rest of this school year and will evaluate for next school year. Mr. Stewart asked if parents could switch their children to the Virtual Academy. Dr. Ralston said yes but they would need to commit to their choice and not switch back and forth.*

**Motion from the Floor:** P. Stewart; **Second:** K. Thompson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 1:

1. To reaffirm the District’s commitment to the Virtual Academy.

Virtual Academy

**Discussion #2** - The administration recommended at the March 1st School Board work session to bring the senior class back into the building.

*Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley presented the results from the recent parent survey. We are able to bring Grade 12 students back safely because some have work releases, classes at AWBCC, and early release. We would like them to start March 22. Tents have been set up outside which can be used for lunch time as well as using the gyms. We will use the LGI and auditorium so students can join classes virtually if safe distancing cannot be followed in the classroom. Windows in classrooms and on busses will be opened, weather permitting.*

**Motion from the Floor:** Y. Cheng; **Second:** K. Thompson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 2:

2. Beginning March 22, we give seniors the option to choose 4 in-person days a week through the end of the school year, while keeping the option of hybrid or 100% virtual available.

Seniors Return

**Discussion #3** - Vaccinations are being made available for school staff in PA across the month of March. Does the Board want to make either the opportunity to be vaccinated or the time frame when the vaccinated staff has reached full protection a pre-requisite to bringing students back full-time with less than 6 feet distancing into that particular building?

*Dr. Ralston provided an update on vaccines. The first round of vaccinations is scheduled for this week. The second batch of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is expected by March 28. The CDC has given strict protocol on who receives the Johnson & Johnson vaccine: K-12 Special Education teachers, staff teaching our youngest learners, and bus drivers. Fifty Moderna vaccines for Phase 1A people were not received but we were able to get those people on the Johnson & Johnson list this week. Dr. Hadley has been heading up the preparations and logistical work for the vaccines and has done an amazing job making sure our district is prepared for the next steps. Dr. Hadley thanked Mrs. Marszalek and Mrs. Hansen for their assistance.*

*Mrs. White asked if it would be possible to provide 6 feet of social distance between the teachers and students at the high school. Dr. Ralston responded that it would be difficult but possible - that the district would have to create a box outline for the teacher to be able to achieve this as one possibility.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Dan Shantz, who talked about teachers being 6 feet apart from students at the front of the classroom and having consistency for students.*

*Mrs. White feels we are relying on the State as being ironclad but we are not sure what will happen at the end of March. Dr. Ralston said he has been told that March 28 is the date we can expect the second batch of vaccines.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Michael Klaum, who asked if we thought the K-6 teachers would be vaccinated next week. Dr. Ralston said our staff list was supplied to the AIU today to schedule vaccinations. Mr. Klaum asked if we were requiring vaccines for 7-12 teachers. Mrs. Carlson said in general, yes; we will have other grades covered. It's important for the Board to make decisions across the board. Mr. Blaser feels the time is right with the tents up, masking, distancing, to get the kids back for the rest of the school year.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Halle Archey, who asked if we mandate students and staff get vaccinated. Dr. Ralston said we can't force staff to get the vaccine. Ms. Archey said as a student she feels there's more we can do such as hybrid can tune in virtually from other parts of the building.*

**Motion from the Floor:** Y. Cheng; **Second:** S. Bolain; **Motion Carried:** By voice vote to approve item 3:

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Bolain – aye; Mr. Brandt – aye; Ms. Cheng – aye; Ms. Monti – aye; Mr. Stewart – aye; Ms. Thompson – aye; Mrs. White – nay; Mr. Blaser – nay; Mrs. Carlson – aye.

3. To give the administration the authorization to bring more grade levels back full-time, in-person once the school personnel in that building have had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and at least two weeks post vaccine shot.

*Bring Grade  
Levels Back*

**Discussion #4** – On November 23, 2020 the Avonworth School Board, by a Unanimous Vote approved a framework for the administration to make changes between Instructional Levels as follows:

- Decisions will be based on the PDE Instructional model chart including the County requirement for two weeks in a level to initiate a change in instruction model.
- The decision will be based on local Avonworth and Allegheny county positivity and incident rate data, deferring to the most concerning level of transmission, as well as specific District issues or concerns.
- The District will communicate the plan for Instructional Model on a weekly basis.

There is now an updated CDC model that has been introduced, but the PDE has not adopted it. Does the school board want to make a change to the November 23rd decision? Here are the options:

- Continue to use the PDE model as the guide for the administration to make changes to the instruction level?
- Change to use the new CDC model, which offers additional flexibility.
- Choose not to follow either model make a decision to bring students back regardless of community transmission levels.

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, John Shantz, who said the County published a new dashboard showing rates per community were dropping. He provided the link for this dashboard information. Dr. Hadley said the dashboard does not show the numbers we used on the CDC/PDE chart. Ms. Archey feels there's only so much flexibility we can have during a pandemic. Mr. Shantz said you can see the numbers for each community on the dashboard.*



**Motion from the Floor:** J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion was withdrawn:**

4. This Board accept as our directing guidance the new model adopted by the CDC on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 which provides better differentiation between community transmission levels. The District should continue to use both County and Local Community data to determine the Avonworth transmission level.

*Withdrawn Motion*

**Motion from the Floor:** Y. Cheng; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** By voice vote to approve item 4:

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Bolain – aye; Mr. Brandt – aye; Ms. Cheng – aye; Ms. Monti – aye; Mr. Stewart – aye; Ms. Thompson – aye; Mrs. White – aye; Mr. Blaser – nay; Mrs. Carlson – aye.

4. That we follow the CDC Community Transmission model with flexibility to consider local transmission data and school context as a framework for the administration in making decisions on which instructional model is appropriate.

*Follow CDC Model*

**Discussion #5:**

Given the decisions we have made thus far, let's look at each specific school building based on what we know to be true in each building and decide on what instruction models to make available for each building:

**Elementary School (4th - 6th Grade)**

*Dr. Ralston presented his recommendation to return Grade 4-6 students to school once staff have been vaccinated and a two week period has passed in order for the vaccination to become effective, which would be after spring break.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Lisa Dugan, who asked if there would be any additional strategies used in the classrooms such as maximum ventilation, opening windows. Dr. Ralston said windows would be opened and students would be outside when possible. We will pod Grade 4-6 students in classrooms and on busses to ensure they sit by the same students to limit the spread. Ms. Dugan asked if this would be optional or part of the mitigation strategy since we are going into a different phase of schooling. Mrs. Bolain asked for clarification that students would still be 6 ft. apart at lunch. Dr. Ralston said yes, they have analyzed the spaces and lunches would be held in the gyms and cafeterias from 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM. Ms. Cheng asked if the Specials teachers would still travel to the classrooms and Dr. Ralston confirmed this.*

**Motion from the Floor:** Y. Cheng; **Second:** K. Thompson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 5:

5. We bring back grades 4-6 to full-time, in-person education subject to the following parameters which include:
- School staff have had the ability to get the vaccine and are two weeks post vaccine shot,
  - 6 feet distancing when masks are off, such as lunchtime,
  - maximizing distance as much as possible in the classroom but understanding that it may be 3 feet or less,

*Grades 4-6*

- Increasing air ventilation, such as opening windows and holding classes outside,
- An effective contact tracing plan, such as classroom pods and assigned seats, and the virtual academy remains as an option for families.

Middle School (7th - 8th Grade)

*Dr. Ralston reviewed the Parent Survey Data. Ms. Monti asked if students in Middle School Specials would be in pods. Dr. Ralston will check on this and confirm. Mrs. Bolain asked if classes would be five days or keep asynchronous Wednesdays and Dr. Ralston said we would keep asynchronous Wednesdays. Dr. Hadley confirmed with Ms. Remensky that podding was correct. Mrs. Carlson asked if families have the ability to choose four days or five. Dr. Ralston said his recommendation is to come back hybrid and four days for those who want it.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Jackie Karwoski, who asked if, even with teachers being vaccinated but students and parents may not be vaccinated, would we bring students back with less than 3 ft. distancing. Some people are not following the guidelines. She is concerned with families traveling over spring break which would cause quarantining, possible shutdown, and would affect graduation.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Michele Kline, who asked for clarification on asynchronous Wednesdays. Dr. Ralston said we are still trying to provide a good balance of mental health and structure.*

*Members discussed asking Administrators to come to the April 5 Board meeting with a plan and Dr. Ralston said that was possible. Mrs. White discussed giving 7-8 families more choice as far as hybrid, virtual, in-person learning and Dr. Ralston said he was not opposed to that at all.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Allison Beck, who expressed concern that a lack of distancing could affect the musical and sporting events. Ms. Dugan echoed Ms. Beck's comments about the increased complexity of the challenges for middle schoolers. She agreed with Mrs. White to provide additional options for middle school parents such as full day, virtual, hybrid. Dr. Ralston said we would expect commitment from parents to stay with the model they choose.*

**Motion from the Floor:** J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 6:

6. That the Administration make preparations to implement an enhanced in person learning option for grades 7-8 beginning approximately April 12<sup>th</sup>. The plan must ensure 6 ft physical distancing for students during lunch periods when masks cannot be worn. The plan should include measures to allow effective contact tracing and quarantine of exposed students and staff. The Board will vote on implementation of this plan at the April 5 Regular Meeting

*Grades 7 & 8*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Michael Hetcko, who feels strongly that Wednesdays are wasted and suggested the Board revisit this and make it five days per week.*

High School (9th - 11th Grade)

*Dr. Ralston presented results from the Parent Survey data for Grades 9-11. Mrs. White reiterated the importance of offering choices and the benefit of students being in a school social environment so they wouldn't be tempted to gather after school and on weekends. Dr. Ralston hopes they would continue to follow mitigations.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Melissa Nelson, who expressed her appreciation for all the District has done and feels it would be devastating for things to shut down. She does not agree with bringing students back with less than 3 ft. distancing.*

*Mrs. Bolain said the 25% of families who did not respond to the survey could swing the survey results. She echoed Ms. Nelson's feeling that she does not want our activities closed down because they are meaningful to students. She is concerned about us being able to maintain consistency.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Jen Wagner, who feels activities are more important than school at this time. She feels wearing masks must be controlled.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor Allison Beck, who expressed concern that masks are not always worn by students and staff.*

*Ms. Cheng discussed concern about the amount of contact tracing and that we are not reaching our goals by bringing grades 9-11 back. Mrs. Thompson is concerned that we are putting Seniors at risk by bringing back grades 9-11. Mrs. Carlson and Mr. Brandt said that Seniors are also concerned about this risk.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor Michael Hetcko who feels grades 7 and 8 could be virtual and use the space for grades 9-12 because this is when transcripts count. He said students are not in the halls for 15 minutes. Ms. Archey feels mask wearing should be reinforced.*

*Mr. Blaser feels we should not favor one grade level over another and thinks there should be a choice.*

*Mrs. Carlson said according to the survey, Seniors did not want to come in on Wednesdays and asked if we could make grades 9-11 come in on Wednesdays.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor, Melissa Nelson, who feels this is about balance so it works for everyone.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor John Shantz who does not understand why once teachers have been vaccinated we couldn't take the risk. He feels if people don't want to return they could go virtual. Mrs. Carlson said the issue is continuation of school and desired consistency for kids to learn. We have to decide as a Board do we want to take on maximum risk and deal with what that entails. Mr. Stewart feels we should go back and look at the data. Ms. Cheng feels it makes sense to bring Seniors back. How much risk are we willing to take? Mrs. Thompson said we've already brought back our youngest learners based on the data. On the other hand, this is another group that should come back. She feels 9-11 students are missing an opportunity to be in school.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor Chad Osborn who feels those who selected hybrid could insure 6 ft. distancing and feels it's putting them at risk of losing their senior season.*

*Ms. Cheng feels we should think of it as 9-12 and not 9-11.*

*The Board discussed ensuring safety measures are in place. Dr. Ralston said we can stagger dismissals from classrooms to lesson traffic in the halls, spread students out at lunch as best we can and use outdoor spaces. There's no ability to pod all students and this comes down to an assumption of risk. We may run into quarantining, closing buildings and sports.*

*Mrs. Carlson recognized virtual visitor Melissa Nelson who said people who chose to send students back five days a week did not do so because they wanted to but because it was better than the virtual option. She feels teaching in-person and virtually is not a great option in the middle and high schools. She said there are other things going on in May such as AP exams, SATs, and ACTs.*

**Motion from the Floor:** B. Blaser; **Second:** D. White; **Motion Failed by Roll Call Vote:**

**Roll Call Vote:** Mrs. Bolain – nay; Mr. Brandt – nay; Ms. Cheng – nay; Ms. Monti – nay; Mr. Stewart – nay; Ms. Thompson – nay; Mrs. White – nay; Mr. Blaser – aye; Mrs. Carlson – nay.

7. To bring back Grades 9-11 five days per week, face-to-face instruction, social distancing, to the extent possible following mitigation strategies effective as soon as reasonable, according to the Administration

*Failed Motion*

*Discussion followed and another motion was proposed.*

**Motion from the Floor:** Y. Cheng; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 7:

7. That we ask the administration to investigate deeper in different mitigation strategies with the goal of increasing in-person learning time for grades 9-11 to present back to the Board at our next meeting.

*Grades 9-11*

### **Other Old Business**

*Mr. Waters said he emailed the Board a spreadsheet of projected yearend June 2021 expenditures by function.*

### **New Business**

*No new business.*

Minutes - Regular Meeting March 8, 2021

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** B. Blaser; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 11:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary