

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – March 9, 2020
Avonworth School District – A. W. Beattie Career Center
7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. Danielle White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Vicki Carlson

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Management
Mr. Zach Zebrasky, Dr. Ralston's Intern
Mr. Jay Quinn, Parent
Ms. Nancy Whyte, *The Citizen*
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. He stated that the Board went into Executive Session at 7:35 P.M. to discuss personnel, student, and potential litigation matters.

Visitors' Comments

Mr. Quinn expressed his thoughts about filling the open Head Boys' Varsity Basketball coaching position.

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Kyra Carlson

Ms. Carlson was absent but provided her report for the Board.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston discussed upcoming events:

- *The Big Table event being planned for March 18 by the new high school Social Justice Club. It will be held from 11:00 AM-12:45 PM in the LGI. The topic is how we can do things better and how to create a better sense of belonging in our community.*
- *The last Strategic Planning meeting will be held on March 18 at the elementary school from 6:30-8:30 PM. Goals are 1) Review and make any revisions of our beliefs; 2) Review and make any revision to our mission statement; and 3) write pillar statements regarding our beliefs.*
- *On March 19 there will be a Public Forum for the School Design team at 6:30 PM in the high school. The team will share ideas they've come up with.*
- *On March 31 the School Design team will travel to Cleveland to visit three schools with innovative designs*

Dr. Ralston said the high school hosted 25 visitors from all over the world today. The visit was organized by Global Pittsburgh. They were very interested in PBL and how technology is integrated with learning.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley is working on Teacher in the Workplace opportunities and hopes to have scheduled opportunities for our teachers by April/May. We continue to have success with pilots for Carnegie Learning in high school math and Eureka in the elementary school. Teachers are getting good feedback from parents and teachers and students are enjoying it. Once completing the Eureka pilot, our K-5 teachers will pilot Bridges math.

Dr. Hadley is working on:

- *Replacing Naviance in grades 6-12 with Xello. Xello can also be used in the elementary grades for career education and to collect artifacts for each of the standards.*
- *Pre-apprenticeship programs with the German Chamber of Commerce and Catalyst Connection – Dr. Hadley will share information about this at the April Board meeting.*
- *While in San Diego, Dr. Hadley made a connection with a teacher at Del Lago Academy. We are currently exploring a potential collaboration where some of their teachers and ours might be able to collaborate on diversity, equity, and inclusion work.*

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

Mr. Andrews has no report at this time. He will have his quarterly report at the April meeting.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti

There was no AWBCC meeting in February.

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

Minutes

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

Motion: D. White; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1.1-1.6 and Items 2-11:

- | | | |
|------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for February, 2020, beginning with Check #48393 and ending with Check #48600 in the total amount of \$1,036,571.51. | <i>General Fund</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the February, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,258,664.72. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for January, 2020. | <i>Treasurer’s Report</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for February, 2020, beginning with Check #2710 and ending with Check #2715 in the total amount of \$25,855.40. | <i>Food Svc.</i> |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for February, 2020, beginning with Check #9075 and ending with Check #9094 in the total amount of \$2,220.00. | <i>Athletic Fund</i> |
| 1.6 | To approve capital project payments of \$481,533.90. | <i>Capital Projects</i> |
| 2. | To approve the solicitation of bids (if necessary) for General Supplies, Arts, and Athletics for the 2020-2021 School Year. | <i>Supply Bids</i> |

Finance, continued

3. To approve the EITC Letter of Support to participate in the disability awareness programs offered by The Children’s Institute. *EITC*
4. To approve **Ms. Jennifer Gould** and **Ms. Sara Osborn** to attend the PA School Librarians Association Conference April 30-May 2, 2020, in Hershey, PA at a cost not to exceed \$1,015 plus mileage (paid by Title IV funds). Total includes the cost of two substitutes for one day. *Conference*
5. To approve **Mr. Will Guess, Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi** and **Mr. Michael Warren** to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in the Poconos April 22-25, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$2,400 plus mileage. This amount includes the cost of three substitutes for the three days. *PMEA Conference*
6. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in the Poconos April 23-24, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$275. He will be presented with the 2020 Outstanding Superintendent Award. *PMEA Conference*
7. To approve the proposed 2020/2021 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as presented. The Budget totals \$2,202,973. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts’ total contribution to the budget is \$1,811,545. The Avonworth School District’s contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$31,812.54 and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM). *AIU Program of Svcs. Budget*
8. To approve **Mr. Brad Waters** and **Mr. Mike Hall** to write a School Safety and Security/Behavioral Support Plan state grant in the amount of \$455,755 and payment of \$57.50 each for writing the grant. *Grant*
9. To approve **Mr. Brad Waters** and **Mr. Mike Hall** to write a School Safety and Security/Upgrade state grant in the amount of \$35,000 and payment of \$57.50 each for writing the grant. *Grant*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)

10. To approve the agreement with TransPerfect Remote Interpreting through the AIU for services from February 10, 2020 through February 10, 2021. *Interpreting Svc.*
11. To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Butler County Children and Youth Agency for a Transportation Procedures Agreement. *MOU Butler C&YA*

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

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-12:

1. To approve an increase in the hourly rate for substitute Food Service workers to \$10.25/hour effective January 1, 2020. *Fd. Svc. Rate Change*
2. To accept the Letter of Intent to Retire from **Mrs. Julie Branchen**, Food Service worker, effective February 28, 2020. *(We thank Mrs. Branchen for nearly 20 years of service to the District and extend our best wishes on her retirement.)* *Retirement*
3. To approve the request of **Mr. Ross Addler**, Teacher, for FMLA effective March 1, 2020 through April 3, 2020. *FMLA*
4. To approve the request of **Dr. Sandra Swen**, School Psychologist, for FMLA effective March 2, 2020 through April 14, 2020. *FMLA*
5. To approve **Ms. Kaitlyn Figurelli** as a Substitute School Counselor from March 2, 2020 through June 5, 2020 at \$140/day with no benefits. *Sub Counselor*
6. To approve **Ms. Elaine Grazulis** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Speech Therapist commencing March 23, 2020, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. Current clearances are on file in the District Office. *Temp. Prof. Emp.*
7. To approve **Ms. JoAnn Bova** as Mentor for the Speech Therapist, **Ms. Elaine Grazulis**, for the 2019-2020 School Year. *Mentor*
8. To approve **Ms. Breann Rupik** as an extended Day-to-Day Second Grade Substitute Teacher at \$140/day, with no benefits, commencing April 1, 2020 through May 26, 2020, pending requirements of the District. *DTD Sub*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (3)

9. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Bernice Arienzo**, General Food Service Worker at the Primary Center from 9:30 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. (3.75 hours/day) to 9:00 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. (4.25 hours/day), effective March 10, 2020. *Change in Assignmt.*
10. To hire **Ms. Patricia Senko** as a Food Service worker at the Elementary School from 8:30 A.M. -1:15 P.M. (4.75 hrs./day) effective March 10, 2020, pending requirements of the District, as per the terms of the current AESPA agreement. *Fd. Svc. Hire*
11. To accept the Letter of Resignation from **Ms. Janice Giedl**, Substitute Food Service Worker, effective February 27, 2020. *Resignation*

Personnel, continued

MOTION ADDED FROM THE FLOOR

12. To approve **Mr. Thomas Fisher** as a full-time custodian effective March 16, 2020, with salary and benefits according to the current AESPA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Custodian Hire*

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

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

1. To approve the updated 2019-2020 School Calendar showing the snow make-up day. *Sch. Calendar Update*
2. To vote for **Mr. Gary Shingleton** from the Northern Region for the position of School Board Trustee for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium. *School Bd. Trustee
Health Ins. Consortium*

ADDENDUM ITEM

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

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 1 with the corrected amount:

1. To award the bid for the installation of a new section of bleachers (380 seats) at Lenzner Field to Southern Bleacher Co., Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of ~~\$158,312~~ \$151,250. *Bleacher Installation*

Discussion concerning completion of the bleacher installation before the fall sports season. If fabrication of the steel cannot be done by September 1, the project would not begin until after the fall sports season. The contract stipulates completion by December 31, 2020.

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 **Mr. Joshua McFall** as a volunteer Varsity Track Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *Vol. Var. Track Coach*
2. To approve **Mr. Rick Wagner** as a volunteer Middle School Track Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *Vol. MS Track Coach*
3. To approve **Mr. Anthony Casciato** as an Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District, at a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Asst. Var. Baseball Coach*

Athletics & Activities, continued

- 4. To approve the Cooperative Sponsorship of Sports agreement with the Northgate School District for the School Years 2020-2021 through 2021-2022. *Northgate Co-op Sports Agreement*
- 5. To approve **Mr. Tim Giel** to attend the PA Athletic Trainers Convention June 4-6, 2020 in Gettysburg, PA at a cost not to exceed \$750. *Convention*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (3)

- 6. To approve additional supplemental compensation to **Mr. Michael Donovan** in the amount of \$239.84 for serving in the role as Head Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach from February 4, 2020 to the end of the 2019-2020 season. *Supp. Compensation*
- 7. To approve supplemental compensation to **Mr. Ryan Johnson** in the amount of \$470.84 for serving in the role as Assistant Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach from February 4, 2020 to the end of the 2019-2020 season. *Supp. Compensation*
- 8. To approve **Mr. John Skarupa** as Head Varsity Girls’ Volleyball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District, at a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Head Var. Girls’ Volleyball Coach*

POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

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

- 1. To approve the application for a Steel City Codes Club as a Provisional Club in the Middle/High School beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year, with a pro-rated stipend according to Policy 122.4. Sponsor for this club will be **Ms. Jill Shumaker**. *Steel City Codes Club*

In response to a question by Ms. Whyte, Dr. Hadley explained that the Steel City Codes Club will have high school students leading the club and teaching coding to middle and elementary school students.

- 2. To approve the application for a Social Justice Club as a Provisional Club in the High School (Grades 9-12) commencing with the 2019-2020 School Year, with a pro-rated stipend according to Policy 122.4. The sponsor will be **Mr. Michael Warren**. *Social Justice Club*
- 3. To approve the application for an Esports Club as a Provisional Club in the High School (Grades 9-12) commencing with the 2020-2021 School Year, with a pro-rated stipend according to Policy 122.4. *Esports Club*

Policy, continued

4. To approve the creation of six new Teacher Leadership Council positions at the High School beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year. Teachers would serve in a similar role as the Department chairs and receive that stipend per the current AEA contract. *Teacher Leadership Council Positions*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)

5. The adjudication of Student #030920-A. *Student Adjudication*
6. The adjudication of Student #030920-B. *Student Adjudication*

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Dr. Ralston discussed the steps the district has taken with regard to the coronavirus which include handwashing and sanitizing. He receives daily notifications from the CDC and PDE. We are closely monitoring spring trips, several conventions have been cancelled and we are making decisions based on the best information known at that time. We have the Flexible Instruction Days in case we have to shut down. Pablo Rivera, Secretary of Education, sent out guidelines if we are quarantined. PDE has not said if FID would be expanded if needed.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary