

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 9, 2020
Avonworth School District – LGI Room & Virtually
7:30 P.M.

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

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti,
Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson

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

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Danielle White

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Ms. Harris Robinson, Student	Mrs. Torri Robinson, Parent
Mr. Troy Robinson, Parent	Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.	Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Solicitor
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Mr. Robb Pfeil, Parent
Ms. Jaime Mary, Parent	Ms. Jennifer Lindell, Parent
Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent	Mr. Mark Silvey, Parent
Ms. Nora Silvey, Parent	Ms. Sherry Ehrin, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Rieger, Parent	Ms. Bella Holmes, Parent
Mr. Josh Zimmer, Community Member	Ms. Gretchen Crawford, Parent
Ms. Heather Sabala, Parent	Ms. Rachael Latore, Parent
Dr. Bill Battistone, Elementary Principal	Ms. Suzanne Basista, aren't
Ms. Morgan Carpenter-Panuski, Parent	Ms. Julie Brown, Parent
Ms. Carrie Johnston, Parent	Ms. Carly Molchen, Parent
Ms. Alicia Mielnicki, Parent	Ms. Anna Marie White, Parent
Ms. Lindsay Scharding, Parent	Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent
Ms. Kristen Hubbell, Parent	Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent
Ms. Julie Mannion, Parent	Mr. Robery Harvey, Parent
Ms. Kristy Alberts, Parent	Ms. Katie Kalb, Parent
Mr. Craig Catanese, Parent	Ms. Amy Berezny, Parent
Ms. Siobahn Gallagher, Parent	Ms. Emily Hensh, Parent
Ms. Shannon Casey, Parent	Ms. Krystyn Birt, Parent
Ms. Debi Van Mater, Parent	Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent
Ms. Emily Heller, Parent	Ms. Ann Marie Harvey, Parent
Ms. Maritza Rivera-Herleman, Parent	Ms. Melissa Orehowsky, Parent
Ms. Jenny Anderson, Parent	Ms. Raili Kielely, Parent
Ms. Tanya Schmigel, Parent	Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Ms. Kara Roggenkamp, Parent	Ms. Carrie Amelio, Parent
Mr. Cory Bonnet, Parent	Ms. Jennifer Revesz, Teacher
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent	Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent
Mr. Brayden Wisniewski, Student	Ms. Rachel Wisniewski, Parent
Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent	Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Teacher

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Mr. Greg Smolinski, Parent	Mr. Neal McGrath, Parent
Ms. Stacy Faulkner, Parent	Ms. Kim Gallucci, Parent
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Parent/Paraprofessional	Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent
Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent	Ms. Allison Kline, Parent
Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher	Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent
Mr. James Loutzenhiser, Parent	Mr. Dave Chekan, Parent
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher	Ms. Jessica Johnston, Parent
Ms. Ashley Hanzes, Teacher	Ms. Chelsey Billick, Teacher
Ms. Diann Brown, Parent	Ms. Becky Marszalek, Paraprofessional/AESPA President
Ms. Lisa Stevens, Paraprofessional	Ms. Sarah Salvatore, Teacher
Mr. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal	Ms. Jane Ross-Tomko, Paraprofessional
Ms. Stephanie Wetzel, Parent	Mr. Joshua Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Kristen Hollywood, Parent	Ms. Mallory Accamando, Teacher
Ms. Renee Simkins, Parent	Ms. Jessica Boyd, Parent
Ms. Courtnie DiPaola, Parent	Ms. Beth Hendrickson, Parent
Ms. Megan Pastore, Parent	Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent
Ms. Pamela Rawlings, Teacher	Mr. Dave Czuwara, Parent
Mr. James Hendrickson, Parent	Ms. Lisa Milsom, Parent
Ms. Rachael Savage, Community Member	Ms. Erin Pascuzzi, Parent
Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent	Mr. Michael Klaum, Parent
Ms. Danielle Strobel, Parent	Ms. Courtney Kuzma, Parent
Mr. Tom Yeh, Parent	Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Michelle George, Teacher	Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse	Ms. JoAnne Bova, Teacher
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent	Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, Asst. Middle/High School Principal
Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher/AEA President	Ms. Erin Miller, Parent
Ms. Melissa Lesko, Parent	Ms. Michele Kline, Parent
Ms. Christine Matthews, Parent	Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent
Mr. Bradley Zupancic, Parent	Ms. Ashley Vranick, Parent
Ms. Jessica Edmiston, Parent	Ms. Briana Watts, Parent
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent	Mr. Brant Colamarino, Blgs./Grounds Supvsr.
Mr. Robert Bennett, Parent	Ms. Natalie McMurtrie, Parent
Ms. Nancy Whyte, <i>The Citizen</i>	

Call to Order

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

Senior, Harris Robinson, was recognized by the College Board as a National African American Recognition Program winner and presented with a certificate. Senior, Charlie Bozada was also acknowledged and will be privately presented with a College Board Scholar certificate for his accomplishments.

Visitors' Comments

Mr. Troy Robinson thanked Drs. Ralston and Hadley on the wonderful job the district is doing during the pandemic.

Mr. Bonnet referred to Dr. Hadley's email last week and asked what changes were being made and when they would be implemented. Mr. Bonnet also asked when the District's parameters would be shared with regard to bringing students back to school. Dr. Ralston

said some changes would be announced this evening. Our goal is to have future plans announced by November 23. A working group is being put together now. UPMC is holding a meeting tomorrow evening with Dr. Megan Freeman, a Pediatric Infectious Disease expert.

Mr. Matt Hansen, IKM Architecture, presented the Facilities Master Plan. Dr. Ralston said the next step would be to select an architect for the design phase. Mr. Hansen gave a timeline of 14-16 months for total execution, which includes design time. Mr. Waters explained the Plan Con process. Discussed how the pond area would be used. Dr. Ralston said having the ability to see sunlight or snow is good for mental health. Having windows of the science classrooms and hallway around the pond area is a valuable asset.

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Kyra Carlson

Ms. Kyra Carlson was not able to attend the meeting due to Fall play practice but provided her report and Mrs. Vicki Carlson gave the report for her. High School Student Council has acknowledged breast cancer survivors by creating a word art ribbon, created cards and provided veterans with flag pins and are working on a fundraiser to purchase a turkey dinner for a family in need. They have planned a jeans week November 16 and are confirming if students would be interested in donating in order to hold a pajama week.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston reported a successful first nine weeks. The High School volleyball team made it to the WPIAL Quarter Finals. The High School Girls' soccer team made it to the WPIAL Championship game. Winter sports should start on time. Developed the necessary adjustments to protocols heading into the winter months. We will be pivoting to virtual instruction during the winter months instead of using snow days. He is concerned about the increasing COVID numbers. The Allegheny County Health Dept. has said the latest surge is not due to schools but due to parties, sleepovers and social gatherings. It is really important for us to remain disciplined and follow the recommendations.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley reported that the District received the EVERFI Champion District recognition demonstrating a commitment to whole-child education through the use of EVERFI's programs. The Primary and Elementary schools have shaved 5 minutes each from arrival and dismissal times in order to provide more time for in-person instruction. As long as we have everything ready, the Science and Social Studies classes should begin the week of November 16 and a schedule will be provided for AM and PM synchronous instruction. Grades 7-12 will follow their daily schedule either in-person or at home. The November 10 Eureka Parent Math Night meeting will be recorded. Dr. Hadley shared data that is indicating our students that did not meet benchmark during fall screening are having success during intervention and making progress. Dr. Ralston said the addition of 10 minutes to the AM/PM models adds up to 50 minutes per week. Dr. Hadley added that a lot of Science and Social Studies content is contained within Wit and Wisdom.

Dr. Ralston commended office, paraprofessional, food service and custodial staff for the great job they are doing. Our custodial staff have completely embraced the new protocol for cleaning.

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

Mr. Andrews had no report at this time.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti

Mrs. Monti reported there was no AWBCC meeting in October.

Mr. Blaser said the Curriculum Committee meeting scheduled for this evening had been cancelled.

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting, the Minutes of the October 12, 2020 Regular Meeting, and the Minutes of the October 26, 2020 Special Meeting. (Voice Vote) *Minutes*

NOTE: When voicing their votes, Board members also raised their hands to signify their vote so virtual attendees could see them.

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

Motion: D. White; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.6 and 2-6:

- | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for October, 2020, beginning with Check #49698 and ending with Check #49931 in the amount of \$567,213.31. | <i>General Fund</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the October, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,299,001.62. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for September, 2020. | <i>Treasurer’s Rpt.</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for October, 2020, beginning with Check #2762 and ending with Check #2770 in the total amount of \$7,739.22. | <i>Fd. Svc. Fund</i> |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for October, 2020, beginning with Check #9136 and ending with Check #9197 in the total amount of \$5,380. | <i>Athletic Fund</i> |
| 1.6 | To approve capital project payments of \$22,253. | <i>Capital Projects</i> |
| 2. | RESOLUTION #110920: To continue membership in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Joint Purchasing Program as attached. | <i>Resolution</i> |
| 3. | To approve the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Agreement with the University of Pittsburgh for the years 2020-2021 through 2025-2026. | <i>Pitt Agreement</i> |
| 4. | To approve the agreement with Southwood Psychiatric Hospital. | <i>Southwood Psych.</i> |
| 5. | To approve the agreement with TransPerfect Remote Interpreting through the AIU for services from February 10, 2021 through February 10, 2022. | <i>Transperfect</i> |

ADDENDUM ITEM

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| 6. | To approve the following EITC Letters of Support to accompany their application for inclusion for educational improvement organizations to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development.
A. The Woodlands Foundation
B. Community College of Allegheny County
C. PHASE 4 Learning Center | <i>EITC</i> |
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PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/V. Carlson, Co-Chairs

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

1. To approve the request of **Ms. Mara Alterio** for an educational sabbatical for the 2021-2022 School Year. *Sabbatical*
2. To approve a change in status for **Ms. Mallory Accamando** from an Elementary School Day-to-Day Virtual Substitute Teacher to a Long Term Virtual Academy Substitute Teacher retroactive to August 28, 2020, with benefits, at Category M, Step 1. Clearances are on file in the District Office. *Chg. in Status*
3. To approve a change in status for **Mr. Frank Cardone** from an Elementary School Day-to-Day Virtual Substitute Teacher to a Long Term Virtual Academy Substitute Teacher retroactive to August 31, 2020, with benefits, at Category M, Step 2. Clearances are on file in the District Office. *Chg. in Status*
4. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Holly Terry** from Custodian to Food Service Worker with a start date to be determined. *Chg. in Assignment*
5. To approve **Ms. Joan Tadler** as a Substitute Food Service Worker for the 2020-2021 School Year retroactive to October 22, 2020, with no benefits, at a rate of \$10.25/hour, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Fd. Svc. Worker*
6. To approve a change from **Ms. Sara Studt** to **Ms. Natalie Barkovich** as Mentor for Ms. Sonia Ewell, High School English Teacher, effective November 3, 2020, with a stipend per the current AEA contract. *Change*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (4)

7. To approve the request of **Mr. Nick Labella**, Lead Custodian, for an unpaid leave from November 5, 2020 through approximately December 16, 2020. *Unpaid Leave*
8. To approve the following Math and Reading tutors for the 2020-2021 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract:

A. Ms. Lucy Negron	E. Ms. Cheryl Noethiger
B. Mr. Tony Cario	F. Ms. Tricia Floyd-Scheller
C. Ms. Cate Potter	G. Ms. Danielle Wilkinson
D. Ms. Morgan Bassaly	H. Ms. Emily Cropper

Tutors
9. To approve increasing the position of Half Time Reading Specialist, **Ms. Sarah Salvatore**, to a full time position for the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year, effective November 10, 2020. At the conclusion of the 2020-2021 School Year, this position will return to Half Time Reading Specialist. *HT to FT*

Personnel, continued

- 10.** To approve **Ms. Chelsey Billick** as an extended Day to Day Substitute at \$150/day commencing November 10, 2020 through January 21, 2021, pending requirements of the District. Ms. Billick is currently the Primary Center Building Substitute. *Ext. DTD Sub*

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

Motion: B. Blaser; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-2:

- 1.** The Administration recommends approval of the following coaches for 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 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. *Coaches*
- A. Varsity Wrestling Head Coach – **Mr. Garrett Vulcano** (*See web folder*)
 - B. Varsity Wrestling Assistant Coach – **Mr. Tanner Wiltrout**
 - C. Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach - **Mr. Darion Trimmer**
 - D. Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach – **Mr. Aaron Rouda**
 - E. Volunteer Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach - **Mr. Marino Barbabello**
 - F. Middle School Boys’ 8th Grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Daniel Ayebo**
 - G. Middle School Boys’ 7th Grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Ahmed Affaneh**
- 2.** To accept the resignation of **Ms. Melissa Vaughan** as Head Middle School Cheerleading Coach effective November 2, 2020. *Coach Resignation*

Following are additional Chat session questions that were not answered during the Board meeting. Answers will be provided in a separate document and posted on the school website.

*From cory and jess bonnet to All panelists: (7:38 PM)
Quite an echo on the audio line*

*From KellyHansen to All panelists: (7:40 PM)
Congrats Harris!!! So proud of you! :))*

*From Keera Dwulit to All panelists: (7:41 PM)
Congratulations, Harris!! Well deserved.*

*From Dave Chekan to All panelists: (7:41 PM)
Congratulations!*

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*From Elizabeth Dugan to All panelists: (8:50 PM)
What are the next steps? Is there a timeline?*

This question was answered during the meeting. The next step would be the design phase. That phase could take up to 12-14 months once it is started. The Board would need to select an architect to begin to do the design. There are also approval steps necessary with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Beyond design would be construction. That would also take 12-14 months.

*From Nora and Mark Silvey to All panelists: (9:55 PM)
sorry. didn't mean to raise my hand! thanks for everything that you are doing.*

*From Danielle White to All panelists: (10:07 PM)
Can Brad please provide an update for EIT and real estate tax collections for the month of October if available? As of 9/30, current year was at 60% as compared to close to 77% at that time last year per the treasurer's report. Thank you*

*From Danielle White to All panelists: (10:22 PM)
Great- thank you Is the \$200K for teacher stipends still an accurate amount for the 9 weeks?*

Yes.

Old Business

Ms. Carlson doesn't feel there's a need to change Policy 006 on Board meetings at this time. The agenda is posted on the District website. Dr. Hadley will include a link to the agenda in his monthly newsletter.

Ms. Cheng asked if families going on a trip over the holidays would have to quarantine, if their children would have help with school work. Dr. Ralston said they would go virtual and have a different teacher but we are working through the details for a seamless transition.

Dr. Ralston said there is a recommendation from the Health Dept. about what you are doing if you go to another state. Are you going out socially with people you do not normally spend time with or are you going to the beach and not really seeing anyone. It's not where they are going but what they are doing.

Mr. Brandt asked if Administrators felt the switch over to more synchronous would take care of kids staying home with the sniffles. Are we able to do more to keep them up to date? Dr. Hadley said yes, they could take advantage of staying home and doing synchronous.

Mrs. Thompson said at the last meeting we looked at the cost analysis of all three models and asked if there was a timeline and if we knew what the cost would look like? Dr. Ralston said we are trying to evolve all of our models to be more efficient. The money we spend is worth it. We saved \$1 million last year are we are reinvesting it into this year.

Mrs. White asked about a financial update. Mr. Waters said there is additional grant money being made available through the State from Federal COVID relief dollars in the amount of \$54,000. The increased cost due to AM/PM model are being offset by reduced bussing runs

and two contingency runs which were included in the budget . Last year our non-public and special education programs had 38 bus runs. September/October bills show a pattern of 33 bus runs being utilized this school year. The net impact is \$60,000 more than what we budgeted. In addition, the bus for AWBCC students is running two days a week versus the five which was budgeted which equates to \$22,000 vs. the budgeted amount of \$50,000. Mrs. White asked if the \$200,000 teacher stipend was accurate for the first 9 weeks and Mr. Waters said yes.

New Business

Ms. Cheng said she and Mrs. Maureen Frew, Maker teacher, presented two classes to Finnish families through HundrED on stop motion and building a tiny room. It was part of the HundrED celebration in Finland.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:30 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary