

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 12, 2020
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. 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, Ms. Danielle White

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent	Ms. Kyra Carlson, Student Council Representative
Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Solicitor	Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Ms. Karen O'Connor, Parent	Ms. Pam Homol, Parent
Ms. Kristin Schleis, Parent	Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent
Ms. Patricia Veleke, Parent	Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Mr. Rick Barzen, Parent	Ms. Melissa (Vietmeier) Wiggins, Parent
Ms. Gretchen Crawford, Parent	Ms. Lisa Simmons, Parent/Paraprofessional
Ms. Jennifer Yoder, Parent	Ms. Gail Lipchak, Parent
Ms. Emily Hensch, Parent	Ms. Debra Bacon, Parent
Ms. Laura Ludwig, Parent	Ms. Anne Blaser, Parent
Ms. Kristen Hubbell, Parent	Ms. Lindsay Wolff, Parent
Ms. Maureen O'Dell, Parent	Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent
Ms. Julie Navilliat, Parent	Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Mr. David Czuwara, Parent	Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent
Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher	Mr. Joshua Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Megan Thompson, Parent	Mr. Dave Leibach, Teacher
Ms. Valerie Clarke, Parent	Mr. Ronald Antkiewicz, Parent
Ms. Tracy Graff, Secretary	Ms. Jennifer Revesz, Teacher
Ms. Mallory Accamando, Teacher	Ms. Tara Vietmeier, Parent
Ms. Sara Osborn, Parent	Mr. Rob Pfiel, Parent
Ms. Maureen O'Connor, Parent	Ms. Sherah Rothman, Teacher
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent	Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent
Ms. Courtnie DiPaola, Parent	Ms. Stephanie Wetzels, Parent
Ms. Valerie Grady, Parent	Ms. Anne Marie White, Parent
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent	Ms. Kim Kennis, Parent
Ms. Jeannette Davis, Parent	Ms. Becky Marszalek, AESPA President/Paraprofessional
Ms. Siobahn Gallagher, Parent	Mr. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal
Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent	Ms. Erica Vaughn, Parent
Ms. Audra Blackson, Parent	Ms. Casey Calland, Parent
Ms. Omolara Fatukasi, Parent	Ms. Kim Gallucci, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Reilsono, Teacher	Ms. Bittany Covalt, Teacher

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Jen Wickert, Teacher
Ms. Nancy Bailey, Teacher
Ms. Carrie Novosel, Parent
Ms. Molly Long, Teacher
Ms. Lucy Negron, Teacher
Ms. Sonia Ewell, Teacher
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Ms. Gail Love, Substitute School Nurse
Ms. Kelly Hansen, AEA President, Teacher
Ms. Jane Ross-Tomko, Parent
Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent
Ms. Stacy Faulkner, Parent
Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent
Ms. Lynn Hartle, Parent
Ms. Sandra Azen, Parent
Ms. Marijane Antkiewicz, Parent
Ms. Erica Tipton, Parent
Ms. Chris Barzen, Parent
Ms. Kristy Alberts, Parent
Mr. Chad Wright, Parent
Ms. Kim Chekan, Parent
Ms. Amanda Senko, Parent
Ms. Megan Pastore, Parent
Ms. Kelly Frank, Parent
Ms. Erin Rigney, Parent
Ms. Maureen Sweeney, Parent
Ms. Carly Molchen, Parent
Ms. Laura Dzadovsky, Parent
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent
Ms. Laurie Mathie, Parent
Ms. Kristie Lulich, Parent
Ms. Diane Scheuring, Parent
Ms. Joyce Raymond, Paraprofessional
Ms. Megan Jamison, Parent
Ms. Amy Tokar, Parent
Ms. Nancy Whyte, *The Citizen*

Mr. Bill White, Teacher
Ms. Marlena Stevens, Parent
Ms. Jill Adkins, Parent
Ms. Kerri Villani, Teacher
Ms. Jennifer Lindell, Parent
Ms. Sara Student, Teacher
Mr. Mark Silvey, Parent
Ms. Tracy Smallwood, Parent
Mr. Jose Amayo, Parent
Ms. Kaitlyn Remensky, Asst. MS/HS Principal
Ms. Nicole Ehmann, Parent
Ms. Leah Abbott, Parent
Ms. Hope Lucas, Parent
Ms. Jessica Kostewicz, Teacher
Ms. Michele Kremer, Parent
Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent
Ms. Nicole Hahna, Parent
Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent
Ms. Nora Silvey, Parent
Ms. Shannon Christof, Parent
Ms. Susan Geist, Parent
Mr. Mike Lincoln, Teacher
Ms. Maritza Rivera-Herleman, Parent
Ms. Marybeth Harris, Parent
Mr. Nate Milsom, Parent
Ms. Emily Cropper, Teacher
Ms. Tricia Floyd-Scheller, Paraprofessional
Ms. Jessica Wright, Parent
Ms. Katelyn Straley, Teacher
Ms. Vallikun Kathiresan, Parent
Ms. Jess Bonnet, Parent
Ms. Lisa Milsom, Parent
Ms. Jana Stahl, Teacher
Ms. Briana Watts, Parent
Ms. Jessica Edmiston, Parent
Ms. Donna Robatisin, Parent

Call to Order

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

It was decided that Dr. Ralston would provide an update on the District's school reopening plan and then open the meeting for public comments and discussion.

Dr. Ralston reported 1,120 responses to the survey sent to parents last week. Responses indicated 76.9% of K-6 parents were satisfied with our current educational model. 55% of parents were comfortable without physical distancing on the school bus, 44% were not. If we brought students back to school full, in-person school, 69.7% of families would keep

their enrolled in the in-person school model, and 10.6%(which totals 88 students) would move to the virtual model. When asked what parents thought our focus should be, 51.8% feel we should maintain our current model for the second nine week period and 48.2% felt we should plan to bring all students back for full in-person as soon as possible. 63.5% in grades 7-12 are satisfied with their child's current educational model. The secondary campus is more challenging due to space. In the high school there is difficulty podding students because schedules are different. 11.7% of 7-12 parents said they would move their child from the hybrid model to the Virtual Academy if students return for full in-person instruction beginning the second nine weeks. 54% of 7-12 parents feel the focus should be on getting back as soon as possible and 45% want to maintain as we are.

Dr. Ralston recommended not making any changes until the nine weeks end and begin on November 9. K-6 would continue the current AM/PM schedule through the second nine weeks, 7-12 would attend school in-person Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday with a start time of 9:00 AM. All students would be virtual on Wednesdays. This would give our custodians time to deep clean and sanitize the buildings. We will re-evaluate prior to the third nine weeks. Dr. Ralston feels the hybrid model and Virtual Academy are working very well. If we do end up moving to a face-to-face model, we will have to re-roster students in order to balance things. Dr. Ralston feels the secondary campus really needs to go to face-to-face learning. Data elements we are using are cases/100,000 percent positive. Dr. Ralston thanked everyone for their continued support.

Mr. Blaser invited questions and comments from Board members. Dr. Hadley reported out of 1,044 students in K-6, 785 parents responded to our survey and of 823 students in 7-12, 823 parents responded. Dr. Ralston answered a few of the Chat Session questions: A parent was concerned that 7-12 virtual students were given the same time as in-person students. Dr. Ralston said it would be challenging and teachers are doing a fair amount of work in the evenings. He noted that other districts have not had a lot of satisfaction using a third party. A parent asked if our choices were keeping it where we are or we send our children to school without social distancing. Dr. Ralston said yes, for the high school. The elementary and primary center will use the AM/PM model. Without social distancing this will be a tricky decision. Dr. Ralston said we have consulted with the Dept. of Health and mask wearing is very important. Our staff and students have been very good about wearing masks. A parent asked if our middle school students would still be in pods and Dr. Ralston said yes, two pods per grade level. Dr. Hadley addressed accommodating the virtual students. Instead of having office hours we want to be sure students can connect with teachers as much as needed. A parent asked if the age of the children was considered and how can sports occur without the teams wearing face shields. Dr. Ralston said we understand that but that is literally putting hundreds of students together. The primary center and elementary schools are near capacity and at the secondary campus we have larger spaces like the LGI and gyms. The best recommendation he could make is to keep the elementary campus as it is now. Transportation needs will cause us to back up our elementary start time about 15 minutes – instead of starting at 8:45 AM, the start time would move to 8:30 AM. Mr. Brandt asked what would trigger allowing us to get back to five days per week. Dr. Ralston said if he sees consistent low rates but he doesn't see that now. Ms. Cheng asked how classes such as P.E. and music would change on the secondary campus going to four days per week. Dr. Ralston said more face-to-face time would be a good thing. Ms. Cheng then asked if social distancing would cause any other changes in the classes. Dr. Ralston said we will have to be creative on how we will run classes. We will send additional information out this week. We may have parents who want to switch. Melissa Nelson asked for clarification on bringing the hybrid back to a four day program and those students do not need daycare. She

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feels the in-school students will get double the instruction time than virtual students and the virtual students will be at a disadvantage. She feels the numbers aren't that different than they were two months ago. Dr. Ralston said they won't be getting more instruction in the four days, just in a different way. Our teachers are providing asynchronous and synchronous instruction. Ms. Nelson asked what the advantage was. Dr. Ralston said the elementary model is working but none of the models are perfect. Ms. Nelson does not want virtual kids to be at a disadvantage. Mr. Corey Bonnet wondered if we are taking into consideration the hospital rates and by-age rates of cases in Allegheny County. If hospital and transmission rates have dropped – is that taken into consideration? Dr. Ralston said yes, we meet virtually with the Dept. of Health and review the rates. We are aware there is data that shows transmission rates among younger children are lower - because of their lung capacity they are not projecting the virus as far as adults would.

Dr. Ralston said answers to the remaining chat session questions will be answered and posted on our website. He said we have some time to plan to launch on November 9 and we have a lot of time between now and then to watch the numbers. We will need to be nimble and flexible.

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 Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (7:52 PM)

Overall though, these responses represent approx. 60% correct? so roughly 40% didn't respond?

From Melissa Nelson to All panelists: (7:56 PM)

If 7-12 kids are going to be 3 days in person, how will virtual kids be given “equal time”...as it is now, virtual kids are given about the same amount of personal instruction time as hybrid kids. How can that possibly be accommodated for by our teachers who are already doing twice as much work? sorry, I meant 4 days in person

From Jodi Piacenti to All panelists: (8:00 PM)

So our choices are to keep our kids home or send them to school without social distancing?

diapaolac rc 08:00 PM

So why is it safe for the 7-12 students to go full day, but not K-6 students? K-6 students are struggling. Learning is declining. This is not fair to the 50% of families that want to send their elementary students back. Those that are leary have a virtual option. We are doing the opposite of most districts that value their primary students.

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:02 PM)

Without being able to safely social distance this is a very risky decision.

From Lisa Dugan to All panelists: (8:02 PM)

Will the middle school students still be in pods in the 4 day model?

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (8:04 PM)

K-6: 785/1044 =75%, 7-12: 463/823 =56%

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From Dave to All panelists: (8:04 PM)

So glad to see this proposal for more in person instruction. Thank you. Every day my kids ask to be back in the classroom with their teachers.

From val to All panelists: (8:04 PM)

decision for 7-12 is not favorable for me because they may have lot of kids in their class

From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (8:05 PM)

is the age of the children actually considered with this data set? while keeping the primary and elementary school hybrid versus bring them back to full day when desk shields in classrooms could be instituted and cases in young children have been slim to none. these kids are playing sports and playing together as neighbors with no issues. why so conservative whenever transmission rates are SO LOW in young children??

From val to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

it is not healthy for the kids to wear masks all day long for 4 days.

From caroline to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

how will bussing work if both aes and ahs start at same time?

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

Does this recommendation align with any current state mandates regarding food, capacity, etc?

From Danielle White to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

With the number of students 7-12 that are currently in the virtual model plus the estimated 80 additional students who would attend the virtual academy potentially with this model, how close are we to being able to social distance in the 7-12 building?

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

mask wearing is 50%- Social distancing is the other to prevent transmission.

From Carrie Brady to All panelists: (8:08 PM)

How would a MS/HS 9am start time work with busing when primary/elementary starts at the same time?

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:08 PM)

if 7-12 starts at 9 am how will the buses work with elementary also starting at 9

Anonymous Attendee 08:08 PM

So glad to see this proposal for more in person instruction. Thank you. Every day my kids ask to be back in the classroom with their teachers. Learning has been a struggle.

From emily hensch to All panelists: (8:09 PM)

Do you feel that the elementary school children are not receiving the proper in class instruction that they DESERVE?? At home specials and limited classroom instruction is evident in delayed progress, is it not??

Anonymous Attendee 08:10 PM

Virtual academy still an option for those who aren't comfortable with 4 days a week.

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From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:14 PM)

If teachers opened classes virtually to the kids at home- then we would not need to change anything.

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (8:14 PM)

Has there been any consideration of a 1/2 day schedule for 7-12 grades?

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:14 PM)

Why are teachers not teaching live sessions?

From Cory Bonnet to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

please confirm that the chat will be made public

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:16 PM)

Families were promised live sessions- is this a union issue? why are we not getting live sessions?

From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (8:17 PM)

but the data is based on total population transmission right? not children. so we are holding back the youngest children with very low transmission rates who need to be in classrooms on total population rates not specific to their age group. i understand the space is small. data is what these recommendations are being based on but for total population, not children age 5-12 is that correct? is that because the state says that we have to base it on those things as total population and not the age of the children?

From val to All panelists: (8:19 PM)

excellent comments by Melissa

From Jodi Piacenti to All panelists: (8:19 PM)

Why change now? Do we really need to make this transition?

From Maureen OConnor to All panelists: (8:19 PM)

ty! we are so happy to be going back 4 days!!!

Anonymous Attendee 08:21 PM

It's a HUGE HUGE HUGE advantage to have in person instruction and we have to have our kids back to school. Seeing teachers once a week for an hour is not good enough for a long-term learning situation.

From Jill Adkins to All panelists: (8:22 PM)

If people are concerned about the virtual students getting as much attention as the in person students, why don't you do synchronous learning?

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (8:24 PM)

As a physician, I've been back to work for months now, seeing patients and working closely with other physicians and staff while masked. i have not gotten COVID and feel comfortable having kids go back as long as masking is maintained. If lunch is the only time they're unmasked, and if that is able to be distanced, I'm all for having them back for full days. Thank you for all you do!

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diapaolac rc 08:26 PM

When will the k-6 model be reevaluated for full day instruction?

Anonymous Attendee 04:29 PM

not a question but a comment and observation as a medical professional.

Anonymous Attendee 12:07 AM

In our district we have been low and remain low even with playing contact sports and many other physical activities with other students from many other districts. I fear the longer these students remain at home, the greater the risk for depression and

Anonymous Attendee 10:16 PM

abuse (especially in our elementary age children as evidenced by the rise in cases seen in the ED at UPMC Childrens Hospital)

Anonymous Attendee 12:37 PM

if everyone wears a mask, then everyone will be low risk even if 6feet physical distancing is not always going to be a constant.

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:35 PM)

Are any of the teachers doing live sessions?

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:49 PM)

Your HS teachers could learn a lot from PC teachers. PC is live everyday- with also recording lessons. Our kids in HS are really at a disadvantage without live sessions.

From Jodi Piacenti to All panelists: (9:26 PM)

I'm concerned that the message we are sending to our kids is that we are ignoring both the metrics and CDC guidelines.

From Kelli Sommers to All panelists: (9:32 PM)

Thank you Mr. Ralston!

Visitors' Comments

No Visitor comments

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Kyra Carlson

Ms. Carlson reported new Student Council officers were inducted, Spirit Week was successful and a Senior bonfire was held in lieu of a homecoming dance. The Homecoming King and Queen were announced at the last home football game, the pep rally and game were live-streamed, and a "Lopeacchino" drink (chocolate Frappuccino) was created as a fundraiser. Student Council is planning a food truck event with safety precautions, a virtual walk for grief awareness and a Thanksgiving food drive. Mr. Brandt asked how Ms. Carlson felt about the way things were going and if she had any suggestions. Ms. Carlson said she was struggling a bit with the hybrid learning but teachers' instructional videos were helping. She would love to go back to in-school learning with safety precautions.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston thanked Ms. Carlson for finding a silver lining by being creative on making students' senior year successful. We have been engaged with the architect on the facilities master plan. Enrollment is creeping up, especially on the secondary campus. Architect, Matt Hansen, will attend the November Work Session to present a draft of the facilities master plan. CelebratED October 5 virtually on how to celebrate learning experiences provided to students in the Pittsburgh region. Remake Learning Days will launch tomorrow and is expanding across the U.S. Dr. Ralston met virtually with the Bookings Institute and educators from around the world to discuss how to engage parents and take aways we could share with one another.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley reputed our District was part of a story on KDKA to share things we are doing and how school districts and teachers are using technology to meet the needs of our students. He thanked Dr. Ralston, Mr. Como, Mrs. Dwulit and Board members for assisting with the changes to the graduation requirements. Representatives from our new math programs worked with our teachers with professional development. We had 104 responses to our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion meeting and 60 people attended the virtual meeting. We will send another survey. 32 people expressed an interest in being on the standing committee. We will continue to inform our community on the goings on.

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

Mr. Andrews provided his quarterly report on real estate tax assessment appeals. During the 2020 School Year 147 residential and one commercial property appeals were filed with all but three having been heard. For 2019, 155 residential and four commercial appeals have been heard with six properties without a final decision (three residential and three commercial). This generated \$114,000 in additional taxes for the district. 2018 and 2017 appeals have been completed. Delinquent taxes collected are down from this time last year by \$180,00 which could be due to economic conditions.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti

Mrs. Monti was not able to attend the last AWBCC meeting but reported that the general line items were discussed.

Mr. Blaser noted that the Curriculum Committee met this evening at 6:30 PM in the LGI Room and virtually.

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.6 and 2-4:

- | | | |
|------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for September, 2020, beginning with Check #49524 and ending with Check #49697 and Check #50600 and ending with Check #50641 in the total amount of \$522,522.38. | <i>General Fund</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the September, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,170,587.64. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for August, 2020. | <i>Treasurer’s Rpt.</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for September, 2020, beginning with Check #2754 and ending with Check #2761 in the total amount of \$11,007.66. | <i>Fd. Svc. Fund</i> |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for September, 2020, beginning with Check #9096 and ending with Check #9135 in the total amount of \$3,280.00. | <i>Athletic Fund</i> |
| 1.6 | To approve capital project payments of \$22,626.00. | <i>Capital Projects</i> |
| 2. | To retroactively approve Mr. Bill White to write an AIU OnRamp (Foundation) Grant in the amount of \$2,500 and to approve Mr. White receive a stipend in the amount of \$75 for writing the grant. | <i>Grant</i> |
| 3. | To approve payment of \$75 each for four PSAT proctors (teachers and paraprofessionals) for supervision of the exam on Saturday, October 17, 2020. | <i>PSAT Proctors</i> |
| 4. | 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. Junior Achievement of Western PA
B. Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh (two letters)
C. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
D. Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium | <i>EITC Letters</i> |

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

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-8:

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1. | To amend the motion of September 14, 2020 and approve the request of Ms. Bernice Arienzo , Food Service Worker, for an unpaid leave from September <u>28</u> , 2020 through October 23, 2020. | <i>Amended Motion</i>
<i>Unpaid Leave</i> |
| 2. | The request of Ms. Debbie Hunt , Paraprofessional, for intermittent FMLA for up to twelve weeks beginning September 16, 2020. | <i>FMLA</i> |
| 3. | To approve the transfer of 42 sick days for Ms. Pharlan Ives which were accumulated during her employment with the Quaker Valley School District. | <i>Transf. Sick Days</i> |
| 4. | To approve the transfer of 25 sick days for Ms. Shelby James which were accumulated during her employment with the Pittsburgh Public School District. | <i>Transf. Sick Days</i> |

Personnel, continued

ADDENDUM ITEMS (4)

5. To approve the resignation of **Ms. Roxann Persia**, Food Service worker, effective October 30, 2020 *Resignation*

6. To approve the following Primary Center tutors for the 2020-2021 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: *APC Tutors*
 - A. **Ms. Pam Rawlings**
 - B. **Ms. Kathy Reichart**
 - C. **Ms. Lauren Zivic**

7. To approve the following Reading Club tutors for the 2020-2021 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: *Reading Club Tutors*
 - A. **Ms. Nicole DeLuca**
 - B. **Ms. Christine Hartmann**
 - C. **Ms. Kari Johnson**
 - D. **Ms. Kathy Reichart**
 - E. **Ms. Lauren Zivic**

8. To approve Document P-9 representing the 2020-2021 salary increases for **Dr. Thomas Ralston** and **Dr. Jeff Hadley** retroactive to July 1, 2020. *Salary Incr.*

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

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-8:

1. To accept the resignation of **Mr. Bill White** as Assistant Varsity Track Coach effective September 24, 2020. *Coach Resignation*

2. To amend the motion of May 13, 2019 and approve **Ms. Rachel Sebolt** as Co-sponsor of the Avonworth Eats Club (Provisional Club) for Grades 7, 8, and 9 beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year, with a stipend according to Policy 122.4. *Amend Motion
Club Sponsor*

3. The Administration recommends approval of the following supplemental sponsors 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. *Supp. Sponsors*
 - A. To approve **Mr. Doug Haskins** as sponsor of the Middle School Yearbook for the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - B. To approve **Ms. Tiffany White** as sponsor of Personal Pathway: Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship for the 2020-2021 School Year, effective September 28, 2020.

Athletics & Activities, continued

- C. To change the status of **Ms. Kerri Villani** as Sponsor of the Pittsburgh Galleries Club to Co-Sponsor effective September 28, 2020.
 - D. To approve **Ms. Shelby James** as Co-sponsor of the Pittsburgh Galleries Club effective September 28, 2020.
 - E. To approve **Ms. Sonia Ewell, Ms. Michelle George, and Ms. Jill Shumaker** as shared sponsors of the Social Justice Club for the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - F. To approve **Ms. Rachel Sebolt** and **Ms. Michelle George** as Co-sponsors of the Avonworth Eats Club (provisional) for the 2020-2021 School Year.
4. To remove the provisional status of the YoungLife Club and approve it as an Avonworth Co-curricular club/organization commencing with the 2020-2021 School Year. The sponsor for this club is **Mr. Blake Hoskins** with a stipend paid by YoungLife. *Remove Prov. Status*
5. The Administration recommends approval of the following Winter 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. *Winter Coaches*
- A. Boys' Varsity Basketball Head Coach – **Mr. Mike Mancuso**
 - B. Boys' Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach – **Mr. Dave Thomas**
 - C. Boy's 9th Grade Head Basketball Coach – **Mr. Brody Zangaro**
 - D. Boy's 9th Grade Assistant Basketball Coach – **Mr. Justin Campalong**
 - E. Boys' Varsity Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Duke Johncour**
 - F. Boys' Varsity Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Phil Coffin**
 - G. Bocce Coach – **Ms. Tiffany White**
 - H. Volunteer Bocce Coach – **Ms. Jennifer Wickert**
 - I. Girls' Head Basketball Coach – **Mr. Frank Halloran**
 - J. Girls' Shared Assistant Basketball Coach – **Ms. Jana Phillips**
 - K. Girls' Shared Assistant Basketball Coach – **Mr. Joshua White**

ADDENDUM ITEMS (3)

6. To accept the resignations of **Ms. Sherah Rothman** and **Mr. Len Tena** as Lunch Duty Monitors. *Lunch Duty Monitors*
7. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Melissa DeSimone** as sponsor of Fragments. *Fragments*
8. The Administration recommends approval of the following additional Fall coaches and supplemental sponsors 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 *Addl. Fall Coaches*

Athletics & Activities, continued

listed below that his/her position will be needed and in place or that it will continue uninterrupted during the 2020-2021 School Year.

G. Ms. Tiffany White as an additional PM High School Bus Duty Monitor

H. Ms. Katelyn Straley and Mr. Brody Zangaro as Lunch Duty Monitors

ADDENDUM ITEM

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

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-3:

1. To declare approximately 70 third grade student chairs and desks as obsolete and to donate/dispose of accordingly. *(Third grade received new tables and chairs from this year’s budget.)*

Obsolete Desks/Chairs

Mr. Waters noted that Mrs. Frew is working with a City of Pittsburgh organization who can distribute the tables and chairs to students in need.

POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-5:

1. To approve the recommended changes to the Graduation Requirements as attached.

Grad. Req. Changes

Mr. Blaser thanked the Curriculum Committee for their work on the Graduation requirements over the past year.

Old Business

Mr. Waters discussed how we are doing with our revenues from the first three months. 76% of district revenues consist of local sources with real estate taxes making up the majority. \$17.7 million of budgeted real estate tax has been collected through Friday, October 9, 2020 compared to \$21 million in real estate taxes that were collected through the end of October 2019. We are lagging behind this year. He reminded everyone that the Board had passed a resolution giving residents extra time to pay their real estate taxes. We extended the face period to December 31. Earned income tax collected last year was \$2.9 million. This year \$2.3 million was budgeted and we have collected \$751,000 through October 9th.

Mr. Brandt asked for an update on the bleacher project. Mr. Waters said the final payment application would be forthcoming as soon as the covering on the front of the bleachers was installed and the fencing finished. The asphalt work has been completed.

New Business

Motion from the Floor: J. Brandt; **Second:** V. Carlson: To approve the transition plan for instruction for the second nine weeks as proposed by Dr. Ralston. *Transition Plan*

Discussion: Mrs. Thompson congratulated our community for following the guidelines and reminded everyone to keep wearing masks and social distancing which will reflect well at the school level. Mrs. Bolain feels parents may want to understand better about the logistics of virtual learning. Dr. Ralston said we are still working on it and within a week or two we will have more definitive plans on transportation, etc. We have to work out so many small details. Mrs. Carlson asked if we had enough Food Service workers ready when the students return. Mr. Waters said Ms. Schad is considering several applicants. The secondary campus is ok. The elementary/primary campus students eat lunch at home before or after their AM/PM classes. 100 students at the elementary/primary and 75 on the secondary campus are participating in the 100% free lunch program. Mrs. Bolain asked if the current back to school recommendation meets local and state mandates and Dr. Ralston said it did.

Motion Carried with Mrs. Bolain opposed.

Motion from the Floor: B. Blaser; **Second:** J. Brandt: To approve an additional eight PSAT proctors for supervision of the exam on Saturday, October 17, 2020. *Add'l PSAT Proctors*
Motion Carried: Unanimous voice vote to approve this item.

Mrs. Bolain asked if Dr. Ralston still required authorization to take any required action necessary due to the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Ralston said that was needed over the summer and was no longer necessary.

Motion from the Floor: S. Bolain; **Second:** P. Stewart: To terminate the motion from April 14, 2020, authorizing Administration to pay all bills in a timely manner and to take any required action necessary to be completed subject to ratification in the event that the Board is unable to hold a public Board meeting in April and/or May due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus. *Terminate Motion for Admin. Bill Paying Authorization*

Motion Carried: Unanimous voice vote to approve this item.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:30 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel, student, and contract matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary

Proposed Graduation Requirement Changes

<u>Proposed Graduation Requirements</u> <u>Content Area</u>	<u>Required</u> <u>Credits</u>	<u>Current Graduation Requirements</u> <u>Content Area</u>	<u>Required</u> <u>Credits</u>
English (one course/credit per year required)	4	English	4
Social Studies	3	Social Studies	4
Math	3	Math	3
Science	3	Science	3
Core Flex Credit (Student Choice: Social Studies, Math, or Science)	1		
Required Elective Courses (personal finance, art, technology, 9th gr seminar, computer science)	2.5	Required Elective Courses (personal finance, art, technology, 9th gr seminar)	2.0
Physical Education (adjustments will be made to include gr 10-12 required PE and health standards)	1.5	PE (2) Health (.5) (we are currently addressing health standards in gr 9 and not gr 10-12)	2.5
Elective Credits (student choice) *Students can select to utilize the self-direction option of an internship, work-study, and/or apprenticeship toward up to two elective credits.	7	Elective Credits (student choice)	7
Total Credits Required for Graduation	25		25.5

Note: PA School Code does not require a specific amount of credits or courses to be taken to meet graduation requirements in PA. PA Code 22 Chapter 4.24 outlines graduation requirements for PA as course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project, results of local assessments aligned with the academic standards, and demonstration of proficiency on required State assessments.

Continued Explanation/Timeline for Graduation Credit Requirement Changes

Change	Explanation	Implemented
Self-directed option available in place of up to 2 elective credits	Students will continue to be required to earn 7 elective credits. However, a student can select to utilize the self-direction option of an internship, work-study, and/or apprenticeship toward up to 2 elective credits.	2020-2021 School Year
Flex Core Credit	Students must continue to earn a total of 14 core content credits. These 14 credits must be accumulated by continuing to earn 4 credits of English. The student must earn a minimum of 3 credits of science, social studies, and math and will have a choice to earn the 14th credit in their choice of science, social studies, or math.	2021-2021 School Year
1.5 Physical Education/Health Credits Required	Students will be required to earn 1.5 Physical Education/Health credits to graduate. To ensure the required Health Standards are met, high school physical education courses will be rewritten to include the grade 10-12 required health standards.	2021-2022 School Year
.5 Credit of Computer Science Required (grade 9)	Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, all 9th-grade students will be required to take a computer science course. This .5 credit course will be required for graduation.	2021-2022 School Year
1 Credit Required to be a Blended Course	Beginning with the Class of 2025, students will be required to earn 1 credit by taking and passing a blended course. A blended course is a course that does not meet in-person 100% of the time. The course will meet both in-person and asynchronously. A blended course may be a core content course or elective.	Class of 2025
Replace Valedictorian/Salutatorian with additional recognitions for graduating seniors.	Beginning with the graduating class of 2025, valedictorian and salutatorian will be replaced with a new system of recognition for graduating seniors. The goal is to recognize more graduating seniors in more areas of excellence.	Class of 2025
Total Credits for Graduation = 25	The final total, minimum credits required to graduate will be 25.	Class of 2025