

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 14, 2019
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Ms. Kristin Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Dir., Fiscal Mgmt.
Mr. William Andrews, Esq., Andrews & Price LLC
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Ms. Kyra Carlson, Student Council Representative
Ms. Kailey Scigliano, Student
Mr. Nick Mancini, Teacher
Mr. Jared Quinn, Resident
Ms. Nancy White, *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.

Visitors' Comments

Senior, Kailey Scigliano, discussed her idea for an "Ask Avonworth" tutoring program. The program consists of two types of tutoring: anonymous online tutoring and after-school hands-on tutoring.

Report of the Student Council Representative – Ms. Kyra Carlson

Ms. Kyra Carlson reported on Spirit Days in September and Student Council's plan for Breast Cancer Awareness in October in the high school.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston noted the first Strategic Planning Committee meeting is on October 24. They plan to send out a stakeholder's survey to students in grades 5-12, parents/guardians, and staff members. Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley will attend a Superintendents' workshop in Washington DC this week during which they'll visit and collaborate with other schools and advocate for education.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley said the Annual Report will be mailed to district residents October 16. Computer teacher, Jill Shumaker, had an article published about the course she is teaching that was developed by CMU. Day 2 of Wit & Wisdom training went well today. Dr. Hadley has arranged for Middle and High School math teachers to go to Carnegie Learning headquarter on November 11 to meet with the authors of the program.

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

Mr. Andrews reported that 2019 tax appeal assessments are moving along. There were 156 residential and four commercial appeals vs. 106 residential and no commercial appeals last year. Three of the four commercial appeals were sustained and we have filed appeals. As of September 30 \$614,000 in delinquent taxes have been collected. He will have more final numbers at the January meeting.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Mr. Jeff Carraway/Ms. Kate Monti

Mr. Blaser reported last week's Open House was great. Mr. Carraway said AWBCC is discussing a new surgical assistant program.

Mr. Blaser noted that the Athletic Committee met on October 7, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss athletic matters and the Curriculum Committee met this evening at 6:30 P.M. to discuss curriculum matters. Both meetings were held in the Administration Board Room.

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2019 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the September 9, 2019 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

Minutes

FINANCE – J. Carraway/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1.1-1.5 and Items 2-6:

- | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for September, 2019, beginning with Check #47419 and ending with Check #47552 in the total amount of \$6,411,653.35.
(Note: Includes \$6,000,000 for PSDLAF investment) | General Fund |
| 1.2 | Ratify the September, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$1,192,394.38. | Payroll |
| 1.3 | Treasurer's Report for August, 2019. | Treasurer's Rpt. |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for September, 2019, beginning with Check #2672 and ending with Check #2681 in the total amount of \$22,775.83. | Food Svc. Fund |
| 1.5 | Ratify capital project payment in the amount of \$14,820.00. | Capital Project |
| 2. | To approve Ms. Katy Tarasi to attend the Pennsylvania Institute of Instructional Coaching Conference October 28-29, 2019 in State College at a cost not to exceed \$300 plus mileage to be paid from Title IV Professional Development Funds. No substitute is needed. | Conference |

Finance, continued

3. To approve **Mr. Doug Haskins** and **Mr. Len Tena** to attend the National Science Teachers Association Conference in Cincinnati, OH November 14-16, 2019, at a cost not to exceed \$2,428 which includes mileage, materials, transportation, and substitute costs. *Conference*
4. To approve **Mr. Scott Tuffiash** to attend the A.P. English Language and Literature Workshop on November 8, 2019 in Cleveland, OH at a cost not to exceed \$679.00 which includes mileage, materials, registration and substitute cost. *Workshop*
5. To approve **Ms. Molly Chester, Ms. Kerri Villani, Ms. Natalie Barkovich, and Ms. Molly Long** to attend a Classrooms Without Borders Educational Leadership seminar in Israel from March 15 to March 26, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$8,500. *Seminar in Israel*

Dr. Ralston noted the Israeli teachers met with Ms. Chester, Ms. Villani, Ms. Barkovich, and Ms. Long yesterday at the Jewish Cultural Center. The teachers will be in our school all this week.

ADDENDUM ITEM

6. To approve Dr. Thomas Ralston to attend the Western Pennsylvania Superintendents' Forum at the Omni Bedford Springs November 12-14, 2019. *W. PA Supt. Forum*

PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/D. Oberdick, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-6:

1. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Jamie Shaulis**, Food Service Lead, retroactive to September 23, 2019. *Resignation*
2. To approve **Mr. James Funderwhite** as a substitute custodian retroactive to September 16, 2019, at a rate of \$13.24/hour, with no benefits, pending requirements of the district. *Sub Custodian*
3. To hire **Ms. Melanie Meiser** as a Food Service worker retroactive to September 25, 2019, pending requirements of the District, as per the terms of the AESPA agreement. *Food Svc. Worker*
4. To approve **Ms. Elena Mariano** as a Primary Center Paraprofessional retroactive to October 8, 2019, according to the current AESPA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Para Hire*

Personnel, continued

5. To approve the following staff members as tutors for the 2019-2020 School Year with an hourly rate according to the current AEA contract: *Tutors*
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a) Ms. Barb Bauer | j) Ms. Jennifer Wickert |
| b) Ms. Christine Hartmann | k) Ms. Lucy Negron |
| c) Ms. Nicole DeLuca | l) Mr. Ahmed Affaneh |
| d) Ms. Ashley Randall | m) Ms. Cate Potter |
| e) Ms. Adrienne Leveto | n) Ms. Katie Straley (shared) |
| f) Ms. Cheryl Noethiger | o) Ms. Hannah Fassler (shared) |
| g) Ms. Morgan Bassaly | p) Ms. Pam Rawlings |
| h) Ms. Tricia Floyd-Scheller | q) Ms. Lauren Zivic |
| i) Ms. Erica Snyder | |

ADDENDUM ITEM

6. To approve **Ms. Kalynn Posati** as a substitute Paraprofessional effective October 15, 2019, according to the current AESPA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Para Hire*

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

Motion: V. Carlson; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-2:

1. To approve the Level One curriculum document written by **Ms. Karen Monier** for Fourth Grade Science and payment of \$1,445.00 to **Ms. Monier** for writing the equivalent of a one-semester course according to the current AEA contract. *Curriculum Writing*

ADDENDUM ITEM

2. To approve the Level One curriculum document written by **Mr. Doug Haskins** for Environmental Science and payment of \$1,445.00 to **Mr. Haskins** for writing the equivalent of a one-semester course according to the current AEA contract. *Curriculum Writing*

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

Motion: S. Bolain; **Second:** D. Oberdick; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item 1:

1. To accept the proposal from Dobil Laboratories for district-wide camera system and security upgrades. (Note: 70% of the funding is through a safety and security grant) *Grant*

PUBLIC RELATIONS – K. Monti/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

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

1. The amount of \$800 to cover the cost of meals and transportation for the Senior Citizen dress rehearsal of the Fall play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. *Sr. Citizen Dinner*

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-2:

1. To approve the following winter sports coaches for the 2019-2020 School Year: *Winter Coaches*
Boys' Varsity Basketball Head Coach – **Mr. Dan Bradley**
Boys' Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach – **Mr. Mike Donovan**
Boys' 8th grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Mike Murray**
Boys' 7th grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Brody Zangaro**
Boys' Varsity Wrestling Head Coach – **Mr. Tim Giel**
Boys' Varsity Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Duke Johncour**
Boys' Varsity Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Phil Coffin**
Bocce (Shared) – **Ms. Tiffany White**
Bocce (Shared) – **Ms. Jennifer Wickert**
2. To approve **Ms. Lisa Vizzini-Blose** as a volunteer chaperone for the High School Volleyball team beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *Vol. Chaperone*

POLICY – V. Carlson/K. Monti – Co-Chairs

Motion: V. Carlson; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Items 1-7:

1. To approve fifth grade teachers, nurse, and volunteers to accompany fifth grade students to Camp Kon-O-Kwee May 13-14, 2020 and permission for students attending to be absent two field trip days; and permission for high school counselors attending to be absent two field trip days. Field trip fees will be paid by the students. Cost to the District will be six substitute teachers for two full days and transportation. AEA members will be compensated per the AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. *Camp Kon-O-Kwee*
2. To approve an overnight trip for a maximum of 40 students in Grades 9-12 to New York City with departure at 10:00 P.M. on Friday, November 22, 2019 and return approximately 6:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 24, 2019. Cost is \$250 per student. The trip is organized by students and includes four to five chaperones including the High School Principal and Assistant Principal. *NYC Trip*

Policy, continued

3. To approve an overnight field trip for the sixth grade to Washington D.C. May 6-7, 2020. The trip will be chaperoned by staff as well as a nurse and an administrator. Staff and students will miss two days of school. Transportation via Lenzner Coach Lines. Five substitutes will be needed for two days. AEA members will be compensated per the AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. *6th Gr. Trip*

4. To rename the current Middle/High School Jazz Band to “Jazz Ensemble” effective with the 2019-2020 School Year. *Jazz Band
Name Change*

5. To create a “Jazz Band” as an extracurricular activity beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year with **Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi** as the sponsor with a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Create Jazz Band*

6. To approve the application for a YoungLife Club as a Provisional Club in the Middle/High School beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year. Sponsor for this club will be **Mr. Blake Hoskins** and the stipend will be paid by YoungLife. *YoungLife Club*

ADDENDUM ITEM

7. To approve the Varsity Softball coaching staff to accompany the high school softball team on an overnight field trip to the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, SC March 19-23, 2020. All costs including airline, lodging, and substitute fees will be paid by fundraising and by the Avonworth Softball Boosters Association. One substitute will be needed for two days (three days if March 23 is used as a snow make-up day) at a cost of \$132 per day. Students will miss two days of school. (Monday, March 23, 2020 is a scheduled day off for staff and students. If needed, this day will be used as the first snow make-up day and students would then miss three days of school.) *Softball Trip*

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Waters reported the bond refinancing went to market and the savings was higher than estimated at the beginning of September. Savings is \$588,000 which will be taken over the next three years.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hadley discussed rethinking how we distribute flyers. He would like to use SchoolRush only for school related items. He talked about possibly using Peachjar for community related flyers. Peachjar provides a direct link to each flyer and parents can set up how often they want to receive the flyer emails. Dr. Hadley would still approve the flyers before sending them through the Peachjar system. There is a one-time cost to the District to join. He will provide additional information at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: B. Blaser; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:20 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary