

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 8, 2018
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

Board President, David Oberdick, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Patrick Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services
Mr. Antonio Misiti, PNC Capital Markets
Ms. Kelly Walbush, AEA President
Mr. William Andrews, Esquire, Andrews & Price
Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen*
Mr. Joseph Szalinski, *The Citizen*
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

Visitors' Comments

No visitor comments.

Mr. Oberdick read the following: The Athletic Committee met on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss athletic matters. The Curriculum Committee met this evening at 6:30 PM to discuss Curriculum matters.

Report of Student Representative – None

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston said staff worked hard during today's Act 80 day. There was diversity training at the Elementary School and follow-up training to last year's diversity training and equity awareness with Ms. Christine Hartman and Dr. Gretchen Generett. Ms. Taylor worked with our Special Education staff on preparing for a special education audit due later this year.

Dr. Ralston attended professional development in Bedford Springs with other Allegheny County Superintendents. Among the topics of discussion were act 44 school security requirements and grant funding to assist with these requirements. This grant would enable professional learning and training, equipment such as cameras and door security. We are hoping to fund a social worker

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position if we are awarded this grant. We had applied for a Safe Schools grant earlier this year but did not receive it. Mike Hall had been given the position of Safety & Security Coordinator. There is more involved since he was put in this position. He will come to Board meetings to report on what is needed, i.e., training, drills, etc.

Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley are leaving in the morning to attend the fall League of Innovative Schools meeting in Salt Lake City, UT.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

The District newsletter was sent out to all email addresses in our system. Dr. Hadley has received positive feedback from a few parents. The annual report and public notices will also be sent out soon. Mr. Brandt asked for the newsletter to also be sent to the Board's email addresses.

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

Mr. Andrews provided his report of the October 2018 Real Estate Tax Assessment appeals. There were 106 residential appeals and no commercial appeals. For 2017, owners filed appeals for 14 properties and Andrews & Price filed three appeals on behalf of the District. All but four have been resolved. Only two residential appeals remain to be decided by the Court.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Mr. Beau Blaser

Mr. Blaser reported 15 students were chosen to attend Skills USA in Seven Springs the end of October. Anticipate receiving approval from LaRoche for College-In-High School classes in the areas of Health & Nursing, Specialized Medicine, Emergency Response, and Ad design. The AWBCC Board approved renaming the Student Conference Center to the “Arlene J. Bender Student Center” in honor of a long-time Board Member who recently passed away. There is no AWBCC meeting in October. The November 12 Avonworth Board Meeting will be held at AWBCC.

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2018 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the September 10, 2018 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

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

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for September, 2018, beginning with Check #44891 and ending with Check #45220 in the total amount of \$6,188,053.54. | <i>General Fund</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the September, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$1,125,593.76. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer's Report for August, 2018. | <i>Treasurer's Report</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$9,671.09. | |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for September, 2018, beginning with Check #8541 and ending with Check #8595 in the total amount of \$5,465.00. | <i>Athletic Fund</i> |
| 1.6 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for September, 2018, beginning with Check #2573 and ending with Check #2582 in the total amount of \$19,316.54. | <i>Fd. Svc. Fund</i> |

Finance, continued

2. To approve **Ms. Katy Tarasi** to attend the ELA Symposium Learning Leadership Series 2018 in Nashville, TN, October 14-16, 2018. All expenses are paid by McGraw-Hill Education. *Conference*
3. To approve **Ms. Keera Dwulit** to attend the “Champions for Equity” ASCD Conference in Nashville, TN November 2-4, 2018 at a cost not to exceed \$1,510. *Conference*
4. To approve **Ms. Tommie Murray** to attend the MTSS Conference in Harrisburg, PA October 16-18, 2018 related to implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support at the Primary Center and Elementary School at a cost not to exceed \$550.00. *Conference*
5. To approve Resolution 100818 to authorize the refinancing of the Series 2013 bonds. *Resolution*

ADDENDUM ITEM

6. To approve Dr. Shelby Stewman to conduct a demographics study for the Avonworth School District at a cost not to exceed \$16,000. *Demographics Study*

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

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

1. To move to record in the Minutes of this meeting that **Ms. Jana Stahl** has attained Professional Employee status and will be issued a Professional Employee contract as per PA School Code #1108 and #1121 *Prof. Employee Status*
2. To approve the transfer of 24.5 sick days for **Ms. Tommie Murray** which were accumulated during her employment with the Bellwood Antis School District. *Transfer Sick Days*
3. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Angela McDowell**, Food Service Worker from 4 hours/day (9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.) in the Middle/High School to 3.75 hours/day at the Elementary School retroactive to August 27, 2018. Clearances are on file in the District office. *Change in Assignment*
4. To approve a change in assignment for **Mr. Mervin Doerfler** from Substitute Food Service Worker to Part-Time Foodservice worker for 4 hours/day (9:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.) in the Middle/High School retroactive to August 27, 2018. Clearances are on file in the District office. *Change in Assignment*
5. To approve **Ms. Bonnie Beal** as a substitute secretary on an as-needed basis, at a rate of \$9.50/hour, with no benefits, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Secretary*

Personnel, continued

ADDENDUM ITEMS (4)

6. To approve the creation of two full-time, permanent Paraprofessional positions commencing with the 2018-2019 School Year. *Create 2 Para Positions*
7. To accept the Letter of Resignation from Paraprofessional, Mr. Jeremy Campbell, retroactive to September 27, 2018. *Resignation*
8. To approve **Ms. Tricia Floyd-Scheller** participate in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s SmartSTART Guest Substitute Teacher Training Program at a cost of not more than \$200 for the 2018-2019 School Year. *SmartSTART*
9. To approve **Ms. Amanda Szenyeri** as a Substitute Food Service General Worker for the 2018-2019 School Year, retroactive to September 4, 2018, with no benefits, at a rate of \$8.50/hour, pending requirements of the District. *Sub Fd. Svc. Worker*

PUBLIC RELATIONS – K. MONTI//KRISTIN THOMPSON, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** J. Carraway; **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, **Clue: On Stage** adapted for the stage by Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, Eric Price, and Sandy Rustin, on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. *Fall Play*

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

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-8:

1. To approve **Ms. Melissa Reagle** and **Ms. Breanna Maisner** as Interim shared Sponsors of the Student United Nations Club for the first semester of the 2018-2019 School Year with a shared stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Student Council Interim Sponsors*
2. To approve **Ms. Erica Snyder** as a sponsor of the Girls on the Run Club for the 2018-2019 School Year retroactive to September 17, 2018, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Girls on the Run Sponsor*
3. To approve **Ms. Kathy Galecki** as the Grade 8 Grade Level Chair for the 2018-2019 School Year with a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Gr. 8 Grade Level Chair*

Athletics & Activities, continued

4. To approve the following winter sports coaches for the 2018-2019 School Year: *Winter Coaches*
- Girls' Senior Basketball Head Coach – **Mark D'Allesandris**
 - Girls' Senior/JV Basketball Assistant Coach – **Ms. Julie Tullar**
 - Boys' Senior Basketball Head Coach – **Mr. Dan Bradley**
 - Boys' Senior Basketball Assistant Coach – **Mr. Mike Donovan**
 - Boys' 8th grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Mike Murray**
 - Boys' 7th grade Basketball Coach – **Mr. Brody Zangaro**
 - Boys' Senior Wrestling Head Coach – **Mr. Tim Giel**
 - Boys' Middle School Wrestling Head Coach – **Mr. Marino Barbabella**
 - Boys' Middle School Wrestling Assistant Coach – **Mr. Brandon Wasko**
 - Boys' Senior Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Duke Johncour**
 - Boys' Senior Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – **Mr. Phil Coffin**
 - Bocce (Shared) – **Ms. Tiffany White**
 - Bocce (Shared) – **Ms. Jennifer Wickert**

ADDENDUM ITEMS (4)

5. To approve **Mr. Michael Konieczki** as Chess Club sponsor at the Elementary School for the 2018-2019 School Year, at a stipend according to the AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Chess Club Sponsor*
6. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Kerri Villani** as co-sponsor of the recently created GOLD Club retroactive to October 4, 2018. *Club Sponsor Resignation*
7. To approve **Ms. Melissa Reagle** and **Ms. Breanna Maisner** as shared sponsors of the Mock Trial Team for the 2018-2019 School Year, at a stipend according to the AEA contract. *(This position has been unfilled for over three years.)* *Mock Trial Team*
8. To approve the following supplemental sponsors at the Elementary School for the 2018-2019 School Year, at a stipend according to the AEA contract: *AES Lunch/PM Dismissal Sponsors*
- a. **Ms. Melissa Cwynar** as Grade 3 Lunch Monitor, retroactive to August 27, 2018.
 - b. **Ms. Erin Funwela** and **Ms. Jessica Kostewicz** as shared Grade 4 Lunch Monitors effective October 9, 2018.
 - c. **Ms. Alaina Schrader** as PM Dismissal Parent Pick-Up Monitor retroactive to August 27, 2018.

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

Motion: V. Carlson; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-10:

1. To approve a one-day field trip for 35-40 Grade 12 students to New York City on Saturday, December 1, 2018. The trip is organized by students and includes four teacher/ Administrator chaperones. The trip will be for approximately 30 hours *NYC Field Trip*

and includes sightseeing, a museum tour, and a show “Come From Away.”
Departure time is 11:00 PM on Friday, November 30, 2018 and return time is approximately 6:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

2. To approve the application for a Chinese Club as a Provisional Club in the High School beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year, with a stipend according to Policy 122.4. Sponsor for this club will be **Ms. Jai Li**. Meetings will be held monthly after school and open to students in grades 9-12. *Prov. Chinese Club*
3. To approve **Ms. Tracy Keyes’** request to study the makerspace learning environment at the Avonworth Primary Center as part of her dissertation research during the Fall of 2018. Research does not include any student data collection. *Dissertation Research*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (7)

4. Mr. William Guess, two assistants, and ten volunteers to accompany 65 High School and Middle School students to Disney World, Orlando, Florida for an overnight trip from February 1-4, 2019. Transportation and lodging will be paid by the Avonworth Band Boosters Association. Three substitutes will be needed for two days. Students will miss two days of school. *Band trip to Disney*
5. To approve a one-day field trip for 36 Choral students in grades 7 and 8 to attend the Hershey Choral Festival on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Departure time is 6:00 AM and return time is approximately 9:00 PM. Trip will be chaperoned by Mr. Michael Warren and 5-10 parent volunteers who have current clearances. Trip will cost students \$64 and the cost of the bus is approximately \$700 and will be paid from the Choir budget. *Choral trip to Hershey*
6. Fifth grade teachers, nurse, and volunteers to accompany fifth grade students to Camp Kon-O-Kwee May 15-17, 2019 and permission for students attending to be absent three field trip days; and permission for high school counselors attending to be absent three field trip days. Field trip fees will be paid by the students. Cost to the District will be for six substitute teachers for three full days and transportation. *Camp Kon-O-Kwee*
7. To approve the Varsity Baseball coaching staff to accompany the high school baseball team on an overnight field trip to the Florida Coastal Sports Park training facilities in Coco Beach, FL March 21-25, 2019. All costs including airline, lodging, and substitute fees will be paid by the Avonworth Baseball Boosters Association. No substitute is required. Students will miss two days of school. (*Monday, March 25, 2019 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.*) *Baseball trip to Florida*

Policy, continued

8. 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 21-25, 2019. All costs including airline, lodging, and substitute fees will be paid by the Avonworth Softball Boosters Association. One substitute will be needed for two days (three days if March 25 is used as a snow make-up day). Students will miss two days of school. (*Monday, March 25, 2019 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 to SC*
9. To create a Hall of Distinction for the Avonworth School District. *Hall of Distinction*
10. To remove the provisional status of the National Arts Honor Society and approve it as an Avonworth Co-curricular club/organization commencing with the 2018-2019 School Year. The sponsor for this club is Ms. Kerri Villani with a stipend according to the AEA contract. *Remove Prov. Status
Natl. Arts Honor Soc.*

Ms. Carlson was concerned with the amount of class time field trip students would miss with the new high school schedule containing mods and double mods. She cautioned this and asked that it be monitored and evaluated.

Old Business

Mr. Oberdick discussed a policy being written for student and team awards in recognition of those in the arts and academics.

ADDITIONAL ITEM ADDED FROM THE FLOOR:

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

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 11:

11. To approve the policy on student and team awards, subject to delegation of finalization of the policy to Dr. Ralston and his administration for review and identification of the appropriate award levels for arts and academics. *Arts & Academics
Policy*

New Business

Mr. Waters gave a report on the mold found at the elementary school last week. PSI tested the air quality and reported nine acceptable and two high levels of mold spore types. PSI's representative identified the outer north side of the building was not getting enough sunlight due to overgrown bamboo. This will be cut back. Mr. Waters said each room's HVAC system is self-contained so no mold was found in those units. There is a 1-1/2" gap between the floor and the outside wall on the north side of the building where the caulking is breaking down.

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Over the weekend the company removed everything from two rooms and cleaned everything. Some chairs and a sofa with cloth covering were discarded. Our maintenance crew removed and replaced the ceiling tile. The company representative took additional air quality samples in the two rooms and the halls and found the air quality acceptable. She put in heppa air cleaning units. She will send out the samples to PSI and will provide a report soon. The rooms are safe and teachers and students were able to return to their rooms on Monday. We will continue to monitor and take steps to prevent moisture getting into these areas.

Mr. Oberdick reminded members about the PSBA Travel Accident Insurance.

Dr. Ralston suggested that in lieu of one work session during the year, a training session could be held. An economist could meet with Board members which would be a nice segue to working on the Strategic Plan.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn to an Executive Session at 8:30 P.M. to discuss personnel and student matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary