

**Avonworth School District**  
**258 Josephs Lane**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**Avonworth Board of School Directors**  
**Minutes – Regular Meeting – May 14, 2018**  
**Avonworth School District – Collaboration Center**  
**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, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Mr. Jeff Carraway**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent**  
**Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent**  
**Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management**  
**Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal**  
**Mr. William Andrews, Esquire, of Andrews & Price**  
**Ms. Beate Helsel, Parent**  
**Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent**  
**Ms. Beth Nowka, Parent**  
**Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen***  
**Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**  
**Many AEA members also attended but did not sign in**

*Juniors, Lainey Hilyard and Lissah Fry, showed a PowerPoint presentation for their Senior Project idea. "Wizards of Avonworth" is based on the Harry Potter series. They plan to hold their family event in a few high school classrooms and it includes participants learning the game of Quidditch, taking a class in making potions (fun drinks), caring for magical creatures, crafts, silent auction, a forbidden forest maze, and the Great Hall where they can purchase food. Proceeds will go to The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.*

**Visitors' Comments**

*Ms. Kelly Walbush, President of the AEA, read a statement regarding the AEA contract negotiations and asked the Board to see their point of view. Mr. Oberdick recapped the district finances and stated the Board is approving six new positions for the upcoming year. There have had times the board has had to vote to furlough staff and take a salary freeze. He asked the AEA to also see their point of view. We are stewards of the taxpayer base, and in balancing the mission of educating our children we try to balance as best we can. Parent, Stephanie Letzkus, spoke of the value of education and of the teachers being the bridge between home and school.*

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*Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, Assistant Middle/High School Principal, discussed recommendations for drug testing, feedback from the D&A Summit, the pros and cons of drug testing, and a plan for moving forward with D&A education over the next few years. She recapped what was done in 2017-2018. Plans for 2018-2019 may alternate the Mock Crash with the D&A Summit. May look into vaping detectors.*

*Dr. Ralston recognized Ms. Janet Michell-Harris, AES Music Teacher, Mr. Will Guess, Instructional Music Teacher, Mr. Michael Warren, Music/Chorus Teacher, and Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi, AES Music Teacher and presented them each with a Certificate of Appreciation. They were recently recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants for the Support Music Merit Award for outstanding commitment to music education.*

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Megan Robbbaro

*Ms. Robbbaro could not attend the meeting but provided a written report.*

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

*Dr. Ralston thanked everyone for a fantastic year and highlighted:*

- *6<sup>th</sup> Grade went to Washington DC this week*
- *5<sup>th</sup> Graders are going to Camp Kon-O-Kwee this week*
- *Prom went well last Friday*
- *Softball, Baseball and Track teams are in the Play-offs*
- *Band and Chorus Concerts are happening*
- *The Middle School Schools to Watch Celebration is this week*

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

*Dr. Hadley met with the Science teachers regarding building scope and sequence K-8. ELA teachers are getting ready to pilot programs next year. The Guidance Department is finishing up career readiness and housing student artifacts. Working on revising the school profile. Dr. Hadley continues to work on curriculum writing guide and Atlas.*

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

*No report at this time.*

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Mr. Jeff Carraway/Mr. Beau Blaser

*Mr. Blaser noted AWBCC's Senior Recognition Night will be held at North Hills on May 30. The AWBCC enrollment was 768 at the last meeting and it's now up to 781.*

*Mr. Oberdick read the following: The Athletic Committee met May 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss athletic matters. The Technology Committee and Public Relations Committee held a combined meeting this evening at 6:30 PM in the Collaboration Center to discuss the new website.*

**Motion:** J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the April 3, 2018 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting, the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting, and the April 18, 2018 General Purpose Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.7 and items 2-8:

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for April, 2018, beginning with Check #43902 and ending with Check #44111 in the total amount of \$799,092.21. *General Fund*
- 1.2 Ratify the April, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$1,056,690.17. *Payroll*
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for March, 2018. *Treasurer’s Rpt.*
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for April, 2018, beginning with Check #2541 and ending with Check #2549 in the total amount of \$17,887.92. *Fd. Svc. Fund*
- 1.5 Ratify payments of the Athletic Fund payments for April beginning with Check #8461 and ending with #8490 in the total amount of \$2,145.00. *Athletic Fund*
- 1.6 Approve Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$229,520.76.
- 1.7 Approval of Budget Transfers as attached.
  
2. To approve **Dr. Scott Miller** to attend the PA Leadership Summit at Penn State July 29-31, 2018, at a cost not to exceed \$425.00. *Leadership Summit*
  
3. To approve the EITC Letter of Support for the following to accompany their applications for inclusion for educational improvement organizations to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development. *EITC*
  - A. Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania retroactive to April 11, 2018
  - B. The Senator John Heinz History Center retroactive to April 11, 2018
  - C. The YMCA retroactive to April 20, 2018
  - D. Phipps Conservatory and botanical Gardens retroactive to May 1, 2018
  - E. The Watson Institute retroactive to May 4, 2018
  - F. Fern Hollow Nature Center retroactive to May 4, 2018
  - G. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust retroactive to May 11, 2018
  
4. To approve the Affiliation Agreement between Clarion University and the Avonworth School District. The term of this agreement is five (5) years from the date of execution. *Clarion Agreement*
  
5. To retroactively approve **Ms. Samantha Abate** and **Mr. Jason Smith** to write an AMLE Collaboration Mini Grant (Foundation) in the amount of \$2,000.00 and to approve them receiving a stipend in the amount of \$37.50 each for writing the grant. *Grant*
  
6. To approve a \$100 stipend (from TAP grant funding) to **Mr. Derek Werderitch, Ms. Felicia Coope, Ms. Crystal Gonzales, Ms. Julie Stunden, Ms. Annie Derek, and Ms. Laura Ramie** as part of the visiting artist requirements. *TAP Stipend*
  
7. To approve **Mr. Michael Warren** to attend the Joy of Singing conference in King of Prussia, PA for professional development July 23-24, 2018 at a cost not to exceed \$700. *Music Conference*

**Finance, continued**

- 8. To approve Resolution #051418 to approve the A. W. Beattie Career Center Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year as set forth in the proposed budget totaling \$9,470,125:

*AWBCC Resolution*

**RESOLUTION #051418**

**District Name: Avonworth School District**  
**2018-2019**  
**A. W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER BUDGET**

RESOLVED, that the proposed A. W. Beattie Career Center Budget dated 040418, as approved by the A. W. Beattie Career Center Joint Operating Committee on 042618, totaling \$9,470.125, is approved by School District named herein.

**Total Votes:**

Aye \_\_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary Name Cindy S. F. Donovan

Board Meeting Date May 14, 2018

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

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

- 1. To approve **Ms. Melissa Nester** as a substitute Paraprofessional for the 2017-2018 School Year retroactive to April 16, 2018, at a rate of \$11.43/hour, pending requirements of the district.
- 2. To approve **Mr. Hunter Jaecke** as a Student Summer Worker - Buildings & Grounds, at \$10.00/hour, pending requirements of the District, retroactive to May 1, 2018.
- 3. To approve summer hours for the following:
  - A. **Ms. Jennifer Gould** - 4 Days
  - B. **Ms. Barb Bauer** - 5 Days
  - C. **Mr. John Susi** - 3 Days
  - D. **Ms. Alaina Schrader** - 12 Days
  - E. **Ms. Sara Osborn** - 4 Days
  - F. **Mr. Aaron Pellicano** - 15 Days
  - G. **Mr. Dave Como** - 15 Days
  - H. **Ms. Nicole Levis** - 10 Days
  - I. **Ms. Patty Clark** - 70 Hours

*Sub para*

*Summer Worker*

*Summer Hours*

**Personnel, continued**

4. To retroactively approve **Ms. Lynsey Norman** as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Long Term Substitute from February 26, 2018 through April 20, 2018, at \$140/day with no benefits. *LTS*
  
5. Create the following new positions beginning with the 2018-2019 school year: *New Positions*
  - A. Kindergarten
  - B. Grade 8 Math Teacher
  - C. Elementary Assistant Principal
  - D. Half Time Art Teacher
  - E. Half Time Computer Teacher
  - F. Literacy Coach
  
6. To approve **Ms. Patricia Herbert** as a Day-to-Day High School Learning Support substitute, from February 12, 2018 through April 16, 2018 and as a Day-to-Day High School Social Studies substitute retroactive to April 17, 2018 through June 1, 2018 at \$140/day with no benefits. *DTD Sub*
  
7. To approve **Ms. Leslie Berg** as a Day-to-Day High School Learning Support substitute, retroactive to April 18, 2018 through June 1, 2018, at \$140/day with no benefits. *DTD Sub*
  
8. To approve the agreement with Keysource Staffing retroactive to April 20, 2018. *Keysource Staffing*
  
9. To approve the agreement with Keysource Staffing for the 2018-2019 School Year. *Keysource Staffing*

**ADDENDUM ITEMS (3)**

10. To approve a change in assignment for the following beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year: *Change in Assignment*
  - A. Ms. Maureen Frew from Elementary Teacher to Digital Media Specialist
  - B. Ms. Morgan Bassaly from Grade 4 Teacher to Grade 5 Teacher
  
11. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Nancy D’Angelo**, Long Term Substitute 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Health teacher retroactive to May 10, 2018. *LTS Resignation*
  
12. To retroactively approve **Mr. Jeremy Campbell** as a Day-to-Day Substitute 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Health teacher from May 11, 2018 through June 4, 2018, with no benefits, pending requirements of the District. *DTD Sub*

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

**Motion:** S. Bolain; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-10:

1. To award the bid for the High School/Middle School, Lenzner Field, and Primary Center parking lot project to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Folino Construction, in the amount of \$69,998.98. *Parking Lot Project*

**Buildings & Grounds, continued**

2. To approve the proposal from School Specialty (Quote #2018000480 dated April 26, 2018) for the purchase of classroom furniture for the High School/Middle School at a cost not to exceed \$35,068.40. *Classroom Furniture*
3. To declare various books from the Elementary School Library as obsolete and outdated and that they be donated/disposed of. *Obsolete Library Books*

**ADDENDUM ITEMS (7)**

4. To award the contract for the Avonworth Elementary Restroom Project for general construction to Arcon Contracting, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$79,000. *AES Restroom Project  
General Construction*
5. To award the contract for the Avonworth Elementary Restroom Project for HVAC construction to East West Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$31,300. *AES Restroom Project  
HVAC*
6. To award the contract for the Avonworth Elementary Restroom Project for plumbing construction to Shipley Brothers Construction, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$59,150. *AES Restroom Project  
Plumbing*
7. To award the contract for the Avonworth Elementary Bathroom Project for electrical construction to Merit Electrical Group in the amount of \$18,800. *AES Restroom Project  
Electrical*
8. To approve the Addendum to the lease agreement dated November 14, 2016 with the Avonworth Eagles Youth Football Association extending the term through December 31, 2024. *Eagles Lease Addendum*
9. To approve the reimbursement to the Avonworth Eagles Youth Football Association for the replacement of bleachers at Patrick Kenny Field at an amount not to exceed \$8,700. *Reimb. Eagles - Bleachers*
10. To approve a Change Order with R & B Mechanical, Inc. (HVAC contractor for the LGI/STEM Lab for pipe repair in the High School Auditorium at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. *Change Order*

**TECHNOLOGY – B. Blaser/J. Brandt, Co-Chairs**

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

1. Renewal of the Agreement with Harris School Solutions to provide maintenance and software support for the District’s financial software for the 2018-2019 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. *Harris Maint. Support*

**Technology, continued**

2. To enter into an agreement with Harris School Solutions to provide maintenance and software support for the following modules: Gradebook, Teacher Portal, Parent Portal, Student Portal, and Automated Calling System for the 2018-2019 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$24,289.53. (Note: These modules were formerly provided by Edline). *Harris Module Support*
3. To enter into a five-year agreement with DQE Communications to provide firewall (with threat intelligence) service at a cost of \$495/month. *DQE Firewall Svc.*
4. Approve disposal/donation of the 1:1 devices from Grades 3, 6, and 12 that are at the end of their planned lifecycle. *1:1 Device Disposal*
5. To accept the donation of \$7,000 from the PTA to purchase a Smart Board for the Elementary School. *PTA Donation*

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

**Motion:** D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-7:

1. To amend the motion from February 12, 2018 to read “To approve the creation of a National Arts Honor Society as a **Provisional** Club beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year. *Amend NAHS Motion*
2. To accept the resignation of **Ms. Tiffany White** as Co-Sponsor of the Unified Club retroactive to April 9, 2018, and approve her as a Volunteer Sponsor of the Unified Club. *Sponsor Resignation*
3. To approve **Mr. Jacob Filipowski** as Assistant JV High School Baseball Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Asst JV Baseball Coach*
4. To approve **Ms. Keera Dwulit** and **Ms. Kathy Stiscak** as Co-Sponsors of the Senior Class retroactive to August 22, 2017. (No teachers have applied and the entire workload, planning, and coordination continues to be required of Ms. Dwulit and Ms. Stiscak. This is an effort to keep the position an available supplemental.) *Sr. Class Sponsors*
5. To approve payment of \$858 to **Mr. Ryan Johnson**, as substitute Athletic Director for 13 games at \$66/day, during the absence of the Athletic Director. *Sub AD Payment*

**ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)**

6. To approve **Mr. Dan Kuban** as a Volunteer High School Football Coach beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year, with no benefits, pending requirements of the District. *Vol HS Football Coach*

**Athletics & Activities, continued**

7. To approve **Mr. Lance Hilyard** as a Volunteer Middle School Football Coach beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year, with no benefits, pending requirements of the District. *Vol MS Football Coach*

**ADDENDUM ITEM (1)**

**POLICY – V. Carson/K. Monti – Co-Chairs**

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

1. To approve **Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi** to create an Elementary Summer Band which would meet once a week for seven weeks, mid-June through August, and to waive the facility usage fee over the summer. The Band Boosters will supply some funding for music, instruments, and accessories and the PTA will sponsor this event. *Create AES Summer Band*

**Old Business**

*No Old Business*

**New Business**

*No New Business*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting to an Executive Session at 8:47 P.M. to discuss contract matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary