

**Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 13, 2017
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Patrick Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Ken Lockette, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management
Mr. William Andrews, Esquire, Andrews & Price LLC
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services
Mr. John Turbidy, T.O.A. Sewickley Ridge
Nancy White, *The Citizen*
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

Call to Order

Board President, David Oberdick, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Oberdick read the following: The Athletic Committee met on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Jeffrey Boggess Collaboration Center to discuss athletic matters. The Curriculum Committee met this evening at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss curriculum matters.

Mr. Oberdick congratulated Mr. Pat Stewart, Mr. Beau Blaser, and Ms. Vicki Carlson on their re-election to the Board as well as new member, Ms. Sandra Bolain. Mr. Oberdick recognized Mr. Eric Templin and thanked him for his 17 years of service on the Board, which included serving as President in 2003. Mr. Templin said his leaving the Board was bittersweet but felt he was leaving things in good hands.

Report of Student Representative – Ms. Megan Robbbaro

Ms. Robbbaro could not attend the meeting but provided a copy of her report. Her report included the following: Student Council is preparing for the upcoming Children’s Hospital Auction, Wake Up Wednesdays are a success, Dr. Ralston will match the amount donated for the change challenge, Middle School Student Council members will serve dinner to the Senior Citizens at the dress rehearsal of the play, Radium Girls.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston introduced Ms. Kathy Galecki, 8th grade Reading teacher, and Ms. Melissa DeSimone, GATE teacher. They presented a slideshow and reported on their trip with Classrooms Without

Borders to Poland. Mr. Howard Chandler, a Holocaust survivor, was their guide and described their trip as “not a trip but a journey.” Dr. Ralston, Ms. Galecki, and Ms. DeSimone walked the steps of the Jews and stood in the gas chamber. They discussed how to connect the Holocaust to important themes of human rights and genocide. Mr. Chandler will be in Pittsburgh on December 8 and will speak at an assembly in the Auditorium at 8:45 AM.

Report of Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Ken Lockette

Dr. Lockette received a Pathways to the Future program evaluation from Dr. Mary Hansen’s RMU Program Evaluation Doctoral Course. Dr. Hansen’s four-person doctoral student team included an evaluation design, evaluation questions, data collection methods and instruments, among other information. He will meet with Dr. Hansen next week to review. We would like to implement suggestions during the second semester. At the December meeting Dr. Lockette will bring forth a recommendation for a vendor to replace Edline. We will then build a phantom website to test over the summer. Mr. Jason Smith’s 8th Grade Civics class will serve as docents to their own exhibits model at the Carnegie Museum of Art from, 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17.

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

No report at this time.

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

No report at this time. There was no AWBCC meeting in October. Dr. Ralston said he attended a meeting at AWBCC last week and toured the new spaces. He was impressed with the Vet Tech and Sports Medicine areas.

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the Work Session of October 2, 2017 and the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2017. (Voice Vote)

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

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.6 and items 3-4.

- | | | |
|------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for October, 2017, beginning with Check #42727 and ending with Check #42995 in the total amount of \$4,852,117.25. <i>Note: includes \$4 million check to PSDLAF for District investment.</i> | <i>General Fund</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the October, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$1,153,931.83. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for September, 2017. | <i>Treasurer’s Rpt.</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for September, 2017, beginning with Check #2491 and ending with Check #2498 in the total amount of \$24,776.15. | <i>Fd. Svc. Bills</i> |
| 1.5 | Approval of Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$61,547.20. | <i>Capital Proj.</i> |
| 1.6 | Approval of Budget Transfers as attached. | <i>Budget Transfers</i> |

Finance, continued

- 2. ~~RESOLUTION #111317: To continue membership in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Joint Purchasing Program:~~

~~2018 ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT RESOLUTION 111416
 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY
 AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
 IN CREATION AND OPERATION OF A JOINT PURCHASING BOARD~~

~~Whereas material savings in cost of preparing specifications and advertising for bids for school supplies, as well as bulk price advantages, are frequently obtainable by joint purchasing arrangements entered into by a number of school districts or school agencies in the same area; and an agreement entitled "Joint Purchase Agreement," in form as prepared by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and as presented at this meeting, would afford this **Avonworth School District** an opportunity, if a Participant therein, to OPTIONALLY enjoy these possible joint purchasing benefits, but without being required to participate in any bidding thereunder.~~

~~THEREFORE, in order to obtain the possible advantages of joint purchasing of school supplies,~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED that the **Avonworth Board of School Directors** of the **Avonworth School District** hereby approves said Joint Purchase Agreement and authorizes this **Avonworth School District** member as a Participant therein, directs that a copy thereof be filed with the minutes of this meeting as part of this Resolution, directs its Secretary to certify to the Executive Director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit the adoption of this Resolution, together with the names, addresses and official capacities of its regular and alternate member appointees to the Joint Purchasing Board, and directs its proper officers to execute said Agreement on behalf of this **Avonworth School District**.~~

~~RESOLVED AND ENACTED THIS 13th day of November, 2017.~~

~~ATTEST: _____ AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT~~

~~_____
 Board Secretary _____ President
 _____ School District Board of Directors~~

Finance, continued

3. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** to attend the Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents at Nemaquin Woodlands November 29-December 1, 2017. *Sup't Forum*
4. To approve **Ms. Erin Cawley**, in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and Code.org to attend and to represent our region at the Computer Science Education Week (CSEDWeek) Kickoff in the Bay Area on December 4, 2017. Flights and hotel will be paid for by Code.org. *Comp. Sci. Ed. Wk. Trip*

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

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

1. To approve the Director of Fiscal Management and Support Services' contract for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023. *Dir. Fiscal Mgmt. Contract Renewal*
2. To approve the following staff members as Primary Center tutors for the 2017-2018 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract:
A) **Ms. Meghan Kelly**
B) **Ms. Mary Ann Mihalko**
C) **Ms. Lauren Zivic**
D) **Ms. Toni Zusinas** *APC Tutors*
3. To approve the following staff members as Reading Club tutors for the 2017-2018 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract:
A) **Ms. Denise Hauser**
B) **Ms. Christine Hartmann**
C) **Ms. Lauren Zivic**
D) **Ms. Dorothy Duckworth**
E) **Ms. Jennifer Weigand**
F) **Ms. Jennifer Gould**
G) **Ms. Pam Rawlings** *Rdg. Club Tutors*
4. To approve the following staff members as mentors for the 2017-2018 with a stipend per the current AEA contract:
A) **Ms. Jennifer Gould as Grade 2 Mentor**
B) **Ms. Jennifer Markewinski as Grade 2 Long Term Substitute Mentor** *APC Mentors*
5. To accept the letter of Intent to Retire from **Ms. Marianne Ruch**, Food Service Lead, effective January 3, 2018. *Retirement*

Personnel, continued

- 6. To accept the letter of resignation from **Ms. Sherry Dugan**, Food Service Worker, retroactive to October 30, 2017. *Resignation*

- 7. To approve the transfer of 15 sick days for **Ms. Megan Sudsina** which were accumulated during her employment with the Pittsburgh Public Schools. *Trans. of Sick Days*

- 8. To approve **Ms. Jessica Cable** as a Day-to-Day 7th Grade English Language Arts Teacher, commencing approximately November 17, 2017 through January 22, 2018, at \$140/day, with no benefits. *DTD Gr 7 Sub*

- 9. To approve the following as substitute paraprofessionals for the 2017-2018 School Year pending requirements of the District: *Sub Paras*
 - A) **Ms. Christina Abernethy**
 - B) **Ms. Renee Michael**
 - C) **Ms. Bria Boyd**

ADDENDUM ITEMS (3)

- 10. To approve extending child care leave for **Ms. Jessica Kostewicz** from November 15, 2017 to her return on January 8, 2018. *Extended Child Care Leave*

- 11. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Tessa Babcock** from a Day-to-Day Elementary School Substitute (4th Grade) at \$140/day with no benefits, to a Long Term Substitute with benefits retroactive to August 16, 2017 through January 5, 2018. *DTD to LTS*

- 12. To approve a change in assignment for **Ms. Roxann Persia**, General Food Service Worker from 9:00 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. (4.25 hours/day) at the Avonworth Primary Center Cafeteria to 7:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. (5.5 hours/day) retroactive to October 31, 2017. *Chg. in Assignment Fd. Svc. Worker*

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

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-3:

- 1. To approve the Agreement with Community College of Beaver County for students to have the opportunity to begin taking college-level course work while completing their high school degrees. The term of this Dual Enrollment program is from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020. *CCBC Agreement*

- 2. To approve the Pilot Program Agreement with TeamBuilders for the 2017-2018 School Year in the amount of \$2,000 to be paid using funds from the Ohio River Consortium/RMU Grant retroactive to October 1, 2017. *TeamBuilders Agreement*

CURRICULUM, continued

ADDENDUM ITEM (1)

3. To approve the Agreement with Community College of Allegheny County for students to have the opportunity to begin taking college-level course work while completing their high school degrees. The term of this Dual Enrollment program is from the 2017-2018 School Year until either party terminates the agreement. *CCAC Agreement*

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/E. Templin, Co-Chairs

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-4:

1. To approve **Mr. Ben Kramer** as Boys’ Senior Wrestling Assistant Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *Sr. Wrestling Asst. Coach*
2. To approve the following supplemental sponsor for the 2017-2018 School Year:
A) **Ms. Denise Hauser** as Interim AM Bus Duty retroactive to August 22, 2017 *Interim Bus Duty*
3. To create an Elementary School Concert Band Director supplemental position for the 2017-2018 School Year at a stipend of \$1,163 (this amount is equal to the Elementary Choral Director supplemental position). *AES Concert Band Director*

ADDENDUM ITEM (1)

4. To approve **Mr. Marino Barbabella** as Middle School Boys’ Wrestling Head Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year, pending requirements of the District. *MS Boys’ Wrestling Coach*

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – E. Templin/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs

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

1. To declare various books from the Jeffrey Boggess Collaboration Center as unusable, outdated, and obsolete and to be disposed of accordingly. *Obsolete AHS Books*
2. To declare two televisions from the Elementary School as obsolete and that they be discarded/recycled accordingly. *Obsolete TVs*

ADDENDUM ITEMS (2)

3. To declare various books from the Primary Center Library as unusable, outdated, and obsolete and to be donated/disposed of accordingly. *Obsolete APC Books*
4. To declare a small upright piano as old and obsolete and to be donated/disposed of accordingly. *Obsolete Piano*

Buildings & Grounds, continued

5. To declare the following technology items as obsolete and they be disposed of or solicit proposals accordingly. *Obsolete Tech Items*
- 15 charging carts from the HS/MS and Elementary buildings.
 - 34 Apple iPads
 - 11 Apple computers
 - Network infrastructure equipment that was replaced by the recent e-rate category 2 purchase.
 - Misc. parts and peripherals

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

Motion: V. Carlson; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-4:

1. To approve the application for Strings & Things as a Provisional Club in the High School beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to Policy 122.4. Sponsor for this club will be **Mr. Michael Warren**. *Strings & Things Prov. Club*
2. To approve an overnight High School Girls’ Softball trip to the Cal Ripkin Experience in South Carolina over Spring Break (5 days) at no cost to the district. Coach (teacher) and team members will not miss school. *AHS Softball Trip*
3. To approve an overnight High School Girls’ Basketball trip to the Brownsville area to participate in a basketball tournament at no cost to the District. The team will depart after school on Friday, December 8 to play Friday evening and stay overnight to play again on Saturday. Coaches will chaperone. Staff and students will not miss school. *AHS Girls’ Basketball Trip*
4. The following changes to Policy #802 School Organization: *Policy 802 Change*

<p>802. SCHOOL ORGANIZATION</p> <p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>The Board recognizes that the district's organizational structure can affect both the instructional program and the operation of the schools.</p> <p><u>Authority</u></p> <p>Upon approval of the Department of Education, the Board directs that district schools be organized as follows:</p> <p>Avonworth Primary Center K-2 Avonworth Elementary School K-5 3-6</p>

Avonworth Middle School	6-8 7-8
Avonworth High School	9-12

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall continually monitor the effectiveness of the district's organizational plan and recommend to the Board modifications that benefit the instructional program, effectively utilize district resources, and implement the Board's educational goals.

Old Business

Mr. Waters said the internal auditors finished last week and will provide a report soon. He thanked the Board for renewing his contract. The Board commended him on a job well done.

New Business

Dr. Ralston reminded Board members of the Diversity Training scheduled for 6:30 PM on November 28, 2017 in the Jeffrey Boggess Collaboration Center. This training session is being held in place of the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** E. Templin; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:40 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss litigation and contract matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary