

**Avonworth School District  
258 Josephs Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
Avonworth Board of School Directors  
Minutes – Regular Meeting – July 10, 2017  
Avonworth School District – Board Room  
7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Mr. Eric Templin**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Mr. John Brandt, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Mr. David Oberdick, Ms. Kristin Thompson**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent**

**Dr. Ken Lockette, Assistant Superintendent**

**Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management**

**Mr. James Berent, Esquire, Andrews & Price LLC *(until 7:40 PM)***

**Mr. William Andrews, Esquire, Andrews & Price LLC *(arrived 7:40 PM)***

**Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services**

**Mr. Michael Warren, Choral Teacher Candidate**

**Ms. Kayla Dyson**

**Ms. Lyndsy Grinko, Science 8 Teacher Candidate**

**Ms. Sheila Reed, Middle School Principal Intern**

**Ms. Catherine Potter, Middle School Math Teacher Candidate**

**Ms. Carrie Potter-Murray**

**Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent & Avonworth Band Booster Assn. President**

**Ms. Dawn Bellotti, Parent & ABBA Student Account Treasurer**

**Ms. Beate Helsel, Parent & ABBA Treasurer**

**Nancy White, *The Citizen***

**Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

**Nomination:** P. Stewart nominated Eric Templin as Temporary President for the July 10, 2017 Regular Meeting. *(A nomination does not require a second)*

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to elect Eric Templin as Temporary President for the July 10, 2017 Regular Meeting.

**Call to Order**

*Temporary Board President, Eric Templin, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.*

**MOTION TO RECESS:** P. Stewart; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to recess to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**RECONVENE:** The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:50 PM.

**Visitors' Comments**

*Ms. Jackie Karwoski, President of the Avonworth Band Boosters Association, said she had been informed that the Craft Show can no longer be held at the Middle/High School site due to parking concerns. She said the Elementary School and Primary Center were offered as an alternative site and she had spoken with Dr. Ralston and Mr. Giel with her ideas. Mr. Stewart confirmed the parking concerns and said the police department has to enforce parking. Dr. Ralston and Mr. Waters have told Mr. Giel we do not make money from vendors – just to pay for lights, etc. Ms. Karwoski said vendors like areas such as the cafeteria and gyms being side by side. People won't want to drive between the Primary Center and Elementary School, especially if the weather is bad. Ms. Helsel, as Treasurer, is concerned about the cost of paying for a cafeteria worker and custodian for each building. Raffles would have to be split up between the buildings. The ice and snow might be hazardous on the stairs between the two buildings. Volunteers can shuttle visitors. They would have people outside directing traffic. She noted that this is the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the Craft Show. Dr. Ralston said he's not opposed to having the Craft Show at this campus as long as we discuss the number of vendors compared to the past. He asked Ms. Karwoski to schedule a time to meet with him to discuss further. Ms. Helsel said if the Ohio Township Police Department put up signs they would be more effective than the ABBA signs. She didn't feel the vendors would have enough notice that the location had changed since they tell everyone at the Craft Show about the show for the following year.*

*The Curriculum Committee did not meet this evening.*

**Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent**

*Dr. Ralston reported Administrators have been busy hiring new personnel and with many projects in the buildings. The maintenance and custodial crew are doing a fantastic job. Dr. Ralston stated Ms. Dwulit conducted a wonderful meeting that took a look at our drug and alcohol policy.*

*Ms. Dwulit said students and parents met with counselors, Dr. Lockette and Dr. Ralston to discuss the purpose of discipline and why we have a handbook. Students did not know about the policies. The group really looked at procedures and came up with an awesome framework for offenses. The group will meet again on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Students took part in the "Choices" program for teens, and parents also attended a portion of the program.*

**Report of Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Ken Lockette**

*Dr. Lockette discussed the New Tech training he, Mr. Hall, and the Seventh Grade Team attended in St. Louis last week. He reported the New Tech Coach also attended and will be with us at the beginning of the school year. Dr. Lockette is working on a comprehensive plan for parents so they understand it. Mr. Hall will incorporate some of the practices in place when they go into formal training. There are 100 people coming to the Studio A training next week with the LUMA Institute and the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts/Pittsburgh Film Makers. Some students are also attending. Studio A is funded by a grant from The Grable Foundation. This is our second year hosting the event.*

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

*Mr. Andrews provided his Quarterly Report. All but five of the 98 residential and one commercial appeals have been heard. The 2016 appeals are drawing to a close. We are up to \$102,000 in additional taxes from the 2016 appeals. Four 2015 outstanding appeals generated \$71,000 in additional taxes. \$433,000 in delinquent taxes have been collected compared to \$332,000 at this time last year.*

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

Mr. Blaser reported that there were over 180 summer campers this year, 18 of whom received CPR certifications. Next year there are 750 students enrolled from nine districts. The next AWBCC meeting is in mid-August.

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting of June 5, 2017 and the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2017 (Voice Vote)

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

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **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 June, 2017, beginning with Check #41930 and ending with Check #42119 in the total amount of \$795,076.94.   | General Fund         |
| 1.2 | Ratify the June, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$1,606,148.45.   | Payroll              |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for May, 2017.  | Treasurer’s Rpt.     |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for June, 2017, beginning with Check #2466 and ending with Check #2474 in the total amount of \$22,778.80.   | Fd. Svc. Fund        |
| 1.5 | Approve Capital Project Fund payments of \$49,136.   | Capital Project Fund |
| 1.6 | Approve 2017-2017 Budget transfers as attached.  | Budget Transfers     |
| 2.  | To approve the service Agreement with The Watson Institute for training and consultation services for the 2017-2018 School Year.   | Watson Agreement     |
| 3.  | To approve the EITC Letter of Support for the Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre retroactive to July 7, 2017.  | EITC                 |
| 4.  | To approve the First Amendment to the Ohio River Consortium Agreement.   | Ohio River Cons.     |
| 5.  | To approve <b>Ms. Maureen Frew</b> and <b>Dr. Scott Miller</b> attend and present at the remake Education Summit August 2-4, 2017 in Sonoma, California. Funding provided by a \$500 ORC Grant, a \$500 Agency by Design Grant and District funds not to exceed \$1,000. | Education Summit     |
| 6.  | To approve Dr. Thomas Ralston and Ms. Keera Dwulit to attend the School Retool Hacktivation Nation Seminar at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA July 28-30, 2017. Ms. Dwulit’s travel and conference fees are covered by School Retool.                               | Seminar              |

*Dr. Ralston said a School Retool chapter opened in Pittsburgh. They were impressed with Ms. Dwulit and invited her to attend the seminar at Stanford University. They also invited Dr. Ralston to attend.*

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

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-13:

1. To approve the following Summer ESY Program Staff retroactive to June 29, 2017, pending requirements of the District: *ESY*
  - A. **Ms. Meghan Kelly** - Academic Program Teacher
  - B. **Mr. Tyler Voltz** - YMCA Paraprofessional
  - C. **Ms. Deeptha Cowlagi** - Academic Paraprofessional
  - D. **Ms. Shannon Fitzwater** - Academic Paraprofessional (in addition to previous approval as ESY YMCA Paraprofessional)
  
2. To hire **Ms. Lyndsy Grinko** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Grade 8 Science Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Science 8 Teacher*
  
3. To hire **Ms. Allison Long** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Half Time Music Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category B, Step 2, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Half Time Music*
  
4. To hire **Ms. Catherine Potter** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Middle School Math Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category B, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *AMS Math Teacher*
  
5. To hire **Mr. Michael Warren** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Music Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category B, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Music Teacher*
  
6. To hire **Mr. Jesse Wells** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Grade 9 English Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Gr. 9 English*
  
7. To hire **Ms. Adrienne Leveto** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Kindergarten Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Kindergarten*
  
8. To hire **Ms. Nicole DeLuca** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Grade 2 Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category B, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Gr. 2 Teacher*

**Personnel, continued**

9. To hire **Ms. Kari Maurer** as a Professional Employee with an assignment as a Grade 2 Teacher commencing August 14, 2017, at Category M, Step 6, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Gr. 2 Teacher*
10. To approve **Ms. Meghan Kelly** as a Long Term Grade 2 Substitute teacher for the 2017-2018 school year, according to the current AEA contract at Category B, Step 1, with benefits, pending requirements of the District. *Gr. 2 LTS*
11. To approve **Ms. Tessa Babcock** to continue as a Day-to-Day Elementary School Substitute (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) at \$140/day with no benefits, beginning August 16, 2017 through November 14, 2017. *DTD Gr. 4*
12. To approve the following as mentors for the 2017-2018 School Year according to the current AEA contract: *Mentors*
- a. Grade 6 English Teacher – **Ms. Stacey Hanny**
  - b. Grade 6 Reading Teacher – **Ms. Stacey Hanny**
  - c. Grade 7 Math Teacher – **Ms. Julie Tullar**
  - d. Grade 8 Math Teacher – **Ms. Julie Tullar**
  - e. Chinese Teacher (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) – **Ms. Melissa Reagle**
  - f. Grade 9 English Teacher – **Ms. Jennifer Tracy**
  - g. High School Math Teacher (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) – **Mr. Tony Cario**
  - h. Part-Time Elementary Music Teacher – **Mr. Will Guess**
  - i. Middle/High School Chorus Teacher – **Mr. Will Guess**
  - j. Elementary Counselor (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) – **Ms. Barb Bauer and Mr. Aaron Pellicano**
  - k. Grade 8 Science Teacher – **Mr. Doug Haskins**
  - l. High School GATE Teacher – **Ms. Melissa DeSimone**
13. To approve utilizing **Ms. Dorothy Duckworth** for a year-long special project (90 minutes per day) to provide targeted intervention to a small group of elementary students using the Orton Gillingham reading approach. *Special Project*

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve additional item #14:

14. To approve the new Act 93 Agreement. *Act 93 Agreement*

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Blaser – Aye; Ms. Carlson – Aye; Ms. Monti – Aye; Mr. Stewart – Aye; Mr. Templin – Aye.

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** V. Carlson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 15 and 16:

15. The salary increases for Act 93 personnel per Attachment P-2. *Act 93 Pers. Sal. Incr.*
16. The salary increases for non-union personnel per Attachment P-3. *Non-Union Sal. Incr.*

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

**Motion:** E. Templin; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-6:

1. To amend the motion of June 12, 2017 approving Fall coaches for the 2017-2018 School Year to read:  
  - **Shared** Varsity Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach – **Ms. Carolyn Binnig**
2. To approve **Mr. Shaun Spencer** as Assistant High School Boys' Soccer Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District.
3. To approve **Ms. Erica Johnson** continue as a Volunteer Athletic Trainer for the 2017-2018 School Year.
4. To approve the renewal of the sublease agreement with AGAA (Avonworth Girls' Athletic Association) for use of Mayernik Field in Emsworth, retroactive to January 1, 2017.
5. To approve the following supplemental sponsors at a stipend per the current AEA contract for the 2017-2018 School Year:
  - a. Band Camp – **Mr. Will Guess**
  - b. Band Director – **Mr. Will Guess**
  - c. Woodwind Instructor – **Ms. Janet Michell-Harris**
  - d. Brass Instructor – **Mr. Michael Dingfelder**
  - e. Pit Percussion – **Mr. Albert Lerini**
6. To accept the resignation of **Mr. Curtis Branchen** as Head Middle School Wrestling Coach retroactive to July 6, 2017.

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

**Motion:** B. Blaser; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-2:

1. To declare several Elementary School library computer stations and a double-wide teacher's desk as obsolete and to donate/dispose of accordingly.
2. To declare an EasyStand and supporting parts as obsolete and to solicit bids.

**Old Business**

*Mr. Waters discussed the LGI project. A motion will be placed on the August Agenda to send out to bid. HHSDR should break ground after the school year begins. Ms. Carlson inquired about the Lopes Lounge. Dr. Ralston said the plumber is coming this week and the cabinets will be in this month. Mr. Waters said to expect a few capital project items for the library project, elementary school furniture, carpeting, shelving, and some other items from the existing budget. In the 2017-2018 budget we had budgeted \$700,000 for this year, which included an extra \$200,000 to cover these items.*

*Dr. Ralston discussed the 1:1 meeting on August 9. All computers are in. Parents will come in and sign up for insurance and pick up their child's computer. Dr. Lockette said we will be sending information out through Edline in a week with further information.*

*Dr. Ralston noted our new Questeq employee, Andrew Mylet, has started.*

*Ms. Carlson asked if there was a resolution to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade grading system. Dr. Ralston said Mr. Battistone is using Edline and letter grades for the 2017-2018 school year. Elementary teachers will be updating Edline.*

*Ms. Carlson asked if we were defining that skills we want students to have at each grade level. Dr. Ralston said that is part of the curriculum rewrite and will take a little while to define.*

*Dr. Ralston noted that Kindergarten enrollment is at the same number of students as this time last year and we could add another Kindergarten section.*

*Mr. Stewart feels the District should think about adding additional seating at Lenzner Field next summer to prepare for the Class of 2019 graduation and set a rain date. All seats were filled at this year's graduation and there were about 100 people standing. Mr. Waters said that another 300 seats had been added with the new set of bleachers and the stadium now holds 1,300 people. Mr. Stewart feels we should add the additional seating*

**New Business**

*Dr. Ralston said Lucas Hesel, an accomplished trombonist, won State honors 1<sup>st</sup> Chair by 40 points which is an extremely good accomplishment. He has been selected for National Honors Band 1<sup>st</sup> Chair. Dr. Ralston asked the Board to consider approving Mr. Guess and Lucas Hesel to attend the celebration and performance in Florida in the Fall.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:45 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary