

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Special Meeting – October 26, 2020
Avonworth School District – MS/HS Auditorium & Virtually
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE AUDITORIUM (Roll Call Taken):

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. Danielle White

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY (Roll Call Taken & Verified by Voice & Video):

Ms. Sandra Bolain

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE AUDITORIUM:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent	Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary
Mr. Michael Klaum, Parent	Ms. Julie Brown, Parent
Ms. Christine Matthews, Parent	Mr. Greg Smolinski, Parent
Ms. Courtnie DiPaola, Parent	Ms. Stephanie Wetzel, Parent
Ms. Kim Kennis, Parent	Mr. Randy Vulakovich, Parent
Ms. Bobbe Jo Radkajowski, Parent	Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Ms. Tracy Theobald, Parent	Mr. Andrew Theobald, Parent
Ms. Pamela Trovato, Parent	Mr. Tony Trovato, Parent
Ms. Mary Claire Arena, Parent	Ms. Krystyn Birt, Parent
Ms. Rachael Latore, Parent	Ms. Natalie McMurtrie, Parent
Mr. Joshua Hensh, Parent	Ms. Emily Hensh, Parent
Mr. Cory Bonnet, Parent	Ms. Jessica Bonnet, Parent
Ms. Kristen Hubbell, Parent	Ms. Kara Huffmyer, Parent
Ms. Ashley Henry Shook, Parent	Ms. Samantha Meese, Parent
Ms. Erin Miller, Parent	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Ms. Jennifer Birch, Parent	Ms. Paulette Joyce
Ms. Rachel Murray, Parent	Mr. Steven LeGault, Parent
Ms. Tennille Shields, Parent	Mr. Trevor Bombard, Parent
Ms. Carrie Amelio, Parent	Mr. Jason Zelinko, Parent
Ms. Beth Zelinko, Parent	Ms. Tracy Theobald, Parent
Mr. Andrew Theobald, Parent	Mr. Micah Sayles, Parent
Ms. Sherry Knable, Parent	Ms. Laura Ludwig, Parent
Ms. Monica O'Neil, Parent	Ms. Anne Marie White, Parent
Ms. Tara Vietmeier, Parent	Mr. Jason Moore, Parent
Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent	Mr. Komal Kotwal, Parent
Ms. Chinar Aphale, Parent	Ms. Beth Roberts, Parent
Ms. Tammy Scott, Parent	Mr. Christian Calabro, Parent
Ms. Christenn Cieslak, Parent	Ms. Maureen Sweeney, Parent
Mr. Dave Chekan, Parent	Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent
Ms. Amber Smalley, Parent	Ms. Andrea Kimmel, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Mr. Isaac Case, Parent
Ms. Selma Cetin-Ferra, Parent
Mr. Michael Meagher, Parent
Ms. Heather Potts, Parent
Ms. Lindsay Scharding, Parent
Mr. Joshua Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Sara Bitner, Parent
Ms. Kristie Lulich, Parent
Mr. Vaughn Cook, Parent
Ms. Hillary Siverts, Parent
Ms. Holly Pukylo, Parent
Ms. Marlena Stevens, Parent
Mr. Scott LeBaron, Parent
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent
Ms. Megan Thompson, Parent
Ms. Jill Slipski, Parent
Ms. Jackie Keith, Parent
Ms. Melissa Lesko, Parent
Ms. Soha Hindawy, Parent
Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent
Ms. Emily Heller, Parent
Ms. Carrie Brady, Parent
Ms. Kimmie Johnson, Parent
Mr. Ronald Antkiewicz, Parent
Ms. Crystal O’Neil, Parent
Ms. Janelle Reck, Parent
Mr. Jeff Witkowski, Parent
Ms. Ann Marie Harvey, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Tracy, Teacher
Ms. Maureen O’Connor, Parent
Mr. Rick Barzen, Parent
Ms. Danielle Strobel, Parent
Ms. Emily McCaul, Parent
Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent
Mr. Michael Vennum, Parent
Ms. Olena Thomas, Parent
Ms. Nicole Acierno, Parent
Ms. Kathleen Burford, Parent
Ms. Alicia Mielnicki, Parent
Ms. Erin Bellinger, Parent
Ms. Kathleen Conway, Parent
Mr. Micah Delo, Parent
Ms. Sarah Deiters, Parent
Ms. Renee Simkins, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Quigley, Parent
Ms. Nicole Smith, Parent
Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher, AEA President
Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Teacher

Ms. Rachel Keller Vaughan, Parent
Ms. Megan Dolan, Parent
Mr. Rich Spahr, Parent
Mr. Dante O’Donnell, Parent
Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent
Ms. Caroline Glidden, Parent
Mr. Jason Langer, Parent
Mr. John Paul Putney, Parent
Ms. Deanna Calderaro, Parent
Ms. Molly Long, Teache
Ms. Toni Reagan, Parent
Ms. Melissa Orehowsky, Parent
Ms. Julie Mannion, Parent
Ms. Pam North, Parent
Ms. Carrie Johnston, Parent
Mr. David Czuwara, Parent
Ms. Diane Lichauer, Parent
Ms. Sarah Misencik, Parent
Ms. Kristina Stroyne, Parent
Ms. Karie Donatelli, Parent
Ms. Nancy Ambrass, Parent
Ms. Tanya Rinaldo, Parent
Ms. Angela McDowell, Parent
Ms. Megan Amayo, Parent
Ms. Makenzie Wetzal, Parent
Ms. Rebecca Myers, Parent
Mr. Sonal Bansal, Parent
Mr. Erich Dinkfelt, Parent
Ms. Tara Wahl, Teacher
Ms. Lindsay Cimballa, Parent
Mr. Joe Moore, Parent
Mr. Alex Deiters, Parent
Ms. Lindsay Stover, Parent
Ms. Jessica Edmiston, Parent
Ms. Anne Vogt, Parent
Ms. Tammy Bellotti, Parent
Mr. Ken Vogt, Parent
Ms. Amy Maddalena, Parent
Mr. Karim Alhurafa, Parent
Ms. Julie Deringer, Parent
Ms. Valerie Clarke, Parent
Ms. Audra Blackson, Parent
Ms. Lucy Negron, Teacher
Ms. Sandy Slater, Parent
Ms. Becky Mercatoris, Parent
Ms. Paige Crusen, Parent
Mr. Rich Lodge, Parent
Ms. Gail Lipchak, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Kristen Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Parent
Ms. Jen O’Har, Parent
Mr. Todd Chrissis, Parent
Ms. Jaime Mary, Parent
Ms. Jessica Johnston, Parent
Mr. Wes Stetser, Parent
Ms. Hope Lucas, Parent
Ms. Allison Kline, Parent
Ms. Beth Hendrickson, Parent
Ms. Amanda Arensberg, Parent
Ms. Joyce Raymond, Paraprofessional
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent
Mr. Eric Lemon, Parent
Ms. Jenni Galbraith, Parent
Ms. Martiza Rivera-Herleman, Parent
Ms. Ashley Slaney, Parent
Ms. Nicole Mack, Parent
Ms. Tonia Roll, Parent
Ms. Omolara Fatukasi, Parent
Ms. Shari Bombard, Parent
Ms. Melissa Mohn, Parent
Mr. Len Tena, Teacher
Mr. David Bacon, Parent
Mr. Chris Shipley, Parent
Ms. Joanne Bova, Parent
Ms. Sandee Connors-Rowe, Parent
Ms. Natalie Taylor, Parent
Ms. Krista Staley, Parent
Ms. Cathie Sayles, Parent
Ms. Maureen Frew, Teacher
Ms. Brooke Fussner, Parent
Ms. Laura Shoemaker, Parent
Ms. Noel Hustwit, Parent
Ms. Rasha Alramahi, Parent
Ms. Pam Rawlings, Teacher
Ms. Siobahn Gallagher, Parent
Ms. Jaelynn Blakey, Parent
Ms. Katie Simmons, Teacher
Ms. Lauren Zivic, Teacher
Ms. Sydney Hardiman, Parent
Ms. Amy Boyd, Parent
Ms. Melissa Ursu, Parent
Ms. Jessica Boyd, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent
Ms. Erin Woods, Parent
Ms. Erin Rigney, Parent
Ms. Amanda Berneburg, Parent
Ms. Tracy Graff, APC Secretary
Ms. Jennifer Brown, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Riege, Parent
Ms. Diann Brown, Parent
Ms. Andrea Graf, Parent
Mr. Emily Zupancic, Parent
Mr. Brian Tokar, Parent
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent
Ms. Amanda Salem, Parent
Mr. Tom DiOrio, Parent
Ms. Courtney Kuzma, Parent
Ms. Mala Mason, Parent
Ms. Lisa Milsom, Parent
Ms. Rachael MacKenzie, Parent
Ms. Nicole Hahna, Parent
Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent
Ms. Lauren Bell Decker, Parent
Ms. Eva Klinger, Parent
Ms. Christina Herrle, Parent
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher
Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher
Ms. Lindsay Wolff, Parent
Ms. Renee Knipp, Parent
Ms. Maureen O’Dell, Parent
Mr. Matthew Kline, Parent
Ms. Donna Massimino-Walker, Parent
Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent
Ms. Michelle Devine, Parent
Ms. Michele Kline, Parent
Ms. Laureen Morgan-Douds, Parent
Ms. Tara Geouque, Parent
Mr. Tom Muchow, Parent
Ms. Michele Kremer, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Sapolsky, Parent
Ms. Lisa Samarin, Parent
Ms. Christina Scott, Parent
Ms. Jamie Waters, Parent
Ms. Julie Gardner, Parent
Mr. Jim Joyce, Parent
Ms. Yvonne Hudnall, Parent
Ms. Julia Udovich, Teacher
Ms. Morgan Carpenter-Panuski, Parent
Mr. Alan Ferra, Parent
Ms. Bridget Belardi, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Karen O'Connor, Parent
Ms. Kayla Turnbull, Parent
Ms. Rebecca Pietrusinski, Parent
Ms. Nika Dent, Parent
Ms. Thea Holzworth, Parent
Ms. Tracy Kephart, Parent
Ms. Brooke Meagher, Parent
Ms. Julie Phillippi, Parent
Ms. Tatiana Glasgow, Parent
Ms. Laura Erdeljac, Parent
Ms. Tracy Cassidy-Klinedinst, Parent
Ms. Lori Counts, Parent
Ms. Lauren Takacs, Parent
Ms. Jamie Sundo, Parent
Ms. Jeannette Davis, Parent
Ms. Tara Naughton, Parent
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Tania Cook, Parent
Ms. Emily Amick, Parent
Ms. Lauren Beam, Parent
Ms. Brianne McCarthy, Parent
Ms. Kristy Alberts, Parent
Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent
Ms. Stacy Faulkner, Parent
Ms. Mallory Accamando, Teacher
Ms. Amanda Senko, Parent
Ms. Keera Dwulit, HS Principal
Ms. Mara Alterio, School Nurse
Ms. Megan Troxell, Parent
Ms. Ashley Hanzes, Paraprofessional
Ms. Betsey Eberhardt, Parent
Ms. Stef Barnes, Parent
Ms. Raili Kielely, Parent
Ms. Tiffany White, Teacher
Mr. Tom Yeh, Parent
Ms. Donna Paff, Administrative Asst.
Ms. Shannon Christof, Parent
Ms. Jackie Horwat, Parent
Mr. Josh Zimmer, Parent
Mr. Jon Kuretich, Parent
Mr. Jeff Cieslak, Parent
Ms. Carrie Novosel, Parent
Ms. Nora Silvey, Parent
Ms. Jill Berardi, Parent
Ms. Michelle George, Teacher
Ms. Constance Rankin, *The Citizen*
Ms. Christie Kohler, Parent
Ms. Diane Scheuring, Parent
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent
Ms. Gretchen Sheare Stieving, Parent
Ms. Susan Geist, Parent
Mr. Lawrence Kobulinsky, Parent
Mr. Dan Mulligan, Parent
Ms. Stephani Machen, Parent
Ms. Kara Roggenkamp, Parent
Ms. Seong Holjes, Parent
Ms. Christina Abernethy, Parent
Ms. Beth Schuster, Parent
Ms. Bobbie Farrah, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Heil, Parent
Ms. Debi Van Mater, Parent
Ms. Marybeth Harris, Parent
Ms. Melanie Quinn, Parent
Ms. Abby Stewart, Resident
Ms. Kim Gallucci, Parent
Ms. Kate Campbell, Parent
Ms. Pharlan Ives, APC/AES Vice Principal
Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, MS/HS Vice Principal
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent
Ms. Jane Ross-Tomko, Parent
Ms. Rebecca Bechtold, Parent
Ms. Nancy Purcell, Parent
Ms. Ashley Harper, Parent
Ms. Amy Morgan, Parent
Ms. Carrie Velisaris, Parent
Ms. Tracy Smallwood, Parent
Ms. Tina Jordan, Parent
Mr. Mike Hall, MS Principal
Mr. Chad Wright, Parent
Mr. Joshua Cable, Parent
Ms. Crystal Adamiak, Parent
Ms. Jodi Walsh, Parent
Ms. Melissa DeSimone, Teacher
Ms. Stephanie Fresh, Parent
Mr. Jay Helsel, Parent
Mr. Chris Foreman, Parent
Mr. Steve Ezar, Parent
Mr. Carl Grande, Parent
Mr. Mark Silvey, Parent
Ms. Merett Southall, Parent
Ms. Katy Ursta, Parent
Ms. Kelly Kokoski, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Tinker, Parent
Mr. George Pavlic, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Morgan Waddell, Teacher
Ms. Katie Kalb, Parent
Ms. Stacy Hanny, Parent
Ms. Jessica Garavaglia, Parent
Ms. Amy Bowser, Parent
Ms. Michele Long, Parent
Mr. Jon Capo, Parent
Ms. Tabatha Kohl, Parent
Ms. Paulette Joyce, Parent

Mr. Brant Colamarino, Blgs./Grounds Supvsr.
Mr. Ken Kalb, Parent
Ms. May Oliphant, Parent
Mr. Richard Mascara, Parent
Mr. Jim Sommers, Resident
Mr. David Farrah, Parent
Ms. Briana Watts, Parent
Ms. Carrie Amelio, Parent

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Special Meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Mr. Stewart reviewed the meeting agenda, the Sunshine Act, and acknowledged receipt of emails from parents. He reviewed how the district is using existing space such as gyms, the LGI and Libraries. Using other options such as trailers, churches, etc. would need the approval of the PA Dept. of Education (3-5 months) and nurses must be available for all locations. Mr. Stewart said the budget is balanced in May/June. He detailed the key fiscal management considerations such as \$2.5 million in property taxes that have not been paid early this year for the first time ever. He also detailed the planning, execution, and communication that has occurred since February/March as well as the district planning during the pandemic.

Mr. Bonnet asked how long had we been planning to return to school - was it May/June? Mr. Stewart replied that bringing students back to school has been an ongoing process.

Mrs. Carlson reviewed the plan for the State, the PA Dept. of Education recommendation for determining instructional models, incident and positivity rates, and the metrics used for decision making for in-person and 100% virtual instruction. Mr. Bonnet asked what the numbers were that resulted in the Middle/High School change. Mrs. Carlson asked for clarification of the question. Mr. Brandt rephrased Mr. Bonnet's question as what are the numbers that allowed the change of Middle School/High School from hybrid to hybrid+ vs. no change at Elementary and Primary. Mr. Brandt referred to the PA Dept. of Education Recommendation slide and explained that both hybrid and hybrid+ are blended models that still fit within the State Guideline for current status. Mr. Bonnet asked why there would be a difference for K-6. Mr. Brandt explained that the specifics of each blended model would depend on many factors including the number of students, space, etc.

Mr. Blaser reviewed the models considered at the Primary Center and Elementary School and the current K-6 hybrid vs. full, in-person instruction. An unidentified visitor asked if the curriculum was the same as a normal school day vs. at home. Mr. Blaser said yes, but delivered in a different way. Dr. Hadley added that we are ahead this year vs. last year in the literacy program.

Dr. Hadley presented an analysis of the K-6 enrollment and space. Mr. Bonnet said the overwhelming majority of parents want their child in some form of in-person learning. Mr. Bonnet referred to the five bullet points which addressed what would be needed for full, in-person education, saying that because those five bullet points weren't being met, students could not return to full, in-person learning. An unidentified visitor said that the recent survey was misleading.

Dr. Hadley reviewed student performance and intervention saying our Literacy Coach has been working well with students. We are doing the best we can in assuring we are getting our students where they need to be.

Mr. Blaser reviewed the model considerations for the Middle and High Schools, stating that the Avonworth Virtual Academy will be maintained throughout the 2020-2021 School Year regardless of the model chosen for in-person education.

Mr. Blaser said many parents have offered to help where they could. He said bus drivers, Food Service workers, and substitute teachers are needed. At this time we are limiting visitors, everyone must have clearances, and we must follow the employee contracts.

Motion from the Floor: V. Carlson; **Second:** J. Brandt: To maintain the current K-6 model and rescind the middle and high schools going to a hybrid+ model four days per week. Several visitors disagreed with the motion being made before parents had a chance to digest the information. Discussion followed. Mrs. Carlson said we can wait until the end of the meeting or next month to take a vote. We have heard from other parents, not just K-6. Mr. Stewart said with regard to our Zoom participants we need to hear from visitors in the Chat Session.

Ms. Stephanie Wetzel in person: Asked what is the agenda in January? Her Kindergartener and first grader have spent the first two months virtual. She is a mom, not a teacher. School is so much more; it's friends and interaction with others. Mr. Stewart said looking at different data, this is going completely the wrong way. We had to close the middle and high schools for two days and had one more case today. We are hoping we can adapt to get kids back. We are doing everything in our power not to shut down. Need to understand this is on a day-to-day basis. This is a job we are committed to. Ms. Wetzel asked who issued the guidelines for six foot distancing. Dr. Ralston said every school has different situations with their facilities. Other factors, including the number of students in their virtual program, are involved.

Mr. Isaac Case of Ohio Twp. via Zoom: He has three children in the virtual academy at APC/AES. Doing all of this has been very difficult as parents. Asked what the plans are moving forward to make this better for students in the virtual academy and hybrid virtual model for our children to learn. Dr. Ralston encouraged communication with teachers, counselor, and principal. Our Social Worker can help balance things in the home. Mr. Case said they check 4-5 sites a day to be sure their children are on task. Dr. Ralston said we would address this issue and do our best.

Jennifer Birch via Zoom: Thanks Drs. Ralston and Hadley and the Board. As a teacher and parent, she sees both sides. She's grateful we have taken into account the scientific data. Our plan takes care of children as well as teachers.

Mr. Cory Bonnet in person: This is everyone's job. Everyone has a different risk tolerance. We need to listen to the community. There is no option for hybrid K-6. What would it take for kids to get back to school? What is the plan to address those five bullet points on the slide and what is the timeline? He strongly encourages delaying the vote on the motion presented. Mr. Stewart said we are looking at the numbers and data and the bullet points are variables. Mr. Bonnet said the numbers are going to fluctuate all the time. There should still be a plan to attack the bullet points. He does not hear any plan to get back to school. How do the kids get back to school if the virus doesn't go away?

Ms. Rachael Vaughan of Ohio Twp. in person: She is in favor of full day instruction or an increase in hybrid. Her kindergartener has a half hour of instruction in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. 1. Work on a plan to get K-6 back in school more than a half day sooner than January, if possible. 2. What is the plan? No plan has been laid out to get K-6 back to school. Feels children need to be together in order to build their immunity. 3. Feels parents should be resurveyed. The last survey was misleading. Feels it's important for the children's social and mental well-being.

Ms. Jodi Piacenti of Ohio Twp. via Zoom: Addressed the role schools play. Concerned about childcare.

Ms. Selma Cetin-Ferra via Zoom: Is happy we are following scientific facts. Children can be carriers. Her 10th grade son is in the 100% virtual model. Glad her son is alive and is happy where he is this year. Asked if we would consider doing what other districts are doing and have teachers on camera and students interacting. That part is missing in the virtual model. Doesn't feel her son is getting an equal education.

Ms. Krystyn Birt of Ohio Twp. in person: She said this meeting has been very difficult. There are a lot of guidelines posted that are state recommendations and not a law. She has two children in Kindergarten and one in second grade and is in favor of returning to full day instruction. We need to find a resolution. Need a choice to send our kids back to school. Who determines who is essential in our community? She feels we need to reopen K-6 and allow students to receive an education like the 7-12 students. She urged the Board to reconsider waiting until January to address these issues we face and asked that another survey be sent out asking if parents want their child full time – yes or no.

Mr. Komol Kotwal via Zoom: Has a first grader in the AM/PM model. The numbers have been rising. We need to do our part for the short term. Children are resilient. He feels Administrators are doing a fantastic job. Most workplaces are doing remote. We do not see how social distancing can work in schools.

Ms. Megan Dolan of Ben Avon via Zoom: Has children in 1st, 5th and 7th grades who attend the virtual academy for the first nine weeks. She feels the virtual academy is going well because it's staffed with Avonworth teachers and is asynchronous. She is disappointed with the Board's decision for secondary students. It eliminates 60 minutes of time per day. 1. She strongly suggests the Board reconsider their decision. 2. She looks forward to the day when children return to school. 3. Wondering how the upcoming holidays will affect the unknown. Urged the Board to proceed cautiously as data emerges.

Mr. Greg Smolinski in person: Has children in 3rd and 6th grades, one of whom has special needs and needs to be in school. He teaches in the Seneca Valley School District and they are full, five day in-person instruction and have had no outbreaks. Why are we looking at bringing back 7-12 when K-6 have a lower risk? Why is his daughter only receiving math and reading instruction and not science and social studies? Please consider opening sooner rather than later. He is sure his Superintendent would help Dr. Ralston with a return to school plan.

Mr. Josh Hensh in person: Has children in 2nd and 3rd grades and he is for children going back. He expected a plan this evening.

Ms. Courtnie DiPaola of Ohio Twp. in person: She is an educator with four children, three of whom are at the elementary school. They are not surviving academically. They are not receiving the 2-1/2 hours of education as promised. She does not see hope for the rest of the year. She feels the survey was misleading. She presented the Board with a petition with 200 names.

Ms. Ashley Henry Shook of Ohio Twp. in person: She feels the administrators have had seven months to get students back to school full time. She quoted an Oct. 22 New York Times article stating that elementary students did not show transfer of the virus. She also quoted an article from the American Academy of Pediatrics. She feels we should maintain a virtual format for those who want it and provide K-6 with the option to return full time or hybrid. Tell us what we need to do to get our students back to school. Have APC and AES teachers been given training on pivoting from in-person to virtual teaching? She asked that the district reconsider and give parents the option of hybrid or full time instruction.

Ms. Tammy Scott via Zoom: She feels it is in the best interest for us to be cautious and heed the advice of the experts. Continue to fight for the hybrid model until it has been deemed safe by the CDC and experts.

Ms. Natalie McMurtrie in person: Since March she has seen a lack of confidence, hope and peace. Her children have not been receiving the 90 minutes of Social Studies and Science instruction as shown in the district's presentation. She has less hope after this meeting. She had hoped we had a plan. Asked the district to resurvey parents.

Mr. Michael Klaum of Ohio Twp. in person: Has children in the APC and AES. He supports full time and feels we could do hybrid+ model. According to the slides there is a roadblock due to social distancing. Needs clarity from the Board on social distancing. Would all students have to have a vaccine to return to school? What is the 14 days based on? His children are not receiving 90 minutes of science and social studies.

Ms. Mary Claire Arena of Ben Avon Heights in person: She is an educator with children in Kindergarten and 2nd grade. She supports full time instruction. If we are not going back to full time, could there be a discussion? Parents have a conflict with work flexibility.

Ms. Maureen Sweeney of Ben Avon Heights via Zoom: She has children in 7th and 10th grades. Feels hybrid is best for now. She urged a hybrid model for K-6 and asked the Board to return K-12 to four days.

Ms. Rachael Latore of Ohio Twp. in person: She has children in the 5th and 7th grades and is in favor of kids going back to school. We have different risk tolerances. She feels it's important to offer the option to send kids back. Older kids are hanging out together outside of school. She feels the survey was misleading.

Mr. Dave Chekan of Ohio Twp. via Zoom: He has children in the 7th and 9th grades. He feels we should keep the hybrid in place and not push the four day hybrid. He was happy with the district's presentation. He would like to see how well 7-12 students are doing.

Mr. Stewart announced the end of time for comments and said the District would follow up with answers to the remaining unanswered questions.

Ms. Samantha Meese: Supports full day, in person learning.

Mrs. Carlson withdrew the motion in order for parents to have time to provide feedback.

Dr. Ralston thanked everyone for their time and input.

Ms. Cheng said they could hear the emotion and feel the tears. She thanked the Avonworth village and said there is no perfect solution to this pandemic. She thanked attendees for being here and sharing their stories and emails.

Following are Chat & Q&A session questions that were submitted during tonight’s meeting. Answers not provided this evening will be provided in a separate document and posted on the school website.

Maureen Sweeney 07:12 PM

We just received this evening another notice of a positive case on the secondary campus; would someone please summarize the current active cases in each school building/campus?

- I’m working on getting a tracker added to our website. However, as of 10-27-20: 4 at the primary building; 5 secondary building; 1 athletics staff

Carol Loutzenhiser 07:35 PM

Zoom participants can’t hear the questions I

Michael Hetcko 07:46 PM

How are other Allegheny county schools operating full time? These are recommendations not hard rules. Also, the zip code includes portions of NA, North Hills and Quaker Valley.

- Circumstances are different in different districts. Some are not following distancing. Some are not using staff to deliver virtual as we are at Avonworth. Therefore, they have more staff available to distance students across their classrooms.

You should look just at the Avonworth communities. An argument was made that at that macro level, you are not considering travel, etc. That argument is flawed as the people tested are traveling.

Dave Chekan 07:46 PM

Can you reference where the source of truth for the incidence rate and PCR percent positivity rates are posted and tracked? That chart presented is extremely helpful

Selma Cetin-Ferra 09:03 PM

I would like to ask that parent if one child dies with covid 19 how is she going to feel?

Jennifer Revesz 09:24 PM

:) breathe this is not a question.

You all are doing a fabulous job. Don’t second guess your decisions. Your leadership and transparency has been incredible! Keep doing what you are doing! Your time and expertise are so appreciated. This too shall pass.

Jennifer Revesz

Anna Marie White 09:57 PM

This is what I was going to say, if I was given the opportunity to speak: Hi! My name is anna marie white , and I'm a primary care doctor for adults and kids. Ohio township First I'd like to thank all our teachers, the board and the administrators for all they're doing in these challenging times. My kids are in 2nd and 4th grade and are doing the hybrid model. I'd also like to echo everyone who has spoken in favor of full-day school for our primary and elementary kids. As a physician, I've been working for months while masked in close proximity to patients, colleagues and staff, all of whom were masked, and we have not had any outbreaks. My most recent antibody test when I donated blood was negative, showing I haven't been exposed or infected to the novel coronavirus. Based on early data, schools do not appear to have played a major role in COVID-19 transmission. New York City mandated precautions for its 1,800 schools, and the virus's prevalence in the city has remained low since its deadly surge in the

Anna Marie White 09:57 PM

spring. Random testing of more than 16,000 staff members and students has turned up only 28 positives and no big outbreaks, apart from localized clusters in two communities. Britain and the Netherlands have kept schools open with few restrictions on class sizes or requirements for mask-wearing. Yet they, too, have shown limited transmission among younger children or from children to their parents. In the US, data 1,006 schools also show low case rates. For both students and staff, participating elementary schools report the lowest case rates of any age level. In an article from Pediatrics: "...the researchers provide early reassurance that school-based transmission could be a manageable problem, and school closures may not have to be a foregone conclusion, particularly for elementary school-aged children who appear to be at the lowest risk of infection," the article said.

I know at least for me, I worry that a hybrid model is worse than full time from an exposure standpoint, as I'm having to piece together.

Anna Marie White 09:57 PM

childcare, and they're being exposed to multiple babysitters who weren't in our circle. Elementary kids aren't able to be home alone, so unless most kids have a stay at home parent, folks are doing something for childcare. Hybrid ultimately INCREASES exposure because the kids are going every which way when not in school, and the teacher is still exposed to all the students. I'd prefer a stable cohort, even if larger, to multiple open loops.

I've had patients who have had to choose between their child's education and working and now are unable to afford food for their families because they so bravely prioritized their child's education. I'm thankful that I'm able to continue to work, but I know there are others who are not able to do so. Children going back full-time will help these families be able to afford basic necessities.

I'm so impressed with how the kids and teachers are doing with masking and truly believe that even if six feet of distancing can't be maintained at all times, as long as everyone i

Anna Marie White 09:58 PM

is masked, our kids will be safe. My only concern is lunch, but if creative ways to use space and staggering of lunch times to allow distancing are used, I believe this is not an insurmountable challenge. I'm happy to further discuss but think that it's best and safe for our children to be back full-time, with the option for virtual for those families interested in that option. Thank you for all you're doing and the opportunity to speak.

Anna Marie White, MD

Minutes – Special Meeting October 26, 2020

Anna Marie White 10:01 PM

From jhelsel to All panelists: (6:58 PM)

There is a lot of background noise.

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sound great

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

all good

From jmannion to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

good here

From Beth Roberts to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

good

From Nicole Smith to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

good

From Carrie Amelio to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

It sounds good

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Thanks!

From Dave Chekan to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sound is good

From Catherine Sayles to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

sound is ok

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sounds good

From nicole.hahna@sru.edu to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

it's okay

From Chad Wright to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Who is speaking?

From Krista Staley to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Sounds good

From Me to All panelists: (7:09 PM)

Thank you.

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From Rachel Vaughan to All panelists: (7:09 PM)
all good

From Tammy Bellotti to All panelists: (7:09 PM)
All good here!

From Richard Spahr to All panelists: (7:09 PM)
sound is good

From michael meagher to All panelists: (7:25 PM)
what a mill levy increase to increase revenue?

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (7:33 PM)
Please repeat questions that non-main speakers ask Hard to hear at home. Thanks!

From jhelsel to All panelists: (7:34 PM)
Can't hear audience questions.

From Kristina Stroyne to All panelists: (7:43 PM)
Why is it safe for staff/students at the secondary campus to go back?

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
repeat question of person

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
We cannot hear the side questions. Thanks!

From Beth Anne Roberts to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
Can someone repeat the questions that people ask? We cannot hear what they are saying! Thank you

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
can't hear question

From Chinar Aphale to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
can you please repeat the questions

From jhelsel to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
The speaker should repeat the audience question

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
schools are having multiple cases currently. how does this affect the decision to go to full virtual?
do all three aspects need to be met?

From Sandra Bolain to All panelists: (7:47 PM)
please repeat questions from audience

From Melissa Ursu to All panelists: (7:48 PM)
cannot hear the questions

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From Heather Potts to All panelists: (7:48 PM)

Can you repeat the question, please?

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (7:48 PM)

We can not hear the questions

From Michael Baker to All panelists: (7:48 PM)

could someone post the questions? we can not hear the questions

From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (7:48 PM)

who is asking a question?

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (7:49 PM)

Can you please repeat the questions for zoom participants? We can't hear them

From Renee Knipp to All panelists: (7:51 PM)

We can't hear the questions from the audience. Can you please restate the questions? Is their a microphone available for the live audience so the zoom participants can hear?

From John Brandt to All panelists and attendees: (7:55 PM)

Sorry - the question was whether the numbers of cases and positive tests were different for the adjusted hybrid model for MS/HS. Both the original and adjusted HS/MS Hybrid models are "Blended" models

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (7:55 PM)

thanks!

From jhelsel to All panelists: (7:55 PM)

Thank you!

From michael meagher to All panelists: (7:55 PM)

I yield my speaking time to another person. I'm satisfied that the district will maintain the virtual model through the 2020-21 school year.

From Dave Chekan to All panelists: (7:56 PM)

Can you reference where the source of truth for the incidence rate and PCR percent positivity rates are posted and tracked? That chart presented is extremely helpful and its difficult to find it very clearly laid out how it was presented here.

From Selma Cetin-Ferra to All panelists: (7:58 PM)

can you repeat the questions please?

From Richard Spahr to All panelists: (8:00 PM)

but how in-depth is this pace. I don't see the rigor or time for understanding

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (8:00 PM)

how about pace of AMS & AHS progression through curriculum?

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From Emily Zupancic to All panelists: (8:01 PM)

What asynchronous science and social studies lessons have been provided for K and 3rd grade thus far? Is the 90 minutes in the previous slide daily or weekly?

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:03 PM)

are those 13 teachers just for virtual? that is essentially 2 per grade shown on this slide

From Michael Baker to All panelists: (8:04 PM)

ty

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

this slide indicated 720. I think Cory is correct

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

bring up the survey that shows 50%+ want to remain I. hybrid in

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

pleas give speakers the microphone.

From Jenna Paulat to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

I agree with Dr Ralston, I don't think there is any evidence to say that the majority of parents want to be in person full time right now.

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:06 PM)

or...you are not asking the correct questions on your survey

From Inzadi9 to All panelists: (8:09 PM)

How would the numbers change for enrollment if we moved from hybrid to full- time in person instruction— specifically enrollment numbers for virtual academy and full- time?

From jodipiacenti to All panelists: (8:14 PM)

Thank you! This is the right choice.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

is it possible to get a mic so those of us at home can hear questions from the audience?

From Melissa Ursu to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

thank you please make sure someone repeats the questions by the community

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

What did he say?

From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (8:15 PM)

Can you please pass mics around to any speakers / questioners? And if board members are speaking (vs someone in audience) could board members state name first? Hard to tell what's happening

From J Galbraith to All panelists: (8:16 PM)

I am a MS/HS parent and I agree with Mrs. Carlson and Mr. Brandt.

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From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (8:16 PM)
thank you!

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (8:16 PM)
I am a high school parent willing to let them know we are here and I support Vicki Carlson's motion

From Inzadi9 to All panelists: (8:17 PM)
Do you think enrollment in virtual academy would increase? How are you going about finding that out?

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:17 PM)
Thank you

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:18 PM)
and the board just talked for 80minutes and now telling everyone to keep it brief.

From Natalie Taylor to All panelists: (8:18 PM)
I want to thank the board and administration for the incredible amount of work of that has gone into planning for this school year. I would like to offer my full support for the hybrid model for APC and AES. I believe that the "vast majority" of parents appreciate the chance to have their kids receive some in person instruction while maintaining safety protocols, especially as cases are rising throughout the county. Please keep up the good work and thank you again.

From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (8:20 PM)
I do not want to speak out loud, but I do want to say Thank You for having this meeting. And thank you for following the data and being aware of the budget. Having the model we have in place allows compromise.

From Kelly to All panelists: (8:22 PM)
I agree with Vicki that we should stick with what's working for now for all schools!

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:23 PM)
other schools are successful in our region. why can't we do it?

From Andrea to All panelists: (8:24 PM)
I'm sorry I have to leave the meeting. I did want to voice my support for the school board's decision to follow the numbers and science. I appreciate your hard work. Thank you.

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (8:25 PM)
it is science! thank you for helping to keep our kids safe. We all want this to be over but it isn't!

From Jennifer Birch to All panelists: (8:26 PM)
I'm at home I am here as Jennifer Birch

From Kristina Stroyne to All panelists: (8:27 PM)
Why can the board make the decision as to what is safe for our children, yet WE can't make that decision for our own families??

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From Inzadi9 to All panelists: (8:30 PM)

In terms of spacing and social distancing in cafeteria/recess time, have you considered ideas or staggering the lunch schedule throughout the week that would allow certain classes to eat lunch in cafeteria on a rotation schedule? maybe each classroom might only eat lunch in the cafe twice a week and the other three days in their classroom?

From Patrick Stewart to Jennifer Birch, All panelists: (8:30 PM)

Jennifer you are up next

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:30 PM)

great example. when we need teachers we hire social workers

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:31 PM)

You had a student in school today while his test was pending. What is your plan to prevent this from happening again? This is a huge problem- he is now positive!

From Rachel Vaughan to All panelists: (8:31 PM)

How do we register that we are in attendance to not miss a chance to speak when the chance may present itself?

From Michele to All panelists: (8:31 PM)

very good point

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (8:35 PM)

Parents need to be held accountable for allowing their kids to attend school while a test is pending!

From Nicole Smith to All panelists: (8:39 PM)

My risk tolerance for increasing the number of teachers and staff who get more exposed to a deadly disease with unknown long-term effects is 0. Just for the board's knowledge.

From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (8:40 PM)

I think it would be helpful for parents whose children who are NOT in the virtual academy, if there was a way to share the lessons done by Virtual teachers with all families as a extra learning resource.

From Kristina Stroyne to All panelists: (8:41 PM)

100% agree with Cory.

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (8:41 PM)

maybe if Cory had an at risk person he would have a different risk tolerance

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (8:49 PM)

YES. The survey is misleading!!!!

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:01 PM)

3-5 minutes are up!

From Rachel Vaughan to All panelists: (9:04 PM)

Please try to limit speakers to the allotted 3-5 minutes to be respectful of all that wish to speak. Thank you

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From Justin to All panelists: (9:07 PM)

I would like to raise the question that, if my kids are only doing 50% of a normal years classes then why should I not be paying 50% for my school taxes?

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (9:12 PM)

What is the change that she is discussing? the one about changes to virtual academy for secondary. thank you!

From Jenna Paulat to All panelists: (9:25 PM)

I chose not to request a speaking spot tonight because I really did not have a question and did not want to just blabber my opinions. But I do want the board and administration to know that I appreciate your hard work, and believe that you are doing what is best for our children. Thank you for following the recommendations of the CDC and the Dept of Education. As you can hear tonight, parent sentiment is split. But I don't believe this should be a parent-driven decision either. Thank you for continuing to follow the advice of experts. I'm sure you saw that the state recommended that Westmoreland County schools all move to virtual. Now is not the time to increase the population of in school instruction. I truly look forward to the time when our children can be in school full time, safely. Now is not the time. Thank you for all you do.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:26 PM)

3-5 minutes are up.

From Jenna Paulat to All panelists: (9:27 PM)

Also, I do brag to all of my friends and family in NA, in Latrobe, in Penn Trafford ... about the fabulous job that Avonworth is doing right now.

From Patrick Stewart to Maureen Sweeney, All panelists: (9:49 PM)

You are up next

From Chris Cieslak to All panelists: (9:57 PM)

Sorry I stepped away. This is Chris Cieslak if I could still speak.

From Chris Cieslak to All panelists: (9:57 PM)

␣ Mine is short␣

From Monica to All panelists: (10:00 PM)

I will be sending an email tonight since I was not able to speak during the meeting

From Joyce's to All panelists: (10:01 PM)

If we had prepared a statement and did not get the chance to speak, can we send it to the board? Thank you!

From Nicole to All panelists: (10:02 PM)

I am in favor of keeping hybrid and would like to have that include synchronous/live stream teaching

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (10:02 PM)

I sent a message in Q&A—could you please let me know that it was received?

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From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (10:02 PM)

please don't be bullied by parents. use science not opinion. keep the motion.

From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (10:03 PM)

this is Tracy Cassidy. Ohio Twp. I support Vicky's proposal to not get back for 4 days. Thank you!!

From Tom Diorio to All panelists: (10:04 PM)

thank you to the board. well done.

Anna Marie White 10:01 PM

Could you please let me know that this was received?

Adjournment

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Special Meeting at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary