

**Avonworth School District**  
**258 Josephs Lane**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**Avonworth Board of School Directors**  
**MINUTES – Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – June 1, 2020**  
**Avonworth School District – Board Room & Virtually**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:**

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. Patrick Stewart

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti,  
Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. Danielle White

**OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:**

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent  
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Management  
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Mr. Jay Quinn, Parent  
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent  
Mr. Michael Warren, Teacher  
Ms. Nancy Whyte, *The Citizen*

**Call to Order**

*Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. He stated that an Athletic Committee meeting was held this evening at 6:30 PM in the Board Room and virtually to discuss athletic matters.*

**Visitors' Comments**

*No visitor comments.*

**The following items were discussed for placement on the agenda of the Regular Meeting to be held Monday, June 8, 2020:**

*Approval of the Minutes of the May 4, 2020 Work Session and the May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting.  
(Voice Vote)*

**FINANCE – D. White/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs**

- 1.1** Ratify payment of General Fund bills for May, 2020, beginning with Check #48833 and ending with Check #\_\_\_\_ in the total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.2** Ratify the May, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,190,145.46.
- 1.3** Treasurer's Report for April, 2020.
- 1.4** Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for April, 2020, beginning with Check #2728 and ending with Check #\_\_\_\_ in the total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.5** To approve capital project payments of \$4,496.22.

**Finance, continued**

2. To approve the MOU with the Ohio Township Police Department for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 School Years.
3. The Board “commit” \$1,000,000 of the June 30, 2020 Ending General Fund Balance for the future expenses related to the projected employer contributions to the Pennsylvania State Employer Retirement System (PSERS).
4. To approve the Final Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ as presented on State Form PDE-2028.
5. The adoption of Resolution 060820-A to establish millage at 19.53 mills for the 2020-2021 School Year as attached.

*Mr. Waters said this resolution extends the discount period an extra 30 days and the face period an extra 60 days. This will give residents extra time due to the impact of the pandemic.*

6. The adoption of Resolution 060820-B Homestead and Farmstead Resolution as attached.
7. Approval of Resolution #060820-C to authorize the refinancing of the Series 2011, Series A-1 of 2015, Series A-2 of 2015 and Construction/Capital Improvements to various district facilities.

*Mr. Waters said since the April meeting, rates have changed and the current market would indicate a savings of:*

|                      | <i>April Meeting</i> | <i>June Meeting</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Series 2011</i>   | <i>\$165,000</i>     | <i>\$191,000</i>    |
| <i>Series A 2015</i> | <i>\$256,000</i>     | <i>\$373,000</i>    |
| <i>Series B 2015</i> | <i>\$49,000</i>      | <i>\$102,000</i>    |

*This resolution authorizes Mr. Misiti and Mr. Waters to close on the bonds and Mr. Waters recommends a minimum blended savings rate of 3% be obtained. The Board agreed to go to \$5 million in new money for future capital projects.*

8. The following depositories for school funds for the 2020-2021 School Year: **PNC Bank, Citizens Bank, PA School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF).**
9. The 2020-2021 Renewal Coverage for the District’s insurance coverage for “Package, Property, Automobile, Excess Liability, and Errors & Omissions” through \_\_\_\_\_ at a total annual premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and “cyber coverage” through PSBA at an annual premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
10. District Worker’s Compensation program renewal through PSBA/CM Regent for the 2020-2021 School Year at an annual premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Finance, continued**

11. To approve meal prices for the 2020-2021 School Year as listed below. (This is a 10¢/breakfast and lunch price increase.)
  - Breakfast (all schools): \$1.70
  - Primary Center/Elementary Lunch: \$2.80
  - Middle/High School Lunch: \$2.90; Premium Lunch: \$3.55
  - Adult (all schools): Breakfast: \$2.10; Lunch: \$4.20

**PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/V. Carlson, Co-Chairs**

1. To accept the Letter of Intent to Retire from \_\_\_\_\_, Paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2020.
2. To accept the Separation Agreement and the Letter of Intent to Retire from \_\_\_\_\_, effective June 30, 2020.
3. To rescind the motion of November 11, 2019 approving the request of \_\_\_\_\_, for an educational sabbatical for the 2020-2021 School Year.
4. To rescind the motion of February 10, 2020 approving \_\_\_\_\_ as a Long Term Substitute School Nurse for the 2020-2021 School Year.
5. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a Professional Employee with an assignment as Music Teacher commencing August 18, 2020, at Category B, Step 4, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District.
6. To approve a change in assignment for \_\_\_\_\_ from Half Time Art Teacher to Full Time Art Teacher beginning with the 2020-2021 School Year.
7. To approve the three-year agreement with KeySolution Staffing, L.L.C. for Student Services support, at an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
8. Approval of the following Summer ESY Program Staff commencing July 6, 2020, at a rate per the current AEA and AESPA bargaining agreements: (names will be provided at the June 8 Board meeting)

**ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – J. Brandt/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs**

1. To approve the 2020-2021 Student Athletic Insurance underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company at an annual premium of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Athletics & Activities, continued**

2. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District, at a stipend according to the current AEA contract.
3. To accept the resignation of \_\_\_\_\_ as Assistant Cross Country Coach effective May 29, 2020.

*Discussed providing letters for club sports athletes. An updated Club Sports policy will be placed on the June 8 agenda. Mr. Blaser noted that Mr. Mancuso would like to bring back the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Boys' Basketball team. There are enough interested students to support a team.*

### **Old Business**

*Mr. Waters provided an update on the bleacher project. TPK dug the ground and put in a concrete pad today. If the fabricated bleacher material is received from Texas, the installation should begin the first week of August and end by the September 1 deadline.*

*Mr. Waters reported the bid opening was held on May 15 for the demolition project at 146 Harveys Lane. Nine bids were received and the bid was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, McKinney Excavating for \$14,900. They will access the property from the high school parking lot and not Harveys Lane. Mr. Waters is obtaining the permit from Ohio Township. Mr. Quinn kindly said the trucks could come up his driveway to drop off materials. Mr. Hebor said the contractor began digging at 6:15 A.M. this morning and asked if we could ask the company not to start so early in the morning.*

*Dr. Ralston clarified the motion from the April meeting giving him the power to approve items as necessary. We will not have candidates in place for open positions until after the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Therefore, he will offer suitable candidates contracts and ratify the final decisions at the July meeting. Dr. Ralston discussed the survey sent to parents. He received 500 responses with the majority of parents saying we did a good job during the pandemic. 65% of the parents want their students to return to school in the fall. If social distancing is needed on the school buses, 50% of the parents could provide transportation and an additional 15% could if absolutely necessary. Dr. Ralston said the Department of Education will release guidelines next week about starting the new school year. He also said our custodial staff will receive training on sanitizing the buildings for the COVID-19 pandemic.*

### **New Business**

*This morning 145 teachers participated in professional development concerning integrating technology in teaching. Dr. Ralston felt it was very well done.*

*Dr. Ralston will ask parents to be diligent about taking their child's temperature before leaving for school and we will monitor temperatures in school as well.*

**New Business, continued**

*Dr. Ralston said Mrs. Dwulit surveyed parents of seniors about moving graduation to June. Parent responses indicated they would like to keep it on July 17 since they had already made other plans based on that original date. Prom will be held July 9 at the Mayernik Center.*

*Dr. Ralston said there will be a senior car parade on Friday through the school campus and the community. Teachers will be here for the parade.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** P. Stewart; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session at 9:15 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary

RESOLUTION #060820-A  
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MILLAGE 2020-2021

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District, under and pursuant to the authority of the Public School Code of 1949, its supplemental and amendments that, for the school year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 the following tax is levied and assessed:

A tax of 19.53 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all property assessed and certified for taxes, and taxable for school purposes within the School District, being \$19.53 for each \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation.

All taxpayers subject to the payment of taxes, assessed by the taxing district, shall be entitled to a discount of two per centum from the amount of such tax upon making payment of the whole amount thereof within three months after the effective date of the tax notice. Thereafter, all taxpayers who fail to make payment of any such taxes charged against them after six months of the effective date of the notice shall be charged a penalty of ten per centum, which penalty shall be added to the taxes by the tax collector and be collected by him/her, or the appointed delinquent real estate tax collector. Any statutorily permissible penalty during the initial six-month payment period shall be set at zero per centum.

In accordance with Avonworth School District Resolution No. (b) Collection of Installment Payments – Real Estate dated June 13, 2001, homeowners with a homestead or farmstead property approved pursuant to Section 341 of the Act are eligible to pay real property taxes in three (3) equal installments with each payment being one-third (1/3) of the total face amount of said taxes due and owing as billed by the school district's local Real Estate Tax Collectors.

Such payments will be due on or before:

- a. August 31
- b. October 31
- c. December 31

A ten per centum (10%) penalty shall be charged for any late payment.

RESOLVED, this 8th day of June, 2020

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy S. F. Donovan, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beau Blaser, Board President

**RESOLUTION #060820-B  
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDING  
THE HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION AS MANDATED BY ACT 50 AND ACT 1**

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2020, under provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 2008 and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$3,577.09.
2. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$3,577.09.
3. For the purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report received by the School District from the County assessment office on or before May 1<sup>st</sup> pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341(g) (3), based upon homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County assessment office on or before March 1<sup>st</sup>. This tax notice shall apply only to notices issued based upon the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1<sup>st</sup> and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.
4. The relevant calculations in reference to said exclusion shall be prepared in an appropriate form document by the School District Business Office and made available upon request.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District at a regularly convened meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

ATTEST:

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy S. F. Donovan, Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beau Blaser, Board President