

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – March 2, 2020
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Patrick Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Visitors' Comments

No Visitor Comments

Mr. Blaser noted the Athletic Committee met this evening in the Board Room at 6:30 P.M. to discuss athletic matters.

The following items were discussed for placement on the agenda of the Regular Meeting to be held Monday, March 9, 2020:

Approval of the Minutes of the February 3, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

- 1.1** Ratify payment of General Fund bills for February, 2020, beginning with Check #48393 and ending with Check #____ in the total amount of \$_____.
- 1.2** Ratify the February, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,258,664.72.
- 1.3** Treasurer's Report for January, 2020.
- 1.4** Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for February, 2020, beginning with Check #2710 and ending with Check #__ in the total amount of \$_____.
- 1.5** Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for February, 2020, beginning with Check #____ and ending with Check #__ in the total amount of \$_____.
- 1.6** To approve capital project payments of \$_____.

Finance, continued

2. To approve the solicitation of bids (if necessary) for General Supplies, Arts, and Athletics for the 2020-2021 School Year.
3. To approve the EITC Letter of Support to participate in the disability awareness programs offered by The Children’s Institute.
4. To approve _____ and _____ to attend the PA School Librarians Association Conference April 30-May 2, 2020, in Hershey, PA at a cost not to exceed \$1,015 plus mileage (paid by Title IV funds). Total includes the cost of two substitutes for one day.
5. To approve _____, _____ and _____ to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in the Poconos April 22-25, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$2,400 plus mileage. This amount includes the cost of three substitutes for the three days.
6. To approve _____ to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in the Poconos April 23-24, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$275. He will be presented with the 2020 Outstanding Superintendent Award.
7. To approve the proposed 2020/2021 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as presented. The Budget totals \$2,202,973. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts’ total contribution to the budget is \$1,811,545. The Avonworth School District’s contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$31,812.54 and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).
8. To approve _____ and _____ to write a School Safety and Security/Behavioral Support Plan state grant in the amount of \$455,755 and payment of \$57.50 each for writing the grant.
9. To approve _____ and _____ to write a School Safety and Security/Upgrade state grant in the amount of \$35,000 and payment of \$57.50 each for writing the grant.

Mr. Waters said we did not receive the School Safety and Security/Behavioral Support Plan grant but we were awarded the School Safety and Security/Upgrade grant. Dr. Ralston thanked Mr. Waters and Mr. Hall for their work in preparing the grant applications.

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

1. To approve an increase in the hourly rate for substitute Food Service workers to \$10.25/hour effective January 1, 2020.
2. To accept the Letter of Intent to Retire from _____, Food Service worker, effective February 28, 2020. *(We thank _____ for nearly 20 years of service to the District and extend our best wishes on her retirement.)*

Personnel, continued

3. To approve the request of _____, Teacher, for FMLA effective March 1, 2020 through April 3, 2020.
4. To approve the request of _____, School Psychologist, for FMLA effective March 2, 2020 through April 14, 2020.
5. To approve _____ as a Substitute School Counselor from March 2, 2020 through June 5, 2020 at \$140/day with no benefits.
6. To approve _____ as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Speech Therapist commencing March 23, 2020, at Category M, Step 1, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. Current clearances are on file in the District Office.
7. To approve _____ as Mentor for the Speech Therapist, _____, for the 2019-2020 School Year.
8. To approve _____ as an extended Day-to-Day Second Grade Substitute Teacher at \$140/day, with no benefits, commencing April 1, 2020 through May 26, 2020, pending requirements of the District.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Y. Cheng/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the updated 2019-2020 School Calendar showing the snow make-up day.
2. To vote for _____ from the Northern Region for the position of School Board Trustee for the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium.

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

1. To approve _____ as a volunteer Varsity Track Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District.
2. To approve _____ as a volunteer Middle School Track Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District.
3. To approve _____ as an Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District, at a stipend according to the current AEA contract.
4. To approve the Cooperative Sponsorship of Sports agreement with the Northgate School District for the School Years 2020-2021 through 2021-2022.

Athletics & Activities, continued

5. To approve _____ to attend the PA Athletic Trainers Convention June 4-6, 2020 in Gettysburg, PA at a cost not to exceed \$750.

Mr. Blaser noted the changes to the Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement with Northgate were: 1) adding Boys' Varsity Soccer; and 2) if either district has no participation they will not incur a cost. Mr. Blaser also noted that several parents attended this evening's Athletic Committee meeting to express their interest in reinstating the 9th grade boys' basketball team. There are 200 students in the Little Lopes program and a lot of interest from current 8th grade students going into 9th grade.

Mr. Waters and the Board discussed compensating Asst. Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach, Mr. Mike Donovan for acting as Interim Head Coach and Mr. Ryan Johnson for acting as Interim Asst. Coach when the Head Coach resigned. A motion will be placed on the March 9 Board Agenda.

POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the application for a Steel City Codes Club as a Provisional Club in the Middle/High School beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year, with a pro-rated stipend according to Policy 122.4. Sponsor for this club will be _____.
2. To approve the application for a Social Justice Club as a Provisional Club in the High School (Grades 9-12) commencing with the 2019-2020 School Year, with a pro-rated stipend according to Policy 122.4. The sponsor will be _____.

Dr. Ralston said in anticipation of the Board approving the creation of the Social Justice Club, the students held a meeting last week and plan to hold a Big Table event in the high school during all lunches on March 18. Their question is "How might we make our space a greater place of belonging for all." Dr. Ralston invited all Board members to attend.

3. To approve the application for an Esports Club as a Provisional Club in the High School (Grades 9-12) commencing with the 2020-2021 School Year, with a pro-rated stipend according to Policy 122.4.
4. To approve the creation of six new Teacher Leadership Council positions at the High School beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year. Teachers would serve in a similar role as the Department chairs and receive that stipend per the current AEA contract.

Old Business

Dr. Ralston said the last Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for March 18 at the Elementary School. The school design team met last week. The first public forum will be held at 6:30 PM on March 19 and the next on April 21. Dr. Ralston noted he will be visiting schools in Ohio on March 31.

Old Business, continued

Mr. Waters reported that the District closed on the purchase of the adjacent property on February 28. He also reported the bid opening for the bleacher addition is March 6. The manufacturer in the spec informed Mr. Parks, the architect for the project, there is no way he can meet the August 15 deadline. The spec was changed to include a clause that if the project can't be completed by September 1 then they will start after the football season ends.

New Business

Mr. Waters met with Mr. Tony Misiti of PNC Capital Markets to discuss two items: 1) We can begin the process of refunding and close before the August 15 date, possibly in June; and 2) There is an estimated savings of \$650,000 on refunding the Series 15 bonds and \$190,000 on the Series 2011 bonds. This is based on current market conditions. Mr. Waters may recommend we blend this savings in with the new money issue. We would have a three year spend down time. He may recommend we borrow \$5-10 million if we can keep our S&P rating.

Dr. Ralston reminded Board members that next Monday's meeting will be held at the A. W. Beattie Career Center.

Mr. Blaser asked Board members to sign the PSBA poster for Principles of Governance and Leadership.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** K. Thompson; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting at 8:30 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss real estate and student matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary