

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM (Roll Call Taken):**

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

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

Mr. Patrick Stewart

**OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:**

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent  
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent

Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.  
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:**

Ms. Mallory Accamando, Teacher  
Ms. Jill Adkins, Parent  
Mr. Bryan Albright, Parent  
Ms. Emily Amick, Parent  
Ms. Marijane Antkiewicz, Parent  
Ms. Mary Claire Arena, Parent  
Mr. Joseph Bandi, Teacher  
Ms. Stephanie Barbour, Parent  
Ms. Gretchen Barlett, Parent  
Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent  
Ms. Rebecca Bechtold, Parent  
Ms. Allison Beck, Parent  
Ms. Erin Bellinger, Parent  
Mr. Robert Bennett, Parent  
Ms. Amanda Berneburg, Parent  
Ms. Sibyl Bevington, Parent  
Ms. Ashley Binford, Parent  
Ms. Krystyn Birt, Parent  
Ms. Jaelynn Blakey, Parent  
Ms. Marybeth Bolam, Parent  
Mr. Dave Bonini, Parent  
Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent  
Ms. Jessica Boyd, Parent  
Ms. Diann Brown, Parent  
Ms. Courtney Bruder, Parent  
Mr. Christian Calabro, Parent  
Ms. Casey Colland, Parent  
Ms. Nicole Cannon, Parent  
Mr. Craig Catanese, Parent  
Mr. Dave Chekan Parent  
Ms. Christen Cieslak, Parent  
Ms. Valerie Clarke, Parent

Ms. Nicole Acierno, Parent  
Ms. Kristy Alberts, Parent  
Ms. Carrie Amelio, Parent  
Ms. Jenny Anderson, Parent  
Mr. Ronald Antkiewicz, Parent  
Ms. Debra Bacon, Parent  
Mr. Sonal Bansal, Parent  
Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse  
Ms. Stef Barnes, Parent  
Dr. Bill Battistone, Elementary Principal  
Ms. Jennifer Beck, Parent  
Ms. Lauren Bell, Parent  
Ms. Tammy Bellotti, Parent  
Ms. Maria Bennis, Parent  
Ms. Amy Besterman, Teacher  
Ms. Chelsey Billick, Building Substitute  
Ms. Jennifer Birch, Parent  
Ms. Audra Blackson, Parent  
Ms. Anne Blaser, Parent  
Mr. Tim & Mrs. Joanne Bonidie, Parents  
Mr. Cory Bonnet, Parent  
Ms. JoAnne Bova, Teacher  
Ms. Carrie Brady, Parent  
Ms. Julie Brown, Parent  
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent  
Ms. Deanna Calderaro, Parent  
Ms. Kate Campbell, Parent  
Ms. Tracy Cassidy, Parent  
Ms. Ellen Cernich, Parents  
Mr. Todd Chrissis, Parent  
Mr. Ed Clark, Community Member  
Ms. Meredith Cohen, Teacher

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:**

Ms. Lisa Cole, Parent	Mr. Brandt Colamarino, Bldgs./Grounds Sprvsr.
Ms. Tania Cook, Parent	Ms. Melissa Costantino-Poruben, Teacher
Ms. Brittany Covalt, Teacher	Ms. Katie Coyne, Parent
Ms. Gretchen Crawford, Parent	Ms. Sara Croft, Teacher
Ms. Emily Cropper, Teacher	Ms. Melissa Cwynar, Teacher
Mr. Dave Czuwara, Parent	Ms. Michelle Darabant, Parent
Ms. Jeannette Davis, Parent	Ms. Raelyn Day, Parent
Ms. Nicole DeLuca, Teacher	Ms. Diane DeMario, Teacher
Ms. Erin Dennis, Parent	Ms. Nika Dent, Parent
Ms. Julie Deringer, Parent	Ms. Melissa DeSimone, Teacher
Ms. Michelle Devine, Parent	Ms. Brittany Dill, Parent
Ms. Courtnie DiPaola, Parent	Ms. Erieka Disanto, Parent
Ms. Lynn Dittmar, Parent	Ms. Jolanta Doherty, Parent
Ms. Megan Dolan, Parent	Ms. Melissa Donovan, Parent
Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent	Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Ms. Laura Dzadovsky, Parent	Ms. Jessica Edmiston, Parent
Ms. Nicole Ehmann, Parent	Ms. Sherry Ehrin, Parent
Ms. Laura Erdeljac, Parent	Ms. Kyri Espy, Parent
Mr. Steve Ezar, Parent	Ms. Omolara Fatukasi, Parent
Ms. Stacy Faulkner, Parent	Ms. Heather Fisher, Parent
Ms. Bethany Ford, Parent	Mr. Chris Foreman, Parent
Ms. Maureen Frew, Teacher	Ms. Siobahn Gallagher, Parent
Ms. Kim Gallucci, Parent	Ms. Jessica Garavaglia, Parent
Ms. Julie Gardner, Parent	Ms. Dolly Gentile, Parent
Mr. Brian Gill, Parent	Ms. Kevin Gollings, Parent
Ms. Tracy Graff, School Secretary	Ms. Chrystie Grant, Parent
Ms. Amber Graves, Parent	Mr. Will Guess, Teacher
Mr. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal	Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent
Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher/AEA President	Ms. Ashley Hanzes, Paraprofessional
Ms. Ashley Harper, Parent	Ms. Lynn Hartle, Parent
Ms. Ann Marie Harvey, Parent	Mr. Robert Harvey, Parent
Ms. Kelly Hays, Parent	Mr. Mike Hebor, Parent
Ms. Christine Hebor, Parent	Ms. Emily Heller, Parent
Mr. James Hendrickson, Parent	Ms. Beth Hendrickson, Parent
Ms. Ashley Henry Shook, Parent	Ms. Emily Hensh, Parent
Ms. Pamela Hershey, Parent	Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Soha Hindawy, Parent	Ms. Kristen Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Jackie Horwat, Parent	Ms. Kristin Hubbell, Parent
Ms. Yvonne Hudnall, Parent	Ms. Kara Huffmyer, Parent
Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent	Ms. Leigh Interthal, Parent
Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent	Ms. Pharlan Ives, Asst. Elementary Principal
Ms. Andrea Jacobs, Parent	Ms. Kimmie Johnson, Parent
Ms. Kari Johnson, Teacher	Ms. Jessica Johnston, Parent
Ms. Carrie Johnston, Parent	Ms. Tina Jordan, Parent
Mr. Jim Joyce, Parent	Ms. Jessica Kaderka, Parent
Mr. Ken Kalb, Parent	Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent
Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Teacher	Ms. Kim Kennis, Parent
Ms. Raili Kiele, Parent	Ms. Andrea Kimmel, Parent
Ms. Kristi King, Parent	Mr. Michael Klaum, Parent
Mr. Matt Kline, Parent	Ms. Michele Kline, Parent

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:**

Ms. Renee Knipp, Parent	Mr. Pat Knipp, Parent
Ms. Erin Koebel, Parent	Ms. Julie Kolenda, Parent
Ms. Jessica Kostewicz, Parent	Mr. Komal Kotwal, Parent
Ms. Vanessa Kowalski, Parent	Ms. Michele Kremer, Parent
Mr. Dan Kuban, Parent	Mr. Jon Kuretich, Parent
Ms. Dory Kurpe, Parent	Ms. Courtney Kuzma, Parent
Ms. Rachael Latore, Parent	Mr. Scott LeBaron, Parent
Mr. Dave Leibach, Teacher	Ms. Robin Leiss, Parent
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent	Ms. Melissa Lesko, Parent
Ms. Adrienne Leveto, Teacher	Ms. Nicole Levis, School Counselor
Ms. Katie Libbon, Teacher	Ms. Jennifer Lindell, Parent
Ms. Gail Lipchak, Parent	Ms. Erica Livingston, Parent
Ms. Michele Long, Parent	Ms. Lea Ann Lope, Parent
Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent	Ms. Gail Love, Substitute School Nurse
Ms. Hope Lucas, Parent	Ms. Laura Ludwig, Parent
Ms. Kristie Lulich, Parent	Ms. Stephanie Machen, Parent
Ms. Rachael MacKenzie, Parent	Ms. Amy Maddalena, Parent
Ms. Heather Malarcik, Parent	Ms. Melinda Malsch, Parent
Mr. Nick Mancini, Teacher	Ms. Julie Mannion, Parent
Ms. Nicole Mares, Parent	Mr. John Mares, Parent
Ms. Lyndsay Marx, Parent	Ms. Becky Marszalek, Paraprofessional/AESPA President
Ms. Jaime Mary, Parent	Ms. Mala Mason, Parent
Ms. Laurie Mathie, Parent	Ms. Christine Matthews, Parent
Ms. Emily McCaul, Parent	Ms. Brittany McCleary, Teacher
Ms. Anne McGrath, Parent	Ms. Natalie McMurtrie, Parent
Ms. Samantha Meese, Parent	Ms. Alicia Mielnicki, Parent
Ms. Carrie Milarski, Parent	Dr. Scott Miller, Primary Center Principal
Ms. Nicole Milojevic, Parent	Ms. Lisa Milsom, Parent
Ms. Natasha Mitchell, Parent	Ms. Melissa Mohn, Parent
Ms. Carly Molchen, Parent	Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent
Ms. Lauren Morgan-Douds, Parent	Mr. Dan Mulligan, Parent
Ms. Rachel Murray, Parent	Ms. Rebecca Myers, Parent
Ms. Tara Naughton, Parent	Ms. Julie Navilliat, Parent
Ms. Lucy Negrón, Teacher	Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent
Ms. Janelle Nicholas, Parent	Ms. Cheryl Noethiger, Community Member
Ms. Pamela North, Parent	Ms. Carrie Jane Novosel, Parent
Mr. Dante O'Donnell, Parent	Ms. Crystal O'Neil, Parent
Ms. Karen O'Connor, Parent	Ms. Maureen O'Connor, Parent
Ms. Maureen Odell, Teacher	Ms. May Oliphant, Parent
Ms. Melissa Orehowsky, Parent	Ms. Bree Omer, Parent
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent	Ms. Hannah Palmer, Student
Ms. Megan Parreaguirre, Teacher	Ms. Erin Pascuzzi, Parent
Ms. Jenna Paulat, Parent	Mr. Robb Pfeil, Parent
Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent	Ms. Leah Plaks, Parent
Ms. Heather Potts, Parent	Ms. Holly Pukylo, Parent
Ms. Nancy Purcell, Parent	Mr. John Paul Putney, Parent
Ms. Melanie Quinn, Parent	Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent
Ms. Bobbe Jo Radkowski, Parent	Ms. Pam Rawlings, Teacher
Ms. Joyce Raymond, Paraprofessional	Ms. Janelle Reck, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Reilsono, Teacher	Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, MS/HS Asst. Principal

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:**

Ms. Jennifer Rieger, Parent  
Mr. Nanyan Rinaldo, Parent  
Ms. Maritza Rivera-Herleman, Parent  
Ms. Beth Roberts, Parent  
Ms. Kara Roggenkamp, Parent  
Ms. Sherah Rothman, Teacher  
Ms. Heather Sabala, Parent  
Ms. Lisa Samarin, Parent  
Ms. Tricia Floyd-Scheller, Paraprofessional  
Ms. Kristin Schleis, Parent  
Ms. Beth Schuster, Parent  
Ms. Amanda Senko, Parent  
Mr. Mike Shields, Parent  
Ms. Laura Shoemaker, Parent  
Ms. Nora Silvey, Parent  
Ms. Ashley Slaney, Parent  
Mr. Jim Slater, Parent  
Ms. Nicole Smith, Parent  
Mr. Greg Smolinski, Parent  
Ms. Merett Southall, Parent  
Ms. Jana Stahl, Teacher  
Ms. Melissa Stewart, Parent  
Mr. David Stoeckle, Parent  
Ms. Kristina Stroyne, Parent  
Ms. Jamie Sundo, Parent  
Mr. Teddy Sweeney, Parent  
Ms. Lauren Takacs, Parent  
Ms. Natalie Taylor, Parent  
Ms. Viktorija Telbis, Parent  
Ms. Olena Thomas, Parent  
Ms. Stephanie Tinker, Parent  
Mr. Jeremy Trexel, Parent  
Mr. George Ulanowicz, Parent  
Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent  
Ms. Rachel Vaughan, Parent  
Ms. Carrie Velisaris, Parent  
Ms. Tara Vietmeier, Parent  
Ms. Marissa Vulakovich, Parent  
Ms. Tara Wahl, Teacher  
Ms. Linda Werner, Parent  
Ms. Stephanie Wetzal, Parent  
Mr. Bill White, Teacher  
Ms. Melissa Wiggins, Parent  
Ms. Christina Wilhelm, Parent  
Ms. Rachel Wisniewski, Parent  
Ms. Lindsay Wolff, Parent  
Mr. Chas Wright, Parent  
Ms. Jennifer Yoder, Parent  
Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi, Teacher  
Ms. Erin Rigney, Parent  
Ms. Tanya Rinaldo, Parent  
Ms. Donna Robatisin, Parent  
Ms. Anna Rodgers, Parent  
Ms. Tonia Roll, Parent  
Ms. Karen Russell, Parent  
Ms. Sarah Salvatore, Teacher  
Ms. Lindsay Scharding, Parent  
Ms. Diane Scheuring, Parent  
Ms. Patty Schmigel, Parent  
Ms. Christina Scott, Parent  
Ms. Katelyn Shearer, Parent  
Ms. Tennille Shields, Parent  
Mr. Mark Silvey, Parent  
Ms. Renee Simkins, Parent  
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Paraprofessional/Parent  
Ms. Tracy Smallwood, Parent  
Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher  
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent  
Ms. Christine St. Clair, Parent  
Ms. Marlina Stevens, Parent  
Ms. Kristin Stewart, Parent  
Ms. Lindsey Stover, Parent  
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher  
Ms. Maureen Sweeney, Parent  
Mr. Stephen Szakelyhidi, Parent  
Ms. Sheila Talarico, Parent  
Ms. Holly Tedys, Parent  
Ms. Tracy Theobald, Parent  
Ms. Megan Thomas, Parent  
Ms. Erica Tipton, Parent  
Ms. Kayla Turnbull, Parent  
Ms. Melissa Ursu, Parent  
Ms. Debi Van Mater, Parent  
Ms. Patricia Veleke, Parent  
Ms. Lisa Vermillion, Parent  
Ms. Ashley Vranick, Parent  
Ms. Morgan Waddell, Teacher  
Ms. Erin Walker-Lodge, Parent  
Ms. Makenzie Wetzal, Parent  
Ms. Anna Marie White, Parent  
Ms. Jen Wickert, Teacher  
Ms. Tracy Wiley, Teacher  
Mr. Brayden Wisniewski, Student  
Ms. Lindsay Withers, Parent  
Ms. Erin Woods, Parent  
Mr. Tom Yeh, Parent  
Ms. Beth Zelinko, Parent  
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent

**OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:**

Ms. Lauren Zivic, Teacher	Ms. Emily Zupancic, Parent
Ms. Sherry Knable, Parent	Mr. Jeremy Boughton, Parent
Ms. Amy Tokar, Parent	Mr. Anthony Latore, Parent
Mr. Erich Dinkfelt, Parent	Ms. Amy Berezney, Parent
Ms. Nicole Rossman, Parent	Mr. John Douds, Parent
Mr. Randy Vulakovich, Parent	Ms. Shannon Casey, Parent
Ms. Megan Jamison, Parent	Ms. Connie Rankin, <i>The Citizen</i>
Ms. Nancy Whyte, <i>The Citizen</i>	

**Call to Order**

*Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.*

**Visitors' Comments**

*Mr. Blaser asked for visitor comments that did not pertain to the re-opening of school since this matter would be discussed during the meeting.*

*Mr. Jared Quinn asked for an update on the Facilities Master Plan. Dr. Ralston said that architect, Mr. Matt Hansen, is scheduled to present at the November 9 Board meeting.*

*In answer to a Chat Session question, Dr. Ralston said that due to COVID restrictions, Board meetings would not be open for in-person attendance due to space constraints. We were able to use the auditorium for the October 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting due to the subject matter and number of in-person attendees.*

*Mr. Michael Hetcko asked about the policy of teachers leaving at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays. Dr. Ralston said he was not aware of this and would inquire about it.*

*Ms. Allison Beck asked if the Board Meeting Minutes would be available after the meeting. Dr. Ralston said they are posted on the District website after the Board approves them at the following month's Regular Meeting.*

*Mrs. Carlson read the following: "As we open this time of discussion on specific topics regarding the current situation in Avonworth schools, I want to make a short opening statement.*

*A recent parent email that resonated with me made the statement "We simply do not know what we do not know." That short phrase has stuck with me over the past week. Last Monday evening the School Board presented what we know and what assumptions and data we have been operating under. Over the past few weeks parents have emailed and last week you poured your hearts out sharing in great detail what you know about what is happening in your homes, and what you would like to see from the Avonworth Schools.*

*The purpose of this opening discussion in our school board meeting is to gather together as stakeholders of Avonworth: administration, school board, teachers, staff, parents, and community members, to continue the discussion that began last week and potentially make some key decisions. My hope is that we all keep in mind a simple Japanese proverb that states "None of us is as smart as all of us."*

*So as we get started, allow me to lay out the format for tonight's discussion. This will be a structured discussion around 5 topics that were emailed out to the Avonworth community two days ago. Our board president will open discussion on a specific topic. We will start by hearing from school board members and administrations on that topic only. Those on the zoom call can post questions during that discussion. We will then take time to answer questions and hear public comments on that topic only. We will close out each topic with final comments from the board and administration before moving to the next topic.*

*The School Board has received comments and questions about how the Avonworth school board functions and makes decisions, and what materials are provided to the public ahead of time. We will not be discussing these topics in this opening discussion because we want to stay focused on the critical issues at hand around moving forward with the education of our students. However I do want you to know that the board intends to have that discussion during our New Business section of the meeting tonight in order to bring clarity to those issues. If you are interested in that, please stick around for that discussion towards the end of our meeting. Thank you for participating in this partnership together for the good of our entire district."*

- **Avonworth's criteria for returning to school full-time**

*Discussion followed. Dr. Ralston said all superintendents have access to the Allegheny County Dept. of Health on Thursdays when Drs. Boden and Brink are available to answer questions. On a call last Thursday they discussed 1) the positivity case numbers have been steadily increasing over the past few weeks. The majority of cases are concentrated in the 20's to late 40's age group; 2) In the last month 28 out of 42 school districts in the county have had closures; 3) 10% of cases in Allegheny County are being reported from schools. These are cases that may not have been transmitted in schools. Our recent closures on October 22, 23 and 27 were caused by a variety of factors that we know and some we do not know. At the end of last week's meeting we were notified of a new case and cancelled classes the next day so contract tracing could be done. This is incredibly hard to predict.*

*Ms. Carlson said a statement heard was that parents want us to base our decisions on data. 1) The PDE recommendations are just that – recommendations. Does the Board want to do that? 2) Do we decide to use information provided by mainline mama?*

*Dr. Ralston said the Dept. of Health is creating a dashboard specific to school districts but it is not yet available.*

*Mrs. Thompson asked if reported cases in the district will result in closure of schools or if it was based on contract tracing. Dr. Ralston said we will not close until we know more. We have hired building substitutes in addition to a substitute nurse. Our substitute nurse gave permission for Dr. Ralston to share that she has contracted the virus even after she took all precautions and how difficult the virus is to contain. If we do not have nurses we cannot run our buildings. Dr. Ralston encouraged any nurses in our district to sign up as a substitute nurse. Mrs. White asked what we would define as criteria for in-person learning since the State doesn't define a blended model. What is our tolerance for a blended model? She does not think we should follow this to the letter and we should see if there's flexibility. Mr. Brandt feels the blended model is mixing the kids. We have to rely on the fact that the CDC is entirely responsible to do this. May not be perfect but they take in as much data as they can and are setting the standards. He feels the guidelines are because the State does not want to take responsibility. He feels we cannot send kids in a full time situation at this time. Mrs. White*

*feels the data does not support sending students back full time. Asked what PDE based their numbers on. It's something to follow but it's also a recommendation.*

*Dr. Ralston said parents have asked why K-6 could not be in-person when 7-12 is. It's a lot easier to pod elementary students but the 7-12 students are mixing among different classes. The table PDE has produced is a recommendation but could be adapted if we felt we can do the research. Mrs. Bolain said the CDC is a control point. What can we maintain the longest? How smooth is the transition and have it stay seamless. Childcare is important to families. We can try to follow the science and can follow the pods and understand when it can happen. Ms. Cheng agrees we need to follow the science and use the CDC as a benchmark. Guidelines vary by other states and countries. Community feedback and teacher and student opinions have to play a part in this decision. Moving into the holidays, airborne transmission within households is happening. Mrs. Thompson feels the need to review the metrics used. Dr. Ralston said the metrics by the CDC and Dept. of Health show an increase per 100,000 positivity rate that will determine the low or medium range for the county. We are looking at the number of cases in school. Dr. Hadley discussed a tracker that has been added to the district website. If a case is identified, the person would have to stay home and not come back to school until cleared.*

*In answer to a Chat Session question about who does the contact tracing, Dr. Ralston said we work under the guidance of the Dept. of Health to determine when the person was in school last, who they were within 6 feet of for more than 15 minutes, and if their mask was on or off. We try to determine close contacts and give that information to the Dept. of Health who then sends a letter to those individuals. Based on what was heard at last week's meeting, Mrs. Thompson said it's hard to hear of families struggling and we need to find a way to support families better. She feels we need to stick to the measures that we are following. We are not in a place where we should move forward. People need to know there's some kind of plan in place. It's difficult to move and pivot from one model to another. We need to take safety into account and try to stay as consistent as possible. Families doing virtual seem happy because of the consistency. Feels staying with the data points is the best we can do. Board members are concerned where the numbers will go over the holidays and feel we should make sure we have a model that makes it as smooth as possible to move to virtual and back. Not sure if the model we have now is best and feel we have to take another look at moving between models. Mrs. Carlson agreed. PDE recommends a 7 day range; if we get 7 days of good health we can shift to the other model. K-6 may struggle with switching more than 7-12.*

*Mr. Stewart said reading the surveys shows two key facts and that the K-6 models are struggling. 1) We have to figure if this is the best model for K-6 kids and if there's room for improvement. 2) What is our tolerance for positivity rate. Three months ago we discussed if we start out all virtual when will we know to go to hybrid; and when in hybrid when could we move to a more full time model. Mrs. Monti feels we need to think about adding more synchronous learning and it's helpful to have check-ins.*

*Mrs. Carlson asked if we all agree that we want to follow PDE with positivity and increase rates and active 14 days case free? Mrs. Bolain would not want us to shift in the middle of the nine weeks because shifting unexpectedly is hard for families and students. Mrs. Thompson feels 14 days is too long but 7 days is too short and is concerned about the risk tolerance. Families can make that choice but staff don't have that choice. Mr. Blaser is worried about the long term effects such as skill loss, social and mental well-being. Ms. Cheng does not feel it's right to compare us with other schools. She would be willing to support full time but needs to know how distancing will be and would like to understand the ventilation system. She is worried we would hover between moderate and substantial.*

*She heard the plea from hybrid parents about people making assumptions for other families. We need to listen to all families. Mrs. Bolain agrees that not all districts are all the same and we need to know the facts about other districts. She feels we can take things in small stages.*

*Mrs. Monti asked when the dashboard would be available. Dr. Ralston said he hoped to hear during the superintendent meeting this Thursday.*

*Mrs. White wants to be sure we allow for flexibility and for things to change in the spring.*

*Mrs. Carlson feels we need to make a decision on the criteria and can always revisit. Questions if schools have to be free 14 days. Thinks PDE recommendations are clear and would like to remove the case free piece.*

*Mr. Stewart feels we need to implement a goal post of high and low and go in and out of it.*

*Questions were then taken from virtual visitors:*

*Mrs. Jessica Bonnet: Thinks synchronous is a positive step forward. Asked Dr. Ralston if the 28 out of 40 schools gave any insight into their current model. Dr. Ralston said they did not identify the schools.*

*Mr. Cory Bonnet: Asked if it was clear if those cases were being transmitted at the school or spread at the school? Dr. Ralston heard that the cases coming now were due to students not adhering to guidelines such as riding in cars with friends and attending large gatherings. He has not heard about transmission occurring in schools.*

*Mr. Bonnet thinks it would be useful to talk with doctors and nurses in our community. Dr. Ralston has heard from a lot of health professionals in our community who have a variety of different opinions.*

- **Results of the recent survey**

*Dr. Ralston said a District parent who is a market research analyst offered to help design a survey and put it in an understandable format. Even though she herself supports 5-day full time, her professional ethics require her to be unbiased. Dr. Ralston then reviewed the results of the survey taken by parents/guardians, all staff, and students in grades 3-12. Mrs. Carlson said at last week's meeting there was a lot of talk about kids being out and in sports. If that many kids are out playing sports she feels they are more at risk. She is not comfortable telling staff they have to come back and teach a room full of 24 students.*

*Board members feel kids and teachers have more angst than their parents and people felt that we did not ask the right questions. Dr. Ralston clarified that one survey was conducted per household and the parent/guardian could provide answers for each of their children.*

*Ms. Cheng heard from the student perspective how they want consistency. Teachers appreciated their comments and suggestions on how learning could change. Parents gave a lot more clarity. Gave context to what parents are feeling. Angst about when we are going to switch models. We could address in planning and in communications.*



*Mrs. Thompson feels students with IEP's are at a deficit and would like to provide them with more support.*

*Mr. Blaser said parent satisfaction resonated with him. 48% want 4-5 days back, 46% would like to maintain or vary slightly. 2<sup>nd</sup> choice was 51% want to return to school and 48% stay as is.*

- **Decision made in October to change the MS/HS campus to 4 days per week (all students)**

*Mrs. Bolain feels check-ins would be helpful and students need reminders. Feels the staff and district have done a great job in providing different models. Mrs. White heard from student surveys that some seem to want that structure and some were okay on their own. Mrs. Bolain would like some ability of live streaming or the ability to go back and see the lesson again.*

*Dr. Ralston said over course of 9 weeks instruction in middle/high school has gotten better with tools and resources from professional development, including the use of synchronous instruction. We want to encourage use of all different things for support and resources. He heard from parents that virtual days flipped on a dime and worked for their kids. Mrs. Carlson agrees kids had great experience with synchronous instruction on days we shut down. We have to let teachers decide. Given the numbers, she does not feel we bring students back 4 days because the numbers don't support it. Would like to see including all students in synchronous instruction. Thinks special education students should come 4 days or more often. Asked how we can help teachers with kids in class and on the computer at the same time.*

*Mr. Brandt feels there should be a refresher in professional development and technical support so teachers can focus on teaching and not worry about technical issues.*

*Mrs. Thompson feels that if we move to more synchronous there needs to be more guidelines. We need to have rules that kids can't jump in on a class or not participate.*

*Mr. Brandt feels we need to give clear guidance about kids staying home with the sniffles or stomach flu. They should be able to use tools and the virtual option for that child.*

*Mrs. White feels the current model needs more structure on Wednesdays.*

*Mrs. Monti asked if the Virtual Academy operate on Wednesdays and Dr. Hadley replied that it's an opportunity for teachers to provide synchronous and provide check-ins. Dr. Ralston said we wanted the Avonworth curriculum taught by Avonworth teachers. Dr. Hadley said more professional development and technology support is being provided to our teachers. High school teachers have been exploring different tools to use. Our Tech Dept. is providing help with more synchronous time.*

*Dr. Ralston said some IEP students come 4 days a week. We will do everything we can to assist these students.*

*Mrs. Carlson asked if cameras were used and Dr. Hadley said some have been provided to us and some teachers already had them.*

**Questions were then taken from virtual visitors:**

Carol Loutzenhiser: She is in favor of using more synchronous learning. Appreciates teachers and IT Dept. Children should act as they do in school and any issues be dealt with.

Shae Gollings: Feels more synchronous opportunities would benefit students. Does not think a 10 minute check in and then leaving them to fend for themselves works. College applications and volunteer work are not there. The students are being required to do their work as if they were in college. Suggested we look at non-classroom learning.

Megan Dolan: Feels we need to keep better track of what is outstanding. Having to look in multiple locations for missing assignments is hard. Thinks a 15 minute tutorial on an aspect of the lesson would be helpful.

Mrs. Carlson feels we need to explain to parents what the synchronous model should look like and what our expectations are for students for the synchronous model.

Mrs. White asked if we could identify a timeline in the motion.

- **The K-6 level of instruction in current Hybrid model**
  - **Current Status based on feedback from parents (from administration)**
  - **Options for increasing the level of instruction K-6**
  - **Resources required for those options**

Dr. Ralston said we have received a lot of feedback on this and are looking at making adjustments to the schedules that would increase to 2-1/2 hours of instruction.

Dr. Hadley said by using the window for arrival and dismissal time we'll be able to add more instruction time for Science and Social Studies. Science and Social Studies teachers are teaching in person in the morning and in the afternoon they are in Google Classroom. Need to increase synchronous in the AM/PM. We could assign this as part of the building substitutes' responsibility.

Ms. Cheng asked if we would add synchronous Science and Social Studies in addition to specials? Dr. Hadley said K-5 are synchronous in Science and Social Studies. Dr. Hadley said increasing synchronous might look a little different but some would be asynchronous.

Ms. Cheng feels asynchronous could be more on the K-2 level and videos of additional lessons would help. She likes the specials her children have done. In some cases, why not take it to the next level and go deeper into the project Ms. Cheng said with math and ELA it's helpful to connect with teachers and she has asked for extra instruction and teachers are really open. Could this be an option for parents?

Mrs. Monti asked who is teaching Science and Social Studies at APC and AES. Dr. Hadley said specials teachers are incorporating Science and Social Studies into their lessons.

Mrs. Carlson asked why we couldn't offer all three models when numbers start to come down if can we have teachers who are comfortable teaching to that? Dr. Ralston said we had thought about that, too, and we need more information. The numbers would have to work out.

*It would mean more students on buses and in buildings. Dr. Hadley said parents would need to understand if we would make that change we would be re-rostering students. Dr. Ralston said the logistics of it would take some time to work out.*

*Dr. Hadley said the results of the October survey showed 41% of students selected full virtual across all grade levels. Each quarter as we allow students to move from the virtual model to an in-person model, staffing may be impacted. We also have to keep in mind that with full in-person instruction a number of special area teachers needed to ensure we meet contractual obligations for planning time.*

*Mrs. Bolain feels grade levels where we have more containment is the place to start those models.*

*Dr. Hadley said if there is a way to ease into it, add a Friday. Parents have a schedule in place for childcare now who would be impacted.*

*Ms. Kate Sweeney: Her children need more face time with the teachers because they know how to teach and she does not.*

*Melissa Ursu: Feels the hybrid option is extremely flawed. Asked why hybrid doesn't start at 9:00. Asked if the Board would consider having three options. If we could have the hybrid kids full time parents could get their kids to school however they can. Having a new math program with no textbooks is a struggle with kids. Feels that families having to hire a tutor is a problem and we should expand the hybrid model.*

*Mrs. Maureen Frew (Maker Specials teacher): Assured parents every student gong to the Primary Center is getting a full Science and Social Studies program. She sits with those teachers every week to create a combined Making, Technology, Science and Social Studies lesson. Not one student has missed a lesson if they are in school. She always offers to extend their activity. She has been doing full lessons synchronous and is getting better every week.*

*Christian Calabro: Has seen a lot of improvement this year from last year. He likes that the hybrid focuses better with in-person instruction. Science and Social Studies feels lacking and only 10-15 minutes are spent on specials. Some synchronous would be helpful.*

*Shannon Casey: She is a healthcare professional who has one child in K-6 and one child in middle school and they are struggling academically and behaviorally at this point. She understands we go by the CDC guidelines. Asked that the District strongly consider instructing synchronous. Face-to-face has huge consequences more than what COVID is. She is concerned with the long term effects on students.*

- **Understanding the support that is available for our parents**

*Mrs. Carlson heard parent's frustration at last week's meeting. Recommendations from the survey was weekly communication with teachers. Asked what supports are in place for parents?*

*Dr. Hadley has met with principals. The Primary Center has created centralized location on their website. Our teachers are communicating with parents. They are going to make sure this was a topic at conferences. Dr. Ralston said the best contact person is their*

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*teachers. Mrs. Carlson told parents to make sure they are in touch with teachers. Dr. Ralston said school counselors and our school social worker are great resources.*

*Ms. Cheng feels there's a need for some training on Google Classroom. Third grade teachers did a cheat sheet that was very helpful.*

*Mrs. Monti still gets lost in the Echo program but there's lots of information in there.*

*Mr. Brandt saw comments about the turnaround time when something is wrong with a student's device and feels a loaner should be issued. Dr. Hadley will check on this. We have not yet received our new shipment of Chromebooks that were ordered in the spring.*

*Mrs. Thompson asked if there were resources available for parents who are seeing depression? Can they reach out to counselors – are they virtual? Dr. Ralston said each school has a Student Assistance Team. Students can be referred through the school counselor and help can be provided with mental health to drug and alcohol problems.*

*Mr. Blaser would like to devise a plan to return to school full time.*

*Mr. Stewart said the key things we should ask are how do we create a model to support a hybrid and a virtual model. We need to listen to the experts. The Board needs to ask administrators how to create the option of supporting all three by the end of the 9 weeks or sooner.*

*The Board discussed putting together a committee/working group to come up with a plan. Mr. Stewart said: 1) Ask administrators to come up with a plan to get back all three models. 2) Put group together that looks at how we put goal posts together and then discuss and debate. 3) Decide on pulling back on high school and figure out how we know when these kids can go back to a full time model or as close to a full time model as possible. We need to create the most flexible plan options we can logistically and financially support. We have to legally balance the budget and do what we can with fiscal responsibility. We have to come up with enough reasonable options for families K-6 and -12 and follow CDC guidelines as closely as we can. Dr. Ralston said we will do our best to come up with a model that serves everyone.*

*Mrs. Carlson is encouraged but has doubts we can offer all three models at the middle and high school level. If that is not possible, then tell us why. Asked Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley if it's possible to put something in place for the third 9 weeks in January. Need to talk about this in November/December. Dr. Ralston said they have been discussing this since last March and want to take a sensible approach and do what makes sense for teachers to deliver quality instruction.*

*Mrs. Bolain feels it's easier on certain campuses than others. Parents need to understand that if someone gets sick then the whole class goes home. There are a lot of logistical aspects on how this model would work but she has doubts we can make it work in all buildings.*

*Mrs. Thompson thinks the Board is asking administrators to explore and it would be great to have feedback. Mr. Stewart said the Board is asking administrators if this model works and there are caveats. If there is a breakout in a room, everyone goes home. We have to follow the rules. Parents will have to understand.*

*Ms. Cheng thinks bringing in an infectious disease specialist to talk to us would be helpful.*

The discussion period ended at 11:35 PM and the Work Session/General Purpose meeting continued with the agenda items.

### **FOR VOTE THIS EVENING**

**NOTE: When voicing their votes, Board members also raised their hands to signify their vote so virtual attendees could see them.**

#### **POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs**

**Motion:** K. Monti; **Second:** V. Carlson:

1. To rescind the motion of October 12, 2020 to approve the transition plan for instruction for the second nine weeks as proposed by Dr. Ralston.

*Rescind Motion*

*Discussion followed with Mr. Stewart clarifying this motion is being rescinded with the caveat that we figure the right way to bring the kids back and be able to look at option for doing the best we can. Mr. Brandt does not feel this is the time to put the kids in the buildings full time. Mrs. Bolain said it's out intent to increase learning and asked administrators to come back with recommendations for what is appropriate. We need to make it better but it's different for each building. Mrs. Carlson said parents need to know about the third 9 weeks. Mr. Blaser said students were struggling with AP classes because of a lack of synchronous instruction. After we looked at thee options the best method brought forth was to bring back instruction four days. We do not have a plan for synchronous learning. For teachers teaching live and synchronous at the same time is challenging. He thinks the Chrome books not coming in and lack of cameras is across the board. He will vote "No" on this motion.*

**Motion Carried:** Voice vote to approve Item 1 with Mr. Blaser voting "No."

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

*Approval of the Minutes of the October 5, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting, the Minutes of the October 12, 2020 Regular Meeting, and the Minutes of the October 26, 2020 Special Meeting. (Voice Vote)*

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

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for October, 2020, beginning with Check #49698 and ending with Check #49931 in the amount of \$567,213.31.
- 1.2 Ratify the October, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,299,001.62.
- 1.3 Treasurer's Report for September, 2020.
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for October, 2020, beginning with Check #2762 and ending with Check #2770 in the total amount of \$7,739.22.
- 1.5 Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for October, 2020, beginning with Check #9136 and ending with Check #9197 in the total amount of \$5,380.
- 1.6 To approve capital project payments of \$22,253.

**Finance, continued**

2. RESOLUTION #110920: To continue membership in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Joint Purchasing Program as attached.
3. To approve the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Agreement with the University of Pittsburgh for the years 2020-2021 through 2025-2026.
4. To approve the agreement with Southwood Psychiatric Hospital.
5. To approve the agreement with TransPerfect Remote Interpreting through the AIU for services from February 10, 2021 through February 10, 2022.

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

1. To approve the request of \_\_\_\_\_ for an educational sabbatical for the 2021-2022 School Year.
2. To approve a change in status for \_\_\_\_\_ from an Elementary School Day-to-Day Virtual Substitute Teacher to a Long Term Virtual Academy Substitute Teacher retroactive to August 28, 2020, with benefits, at Category M, Step 1. Clearances are on file in the District Office.
3. To approve a change in status for \_\_\_\_\_ from an Elementary School Day-to-Day Virtual Substitute Teacher to a Long Term Virtual Academy Substitute Teacher retroactive to August 31, 2020, with benefits, at Category M, Step 2. Clearances are on file in the District Office.
4. To approve a change in assignment for \_\_\_\_\_ from Custodian to Food Service Worker with a start date to be determined.
5. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a Substitute Food Service Worker for the 2020-2021 School Year retroactive to October 22, 2020, with no benefits, at a rate of \$10.25/hour, pending requirements of the District.
6. To approve a change from **Ms. Sara Studt** to \_\_\_\_\_ as Mentor for Ms. Sonia Ewell, High School English Teacher, effective November 3, 2020, with a stipend per the current AEA contract.

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

1. The Administration recommends approval of the following coaches for the 2020-2021 School Year. In the event that an athletic season or other activity is shortened or cancelled in its entirety, payment for the affected supplemental positions(s) shall be

**Athletics & Activities, continued**

reduced on a pro rata basis. This appointment does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his/her position will be needed and in place or that it will continue uninterrupted during the 2020-2021 School Year.

- A. Varsity Wrestling Head Coach – \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Varsity Wrestling Assistant Coach – \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach - \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach – \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Volunteer Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach - \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Middle School Boys’ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach – \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Middle School Boys’ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Coach – \_\_\_\_\_

- 2. To accept the resignation of \_\_\_\_\_ as Head Middle School Cheerleading Coach effective November 2, 2020.

**Old Business**

*Mr. Waters distributed a spreadsheet and gave an update on grant monies for Title funds, PCCD grant for COVID and the recent audit report. Mr. Vancheri of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP will present in January. \$33,299,000 was budgeted and we are under expended by close to \$ million.*

**New Business**

*Mrs. Carlson explained how the Board operates and how decisions are made. She looked up what the job of a Board member is and it is planning, setting policies, and evaluating results. The most important job as a Board is to put administrators in place that manage the district. The Board collects and sets goals for Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley using monthly progress reports. She assured the public we are blessed to have good administrators and a Board that agrees on things.*

*Mrs. Carlson asked Board members to review Policy 006 on Meetings for discussion next week and how meeting dates are published. Dr. Hadley clarified that Board meeting agendas are placed on the District website the Friday before each meeting. Mr. Stewart said the Board has been the most reactive and responsive these last six months than ever before. The first meeting of the month is to review what will be voted on the following week. The purpose of this meeting is to have an open forum.*

**Motion from the Floor:** J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to approve the following: The Board charges the administration to develop and propose improvement to the current hybrid models, including increased synchronous instruction at all levels and synchronous science and social studies in the elementary and primary grades; and to investigate and propose options for offering full time blended and in-person learning in line with state and CDC guidelines as possible for the November 23 Board meeting.

*Develop & Improve  
Hybrid Models &  
Options to Return to  
Full Time/In-Person  
Learning*

***Following are additional Chat session questions that were not answered during the Board meeting. Answers will be provided in a separate document and posted on the school website.***

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*From Maureen Sweeney to All panelists: (7:27 PM)  
there is no sound ?*

*Maureen Sweeney 07:29 PM  
there is no sound available to the public*

*From Beau Blaser to All panelists and attendees: (7:31 PM)  
We will be starting the meeting in just a few minutes...*

*Patrick Stewart 07:38 PM  
Private answer  
The meeting had not started*

*Anonymous Attendee 07:41 PM  
Why was this meeting not open to in-person attendees? Will next week's meeting be open to in-person attendees?*

*This question has been answered live*

*Michael Hetcko 07:43 PM  
Why are teachers now permitted to leave at 1pm on Wednesday's?*

*This question has been answered live*

*Allison Beck 07:43 PM  
will transcripts of this meeting be available afterwards?*

*You 07:46 PM  
The Q&A and Chat will be copied. Also, Mrs. Donovan, our Board Secretary, keeps the minutes of each meeting. They are posted on the website once they are completed.*

*Anonymous Attendee 07:48 PM  
Will you be sharing the results of the recent survey?*

*Anonymous Attendee 07:52 AM  
What is the plan for student's who are quarantined? They receive classwork, but no instruction.*

*Maureen Sweeney 07:53 PM  
the local incident/positivity rate trends have not been updated on the district website since 10/27; what is the most updated data, and can we please have this posted for us to review?*

*From Joseph Bloue to All panelists: (7:57 PM)  
speculation!*

*From Tanya S to All panelists: (8:00 PM)  
how many cases have been confirmed in each school to date?*



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Dave Chekan 08:00 PM

*Speaking of data. I was happy to find the data used for decision making available on the Avonworth website (thank you for providing that). [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dlfvSjgrKJ5RggH9fxt5VG5\\_wLWKfBEaY1lFUTFODts/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dlfvSjgrKJ5RggH9fxt5VG5_wLWKfBEaY1lFUTFODts/edit#gid=0).*

*What frequency is this data updated? (it hasn't been updated since 10/27)*

CHebor 08:00 PM

*What data do you use to determine whether you close or not after a case is reported? What was different about the case last week that caused the HS/MS closure?*

*From Joseph Bloue to All panelists: (8:01 PM)*

*right and she got it. It's impossible to contain so let it take its course. she is correct with the blended model definition Montour is back 100% full day. K-12 on same campus. that's a neighbor district.*

Stacy Faulkner 08:03 PM

*Are school administrators trained to perform contact tracing within our district? We have a family that never received a call or letter from the health department but did receive a letter from Avonworth stating their child was exposed? Who is giving the guidance here?*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (8:06 PM)*

*thank you, Danielle 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏*

*From Viktorija Telbis to All panelists: (8:09 PM)*

*Thank you Danielle for that question for/on clarity. As someone who also has a science/research background and believes in data, there is a need to look a variety of sources, certainly yes the CDC but it has to be more and I appreciate your comments.*

Anonymous Attendee 08:10 PM

*Can Sandra clarify if she would be in favor of moving k-6 to full-time in person because they're not moving around the school?*

Viktorija Telbis 08:13 PM

*Thank you Danielle for that question for/on clarity. As someone who also has a science/research background and believes in data, there is a need to look at a variety of sources, certainly yes the CDC but it has to be more and I appreciate your comments. What are all the data points we are looking at?*

*From caroline to All panelists: (8:15 PM)*

*I would like to share that son is currently in the hybrid model and in quarantine as a result of contact tracing last week. I assumed he would be a part of the virtual model for the two weeks but that is not what has been put in place. He remains in hybrid model and therefore had nothing to do today. I was not aware of this and wondered if board members were. When there's talk of moving seamlessly between the models, this appears to be only at semester changes. Just wanted to share.*

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*Maureen Sweeney 08:15 PM*

*Why is there no live stream option for these classes? would go a long way to address continuity concerns.*

*From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (8:16 PM)*

*Thank you for implementing the tracker!*

*Stacy Faulkner 08:17 PM*

*Should they also be contacted by the Dept of health?*

*From Amy Kaminski to All panelists: (8:17 PM)*

*How delayed is the data from the ACHD? Are they still 7 - 10 days behind in acknowledging positive cases?*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:17 PM*

*Where are the number of resolved cases going to be listed?*

*Stacy Faulkner 08:17 PM*

*They were never contacted.*

*From Jaime Mary to All panelists: (8:18 PM)*

*I'm happy to see the addition on of the tracker on the school's COVID page. This is helpful to keep us informed so we can continue to make educated decisions regarding our chosen instructional model.*

*jodie bonidie 08:18 PM*

*Is it possible to adopt a tiered approach for the secondary campus for kids/families who are either performing well academically or who are comfortable with more independent/remote learning versus students/families who need or prefer the more structured atmosphere offered through in-person learning?*

*From Joseph Bloue to All panelists: (8:20 PM)*

*Cases are not deaths right. Recovery rates are >99% for most age groups. don't loose sight of that data and science from the CDC.*

*From Amy Kaminski to All panelists: (8:20 PM)*

*Can you share the results of the survey to give us additional context related to this conversation? Many many parents do not have the option to do all virtual given work schedules.*

*caroline 08:20 PM*

*Will the survey results be shared?*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:22 PM*

*Please think about your student population differently. K-6 kids can be and should be treated differently.*

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*From jnav430 to All panelists: (8:22 PM)*

*How will the children's educational needs be met when they have to quarantine and will miss their in school instruction without synchronous learning, especially when this is going to continue*

*From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (8:23 PM)*

*Could you focus some discussion specifically around increasing synchronous learning – re: offering more opportunities / consistency / seamlessness, if maintaining hybrid model?*

*From Rachael Latore to All panelists: (8:23 PM)*

*Do you feel educating our K-6 students for 2 hours a day is the best that we can do?*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:24 PM*

*If you go back all virtually at this point the learning is completely over for these kids. We don't need to over-react at this point. Maybe it's not time to move into 4 day plan but please don't go back to all virtual spring model! IT'S AWFUL. We also have an obligation to educate these kids too forget that. SYNCHRONOUS learning is the solution.*

*caroline 08:25 PM*

*How will a two hour delay for weather be handled? Has this been addressed?*

*From Dr. Thomas Ralston to Amy Kaminski, All panelists: (8:26 PM)*

*We will be sharing the survey data next*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:26 PM*

*Will the school consider more synchronous classes? At least for secondary school kids, this would improve situations for these kids significantly.*

*Viktorija Telbis 08:27 PM*

*Thank you Patrick for sharing your insights. My next question is are we looking at ways to implement actual "in person virtual training" versus just sending assignments with exception to our "specials" which students love to be able to connect with teachers and peers. Are we looking at ways to enhance that education?*

*From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (8:27 PM)*

*will you be publishing the results of the parent survey and the teacher and student survey?*

*From Stephanie Barbour to All panelists: (8:28 PM)*

*I appreciate you acknowledging families. While data shows the virus is not as problematic for children, in some cases it does. There are numerous children attending school that are immunocompromised and they should be protected.*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:29 PM*

*YES WE NEED SYNCHRONOUS!*

*From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (8:30 PM)*

*My daughter (senior) agrees that students have a schedule and a check in process*

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*diapaolac rc 08:31 PM*

*Will the new parent survey results be shared?*

*Cory Bonnet 08:33 PM*

*Before you move forward can you recognize the public*

*Tracy Cassidy 08:36 PM*

*I had to join late. Will the survey data be released on the website? Thank you!*

*From Michele to All panelists: (8:37 PM)*

*Please set a criteria*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (8:38 PM)*

*You don't have any hope for the parents of this community Thank you!!!!*

*From emily hensch to All panelists: (8:40 PM)*

*applause! great points, Beau.*

*Shannon 08:41 PM*

*Thank you Mr. Blaser!*

*CHebor 08:41 PM*

*I could not agree more with Beau Blaser on his comments here, we absolutely need a plan in place for full time face to face instruction and we need you all to put that plan in place, stop talking about it, and take action on this.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (8:42 PM)*

*Thank you, Beau 🌍🌍🌍🌍🌍🌍🌍*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (8:42 PM)*

*Thank you for speaking up for all of us!!!!!!*

*Stephanie Wetzel 08:42 PM*

*Thank you !!!!!*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:42 PM*

*Makes perfect sense Mr. Blaser! YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We keep forgetting we need to educate our children and we are going round and round about this. If families want to go virtual and teachers too -- they can go virtual. We have educate our kids!*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:43 PM*

*YES Mr. Blaser you are the only one making any sense*

*From maureen to All panelists: (8:43 PM)*

*are you kidding me with the Biden pins, Sandra ? very disappointing and unprofessional.*

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*From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (8:43 PM)*

*Agree with John!*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (8:43 PM)*

*They will get it at target, or hockey, not at school!!!! 6 feet will not happen. Have to let that go and if not comfortable then you can decide for your family virtual!*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:44 PM*

*Every family has the choice to go virtual!*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:45 PM*

*What do families do if they are comfortable with the hybrid and lose that option? Not all kids who don't want to go back full time do well virtually.*

*From Stephanie Barbour to All panelists: (8:45 PM)*

*YES, JOHN BRANT! THANK YOU! We have a profoundly disabled child and, per her doctors, if she gets it odds are it will be fatal. My healthy children might be behind in learning but they'll be alive and they have the tools to catch up.*

*From Tracy Cassidy to All panelists: (8:45 PM)*

*virtual kids /families should not be penalized because some people are willing to accept the risk. We personally can't go back until all of our community takes this seriously*

*Stacy Faulkner 08:47 PM*

*Why are we discussing this now? Why was this not discussed over the summer?*

*From Mike to All panelists: (8:50 PM)*

*Small unplanned changes are more difficult on families. My boys are not being challenged when they are not in school. Just commit to a 4 or 5 day per week and fight to stay open. Keep full virtual for those who are concerned.*

*From Heather Malarcik to All panelists: (8:51 PM)*

*I'm in shock that there's even a discussion about possibly hiding the numbers of cases or quarantines in order to make the numbers lower. Please clarify at some point that that will absolutely not be the case.*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:51 PM*

*Not comparing to other schools but how can private schools go 5 days a week without being stopped? Are public schools under different mandates?*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:52 PM*

*How is Avonworth "accurately tracking" instructional hours during asynchronous instruction? How are we going to meet the states minimum requirements for learning hours?*

*From Yvonne Hudnall to All panelists: (8:53 PM)*

*How about 10 days?*

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*Anonymous Attendee 08:53 PM*

*The current instructional model consists of three separate groups: Hybrid A, Hybrid B and Virtual academy. This model makes it difficult to move seamlessly when the need to be all virtual arises. If students have synchronous learning then the instructional model can be seamless.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (8:54 PM)*  
*spring??? we need to decide now!*


*From maureen to All panelists: (8:55 PM)*  
*ty everyone for all your hard work. shameful,Sandra, that you would politicize this. we should be better than that.*

*From Amy Kaminski to All panelists: (8:56 PM)*  
*You can't say you're not willing to compare yourselves to other school districts and then hide behind the fact that other school districts are also going to be experiencing low test scores.*

*megan dolan 08:57 PM*  
*With shortening the window, would the district consider taking into consideration local data and county data to make sure they are trending in the same direction?*

*Anonymous Attendee 08:59 PM*  
*Are grades suffering overall? Are there any comparisons being done? If you vote that the kids don't go back we HAVE to go to synchronized learning. Asynchronous learning isn't working.*

*From Rhodora to All panelists: (9:01 PM)*  
*flashy gaudy political pins, looks bad.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (9:05 PM)*  


*From jodie bonidie to All panelists: (9:06 PM)*  
*Is there a reason that my question posted in the Q&A was dismissed? Thank you.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (9:08 PM)*  
*I support this idea 100%*

*From Vicki Carlson to All panelists and attendees: (9:16 PM)*  
*Jodie - can you post your question in the chat - we are having trouble restoring your question in the Q&A.*

*From jess bonnet to All panelists: (9:17 PM)*  
*Can you please confirm the A B C red letters Thank you!*

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*From jnav430 to All panelists: (9:18 PM)*

*How will the children's educational needs be met when they have to quarantine and will miss their in school instruction without synchronous learning, especially when this is going to continue*

*From CHebor to All panelists: (9:20 PM)*

*The important information is what you gleam from this information*

*From jodie bonidie to All panelists: (9:21 PM)*

*Is it possible to adopt a tiered approach for the secondary campus for kids/families who are either performing well academically or who are comfortable with more independent/remote learning versus students/families who need or prefer the more structured atmosphere offered through in-person learning? While physical safety is of top concern, understandably, academics are dually a priority, especially in 10-11 grades. (While we have another child in the primary center, we feel the younger kids tend to adapt a bit easier than the older kids.)*

*Tanya S 09:22 PM*

*Comment...of course they are content...they are only in school for a little over 2 hrs*

*caroline 09:25 PM*

*Would 138 answers be equivalent to about one grade in the high school?*

*From Shannon Casey to All panelists: (9:27 PM)*

*I would like to make a comment to the fact that the survey was asked to be filled out for each child in the household, and some families have upwards of 5 children that attend school. The first slide mentioned that multiple responses by the same household were thrown out - how did you go about deciding which survey you kept and which you didn't?*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (9:27 PM)*

*You choose to go to work! People have to work! You are making this choice for our children!*

*From Michele to All panelists: (9:28 PM)*

*Middle & high school kids do not generally take into account how missing instruction will impact their future.*

*Stephanie Barbour 09:29 PM*

*The virtual model seems to be the most pleased. Do you feel it's because of routine and structure day to day? There is no question of if their day will be disrupted. Wouldn't all virtual, for at least 9 weeks, really be a bad thing?*

*Stephanie Wetzel 09:30 PM*

*So what about the little ones that are struggling?? Did you survey 1 st graders???*

*Michael Hetcko 09:30 PM*

*On the student feedback, if you add both the full time 5 day and hybrid 4 day program, you see the largest percentage. For middle school it is 48.7%*

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*Stephanie Wetzel 09:31 PM*

*These little ones will suffer the most!!!!So highschool students get to pick my child's education????*

*From Mike to All panelists: (9:33 PM)*

*There are a lot of parents who do not feel their students are learning well. What is the commitment to learning? What is the administrations plan?? Is the Administration putting a plan together or just doing surveys and letting the board assemble the plan?*

*Rhodora 09:35 PM*

*What is the reasoning behind no virtual option when kids are home sick or home being tested? It seems that's baby step to helping people feel the board is listening and trying to help the kids education. Fine, for now we can't do 100% in school, but at least they don't also miss school on sick days.*

*Julie Brown 09:36 PM*

*Can you also include the missed enrichment opportunities? For students that need additional challenge*

*From Shannon Casey to All panelists: (9:38 PM)*

*Thank you!*

*From Chris Matthews to All panelists: (9:39 PM)*

*is*

*From Chris Matthews to All panelists: (9:40 PM)*

*is there a plan to bring back students with IEPs whose educational needs are not being met in the current hybrid model?*

*jess bonnet 09:39 PM*

*i agree with the way Beau just 'spun' the numbers. very well said.*

*Anonymous Attendee 09:40 PM*

*The students are absolutely NOT getting the education Avonworth is supposed to be providing.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (9:40 PM)*

*🌟🌟🌟🌟 Thank you for stepping up, Beau!*

*From maureen to All panelists: (9:40 PM)*

*we are drowning. I hear you saying that people are satisfied. we need to help everyone – especially students with iep.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (9:41 PM)*

*No! because they are 5-8 years old in the primary center*



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*From J Galbraith to All panelists: (9:41 PM)*

*I would like to know if you are considering children who want to be in school, but are at risk because of preexisting conditions ie asthmas, diabetes? Are they supposed to have to go virtual because our district chooses to disregard social distancing?*

*From Jaime Mary to All panelists: (9:41 PM)*

*I think it's unfair to base decisions on parent concerns, particularly when those parents likely don't have any medical background. Should we put our teachers in danger to make parents happy? we do all as parents have a choice to opt for virtual if uncomfortable, but do teachers have that same choice? is it fair to them or their families who may be in high risk categories?*

*From Mike to All panelists: (9:42 PM)*

*What are the GOALS of the school district? You can talk forever.. Who is going to lead to a plan?? Set your Goals, set a plan to achieve them, and then fight to follow the plan!! We all know the plan will not be perfect...it is a time for action!!*

*Anonymous Attendee 09:42 PM*

*Students can't be disconnected from teachers 3 days a week. Period.*

*Michael Hetcko 09:44 PM*

*Do you really consider delivery of a 5-15 minute special once weekly delivering a quality product? I can't find anyone running a business that would be satisfied with that productive from an employee.*

*Cory Bonnet 09:44 PM*

*Can we discuss the last topic?*

*mannion 09:48 PM*

*Bravo Mr. Blaser! Thank you for speaking up about the parents/taxpayers concerns. If there is an option to choose virtual vs hybrid, why not the 4 or 5-day in-person option? If the surveys are accurate, it would appear there could still be social distancing. Something that resonated with me last week is that schools 1st mission is safety, I think the safety of my kids is MY responsibility and the mission of the school should be EDUCATION, which is clearly lacking. Im ill, cant wait for comment*

*Anonymous Attendee 09:49 PM*

*I'm confused My children have had no changes from the start of the year to now. What have they changed?*

*From jodie bonidie to All panelists: (9:51 PM)*

*Thank you, Vicki.*

*From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (9:53 PM)*

*Has Avonworth purchased any cameras to do the synchronous learning?*

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*From Amy Kaminski to All panelists: (9:55 PM)*

*You're overlooking how toggling between programs and apps and worksheets and pinning a speaker and finding the presentation screen and worrying about mute is very difficult for a primary student. That perspective is being lost in this discussion.*

*Charlie Vaughan 09:55 PM*

*This is not a question but more of an observation about concerns for synchronous learning and how to coordinate and best structure this- the Virtual Academy instructors would be an amazing resource for this as they have been working through this for the last 9 weeks.*

*Stacy Faulkner 09:56 PM*

*Can teachers be required to teach live a certain number of days? This will provide structure everyone is looking for.*

*Michael Hetcko 09:57 PM*

*Exactly John... you cannot have a kid stay home for sniffles if the delivery is not fully synchronous. You can't have "check-in" days for students and keep everyone moving at the same schedule*

*Anonymous Attendee 09:59 PM*

*Too much of the discussion is about middle school and high school. Can you please address K-6? The parent survey was considered alongside results from 3rd graders?!?! Is this Board serious?*

*From Erin Bellinger to All panelists: (10:01 PM)*

*Please don't forget teachers need planning time to plan, collaborate, learn platforms, all while keeping pacing, making sure the March-June gaps are filled, and have their own children.*

*Suzanne Basista 10:01 PM*

*(For when you discuss K-6) --> The consensus seems to be that we'll be continuing hybrid. Can you help us understand next steps to strengthening the hybrid model and addressing any gaps? The opportunity areas for K-6 seem to be around specials, social studies and science, whether in volume and/or quality. Thanks in advance!*

*From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (10:02 PM)*

*ALL of your planning time has gone into planning Virtual Academy!! WHY does it have to be separate silos?!?! These kids need a better education!! This needs to be figured out NOW. I understand a discussion but there are no decisions being made*

*Tim Stroyne 10:07 PM*

*Regarding K-6, Is there any possibility that they could do a few hybrid classrooms, a couple full day, and also the virtual academy so that all families can get what they think is best for their children?*

*On the point that teachers should decide when to go back- I don't want to be callous, but do other essential workers get to choose when and how they do their jobs and how many people they come into contact with??*

*-Kristina Stroyne*

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*Anonymous Attendee 10:07 PM*

*You mention that some classes/teachers have cameras already. Will there be a consistent way for ALL teachers in the MS/HS to provide synchronous instruction should the district go this route. Or will they be using their computer camera to provide this. Along with this, will we be looking into wireless microphones for teachers to be easily heard by kids logging in from home.*

*From Dave to All panelists: (10:13 PM)*

*I agree that we need to listen to experts of course. But I also think we have to remember in this roller coaster environment of Covid that we have been at this juncture in August where Dr. Levine recommended that all sports be postponed until January and I think we have successfully managed our sports programs this Fall. Thankfully the PIAA and our administration moved forward and our children have benefitted from listening to experts while balancing the needs of our children and the importance of their education and extracurricular activities. Please keep this in mind as we make important decisions involving our children's educations. I'm not suggesting we don't listen to experts -- please know that -- but if we keep our children's best interests and well being in mind always we will make the best decisions for them in these crazy times. Not ignoring science but using common sense too and never forgetting their education is so important.*

*Anonymous Attendee 10:15 PM*

*Is it possible to offer full time instruction to the families who want it and also keep the hybrid and virtual options?*

*Cory Bonnet 10:26 PM*

*If you add social studies and science- won't that take away from math ELA? Math and ELA had the highest satisfaction rate - still only in the 60% range.*

*From jess bonnet to All panelists: (10:27 PM)*

*Thanks for the ideas for more science in K-6, Dr. Hadley. Great suggestion.*

*From Cory Bonnet to All panelists: (10:28 PM)*

*Cory Bonnet (You): If you add social studies and science- won't that take away from math ELA? Math and ELA had the highest satisfaction rate - still only in the 60% range.*

*diapaolac rc 10:28 PM*

*If long term subs were to provide synchronous science and social studies instruction who would be in charge of grading and assessments? Long term sub or grade level teacher? How would the LTS manage the science and social studies instruction when they're assigned to a classroom because of an ill staff member?*

*From Shannon Casey to All panelists: (10:29 PM)*

*as kthompson just mentioned - would it be possible to make a full trade to day/afternoon each quarter? IF we are stuck in the hybrid model - this would allow each set of families to identify with what other families are dealing with.*

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*From Cory Bonnet to All panelists: (10:30 PM)*

*why don't the board members watch the specials? see what they are like.*

*From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (10:35 PM)*

*end of 1st 9 weeks is Wed. What changes are being made?*

*From Cory Bonnet to All panelists: (10:36 PM)*

*how is this conversation just happening in November?*

*From Christian Calabro to All panelists: (10:37 PM)*

*are encouraged for more synchronized learning. But STEM focus is extremely important! It would be nice to push the specials to the later time frame (2:15 pm), and have more science/ social studies in the 130 pm time frame, also some optional additional videos, apps or content would be highly desirable. Even if some of the extra content falls on the parents to proceed with.*

*From Suzanne Basista to All panelists: (10:37 PM)*

*Based on all of the work it sounds like you are doing behind the scenes ("...Dr. Hadley is working with the principals on XYZ...") --> I feel it would behoove you to share that out as an example of your email communications. That would underscore to parents that actions are being taken on parents' suggestions and that you're working to make constant improvement. It's helpful to understand those measures you're taking.*

*Kristen Hubbell 10:37 PM*

*Does anyone realize that these young kids kindergarten - 2nd can't be expected to sit engaged on an iPad and follow instructions? I have to sit with my daughter to ensure she doing what she needs to. I can't devote my afternoon to sitting with her. How do you expect us to do more with science and social studies? These young kids need brick mortar.*

*Hannah Valeriano 10:46 PM*

*End of 1st 9 weeks is Wed. What changes are being made and when can we start to see more synchronous learning? Are there changes being made? Will nothing be done until after next weeks board meeting?*

*From kevingollings to All panelists: (10:52 PM)*

*Hi - I spoke on the Secondary campus schedule under Kevin Gollings' account. My name is Shae O'Connor, if you need it for the minutes. Thank you!*

*From Patrick Stewart to kevingollings, All panelists: (10:59 PM)*

*Thank you*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (11:00 PM)*



*From jess bonnet to All panelists: (11:04 PM)*

*The communications from the teachers is quite good and I do think this has been going quite well. Perhaps it depends on the teacher.*

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*From Chris Matthews to All panelists: (11:04 PM)*

*Seneca Valley is only 20% virtual, to correct the previously stated 40%.*

*From Christian Calabro to All panelists: (11:07 PM)*

*We do we any of our daughters work in Seesaw since the change to utilize Google classroom. It would also be nice to have a quick guide for Google classroom and related tools.*

*From Amy Kaminski to All panelists: (11:07 PM)*

*Parents need more resources - I need more spelling word activities for my second grader. I need a different math sheet for each lesson that reinforces what was taught that day. I need more sight word activities for my kindergartner. I need more than one seesaw activity per day. I need my kindergartner - who can't read - to know how to navigate seesaw folders. We need more core instruction.*

*From Bill Battistone to All panelists: (11:09 PM)*

*I just want to thank all of you for your work and continued support of the Elementary School.*

*From Amy Kaminski to All panelists: (11:11 PM)*

*Will do - thank you.*

*From Chris Matthews to All panelists: (11:16 PM)*

*I'd like to volunteer to work on this group. I'm a healthcare provider whose married to a middle school teacher and the mother of a child with special needs.*

*From Cory Bonnet to All panelists: (11:19 PM)*

*every industry and individual is meeting budget shortfalls- that is why the school is seeing less. Is the board prepared for budget shortfalls if parents move students to PACyber?*

*From Mike to All panelists: (11:21 PM)*

*Current Hybrid format is not a good option.*

*From Mike to All panelists: (11:22 PM)*

*Hybird with synchronous instruction is the only real Hybrid option that is worthwhile.*

*From Carrie Jane to All panelists: (11:24 PM)*

*if you are going to change teachers, can it be after Christmas break to lessen the heartbreak. My child is still mourning not saying by to her teacher from last year.*

*From Michele to All panelists: (11:25 PM)*

*Well said. Thank you, Mr. Stewart.*

*Michael Hetcko 11:08 PM*

*Alma has a great to do list - unfortunately, only the 9th grade French teacher loads assignments in advance. I'd also like to know why we use Echo in 7th and 8th grade. Compared to Alma it is a terrible application and confusing.*

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*Kristina Stroyne 11:13 PM*

*The board needs to listen to what the community wants, not rely on their own opinions and feelings.*

*Kristina Stroyne 11:16 PM*

*This needs to be done ASAP, not in another 9 weeks. You've had 9 months already to figure this out.*

*Cory Bonnet 11:21 PM*

*Is the board prepared for budget shortfalls if parents move students to PACyber?*

*jess bonnet 11:26 PM*

*Why wouldn't we start from a place of the 'art of the possible' and work backwards from there with constraints such as budget, space, etc.*

*From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (11:43 PM)*

*100% accurate!*

*From Carrie Jane to All panelists: (11:46 PM)*

*thank you all*

*From Jared to All panelists: (11:55 PM)*

*those agendas would be greatly appreciated for both meetings?*

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** S. Bolain; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting at 12:07 A.M. to an Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary