

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – October 5, 2020
Avonworth School District – LGI Room & Virtually
7:30 P.M.

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

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

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

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Ms. Danielle White

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. Megan Thompson, Parent
Ms. Emily Zupancic, Parent
Mr. Joseph Bandi, Teacher Candidate
Ms. Beth Hendrickson, Parent
Ms. Lynn Hartle, Parent
Ms. Jill Adkins, Parent
Ms. Tammy Bellotti, Parent
Ms. Julie Navilliat, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Barricella, Parent
Ms. Melissa (Vietmeier) Wiggins, Parent
Ms. Laureen Morgan-Douds, Parent
Ms. Kelly Kujawinski, Parent
Mr. Chad Wright, Parent
Ms. Sherry Knable, Parent
Ms. Jodi Walsh, Parent
Ms. Morgan Carpenter-Panuski
Ms. Jolanta Doherty, Parent
Ms. Jill Slipski, Parent
Ms. Alaina Schrader, School Counselor
Ms. Mary Ellen Noel, School Bus Driver
Ms. Nancy Purcell, Parent
Ms. Lisa Kolenda, Parent
Ms. Kim Kennis, Parent
Ms. Karen Russell, Teacher
Mr. Jeff Witkowski, Parent
Ms. Laura Ludwig, Parent
Ms. Christine Hartmann, Teacher
Ms. Janae McAfee, Parent
Ms. Michelle Devine, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Fresh, Parent

Ms. Valery Ciarimboli, Parent
Ms. Briana Watts, Parent
Mr. James Hendrickson, Parent
Ms. Jenn Yoder, Parent
Ms. Merett Southall, Parent
Ms. Maritza Rivera-Herleman, Parent
Mr. Mat Calland, Parent
Ms. Stacy Faulkner, Parent
Ms. Jessica Edmiston, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Kosarych, Parent
Ms. Megan Dolan, Parent
Ms. Jessica Wright, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Wright, Parent
Ms. Julie Mannion, Parent
Ms. Nora Silvey, Parent
Ms. Ann Marie Harvey, Parent
Ms. Erin Bellinger, Parent
Ms. Meghan Amayo, Parent
Ms. Danielle Strobel, Parent
Mr. Mike Hebor, Parent
Dr. Scott Miller, Primary Center Principal
Ms. Nicole Acierno, Parent
Mr. Jim Summerville, PA School Board Assn.
Ms. Danica Raich, Student
Ms. Becky Mercatoris, Parent
Ms. Melissa DeSimone, Teacher
Ms. Kathy Galecki, Teacher
Ms. Susan Schulz, Grandparent
Ms. Krystyn Birt, Parent
Ms. Teresa Dailey, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Jessica Greathouse, Parent
Ms. Michele Kremer, Parent
Ms. Jane Ross-Tomko, Parent
Ms. Jennie Liska, Parent
Ms. Audra Blackson, Parent
Ms. Chrystie Grant, Parent
Ms. Cat Coast, Parent
Ms. Lea Ann Lope, Parent
Mr. Tony Trovato, Parent
Ms. Amanda Grady, Parent
Ms. Debra Bacon, Parent
Ms. Patricia Veleke, Parent
Mr. Brian Fashion, Parent
Ms. Melinda Petrina, Parent
Ms. Sonia Ewell, Teacher
Ms. Elizabeth Pflueger, Parent
Ms. Anne Blaser, Parent
Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent
Mr. Jason Smith Teacher
Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent
Ms. Maureen O'Dell, Parent
Ms. Carly Molchen, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Barbour, Parent
Ms. Lindsay Cimballa, Parent
Ms. Amber Graves, Parent
Ms. Amanda Berneburg, Parent
Ms. Jenna Paulat, Parent
Ms. Jaime Mary, Parent
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent
Ms. Kristin Hubbell, Parent
Ms. Valerie Clarke, Parent
Ms. Maureen O'Connor, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Lindell, Parent
Ms. Marlena Stevens, Parent
Ms. Tracy Graff, School Secretary
Mr. Dave Czuwara, Parent
Ms. Carrie Brady, Parent
Ms. Gail Lipchak, Teacher
Ms. Susan Geist, Parent
Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent
Ms. Beth Schuster, Parent
Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, MS/HS Asst. Principal
Ms. Nicole Ehrmann, Parent
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Paraprofessional/Parent
Ms. Hope Lucas, Parent
Ms. Sara Osborn, Parent
Mr. Chris Foreman, Parent
Ms. Pam North, Parent
Ms. Joyce Raymond, Parent
Ms. Nicole Smith, Parent
Ms. Lisa Samarin, Parent
Mr. Al Scheuring, Parent
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent
Mr. Dave Farrah, Parent
Mr. Bill White, Teacher
Mr. Joshua Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Holly Pukylo, Parent
Ms. Rebecca Bechtold, Parent
Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Carrie Johnston, Parent
Ms. Lisa Cole, Parent
Ms. Lisa Vermillion, Parent
Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse
Ms. Lindsay Wolff, Parent
Dr. William Battistone, Elementary School Principal
Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent
Ms. Olena Thomas, Parent
Ms. Monica O'Neil, Parent
Ms. Beth Roberts, Parent
Ms. Courtney Kuzma, Parent
Ms. Melissa Orehowsky, Parent
Ms. Christine Matthews, Parent
Ms. Emily Heller, Parent
Ms. Becky Marszalek, Paraprofessional/AESPA President
Ms. Sarah Chverchko, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Wetzal, Parent
Ms. Alicia Mielnicki, Parent
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent
Mr. Robb Pfeil, Parent
Ms. Amy Maddalena, Parent
Ms. Marijane Antkiewicz, Parent
Ms. Jenny Anderson, Parent
Ms. Rachael MacKenzie, Parent
Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Ms. Anna Marie White, Parent
Ms. Siobahn Gallagher, Parent
Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent
Ms. Astral Camruzzi, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Machen, Paraprofessional/Parent
Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent
Ms. Sandra Azen, Parent
Ms. Sherah Rothman, Teacher
Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent
Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher
Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Jeannette Davis, Parent	Ms. Christine Hebor, Parent
Ms. Mala Mason, Parent	Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher/AEA President
Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent	Ms. Gail Love, Substitute School Nurse
Ms. Melanie Quinn, Parent	Ms. Kristina Stroyne, Parent
Mr. Ronald Antkiewicz, Parent	Ms. Carrie Velisaris, Paraprofessional/Parent
Ms. Courtnie DiPaola, Parent	Ms. Megan Pastore, Parent
Ms. Keera Dwulit, HS Principal	Mr. Mike Hall, MS Principal
Ms. Melissa Costantino, Teacher	Ms. Pam Homol, Parent
Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent	Ms. Andrea Jacobs, Parent
Ms. Erica Tipton, Parent	Ms. Nicole Hahna, Parent
Ms. Nancy Whyte, <i>The Citizen</i>	

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:44 P.M.

It was decided that Dr. Ralston would share an update on the implementation of the District's school reopening instructional models and discuss possibilities for the next phase of the 2020-2021 instructional plan, including options to increase the amount of live or synchronous instruction to further support the teaching at the middle and high schools and then open the meeting for public comments and discussion.

Dr. Ralston reported the Avonworth Virtual Academy is working well. A survey was sent out the third week of school. We received over 900 responses with 76.4-92.2% satisfied/extremely satisfied responses to the question of how satisfied parents were with the start of school. Our ideal is to get back to full in-person instruction in a safe manner and that makes sense. Dr. Ralston asked the Board to consider phasing in high school students four days per week (Mon./Tues. and Thurs./Fri.) with Wednesdays kept for virtual support, and maintain the virtual academy. He recommended not making changes until November 4 when the first nine weeks ends. We need to consider transportation, staffing, scheduling, and Food Service. We will continue communicating with district families. Dr. Ralston mentioned the mainlinemama.com website where parents can access COVID-19 information within an individual school district. Challenges of re-opening include physical distancing, transportation (number of bus drivers), Food Service, and scheduling. We will not know the next steps for the Virtual Academy until we know how many students plan to commit to virtual learning or return to school. Mr. Brandt asked if the modification to the hybrid model on the secondary campus would be immediate. Dr. Ralston said the teachers' office hours have already been extended, they are using Google Meet. Mr. Brandt has heard that families feel their students do not have enough work while Mrs. Carlson has heard from families who feel their children are not getting enough face-to-face instruction and are overloaded with having to research and teach themselves. Dr. Ralston said he would like to start back slowly. Dr. Hadley reiterated that Wednesdays are not a "free day." Students still have assignments. We need to think how a five day school week will affect the Avonworth Virtual Academy. Mrs. Thompson likes the phase-in model. Feels based on the material that was given in the presentation, we are back up in cases. She asked how many Virtual Academy Academy students are needed in order to keep it running. Dr. Ralston recommends we continue with the Virtual Academy this year until we feel it is safe. Mrs. Cheng feels safety is a concern and we need to ensure social distancing. Dr. Ralston said students will continue to be reminded to wash their hands and physical distance.

Mrs. White asked what asynchronous instruction looks like. Dr. Ralston said we use a variety of different tools and applications. Dr. Hadley said last spring some of our teachers had been previously trained to deliver instruction online. Eric Sheninger provided professional development for teachers to use these tools in their classrooms. Teachers were encouraged to make videos of instruction. Mrs. Carlson asked if each teacher reports to their principal what they are doing so the administrators can measure. Dr. Ralston said some tools fit some subjects better than others. One of our IT members has online experience and has been working with our teachers.

Visitors' Comments

Mr. Blaser opened the meeting for on-line Chat questions:

Mr. Stewart said a virtual visitor asked when the next survey would be sent out. Dr. Ralston said it would be sent out early next week. Mr. Stewart said several virtual visitors indicated dissatisfaction with the Wednesday instruction. Another had heard the Primary Center would not return to school until the third nine weeks. Dr. Ralston said things may potentially change at the nine weeks for all of our schools. Mr. Stewart said a virtual visitor asked when we would start planning for return and they feel we cannot wait until the nine week mark. Dr. Ralston said we are already planning. A virtual visitor asked if we do return in-person for five days would families still opt into the virtual academy at nine weeks? Dr. Ralston said "Yes." Mr. Stewart said virtual visitors were asking if he'd address the due times for assignments. They feel the due times of 10pm and midnight encourages an unhealthy routine. Dr. Ralston will address this with Mrs. Dwulit. Virtual visitors asked if classrooms were equipped with cameras for asynchronous learning. Dr. Ralston said Chromebooks and Google Meet are used and are working well. A virtual visitor asked any we started with a hybrid model. Dr. Ralston said during the summer we had done a survey. We did not know what to fully expect or what would happen when students returned to school. We thought we would take a modest approach. Mrs. Carlson likes us looking at the numbers specific to our school district. Mr. Stewart said several virtual visitors asked that we stop the multiple models and just do full virtual learning. Dr. Ralston said a decision will be made with the greatest sincerity. A virtual visitor asked if we change the high school schedule and not the middle school schedule that would impact childcare at home. Dr. Ralston said we take that into consideration. A virtual visitor asked if we had looked at using other places in the community for instructional places. Dr. Ralston confirmed that we did. A virtual visitor asked if kids get help with their school work if they have to be quarantined. Dr. Ralston said they would be helped.

Dr. Ralston said answers to the remaining chat session questions will be answered and posted on our website and he is available for phone calls or emails. He also said we will work hard to have a plan for next week's Board meeting. If not, we will schedule another Board meeting.

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.

Unknown Guest

If we ended up not recommending moving to the next phase at the end of this nine weeks would we then hold off until the next nine weeks?

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From Monica to All panelists: (9:00 PM)

Is recess being considered for students at the APC/AES? My children many days do not have a break from sitting at their desk for the full time they are at school.

From Krystyn Birt to All panelists: (9:00 PM)

Sports have successfully resumed for months full time, our kids have been in close proximity, but schools have yet to resume in full person....is there a possibility that we create a solution for kids to successfully go back?

From Michael Hebor to All panelists: (9:01 PM)

Have other community facilities been considered as instructional spaces so we can go back to 5 day instruction? Can you release the studies on the capacities of our schools that have been done?

From Caroline to All panelists: (9:01 PM)

I'm concerned about my student being adequately prepared to take an AP exam using the hybrid model. How are we monitoring the content being covered?

From Alaina Schrader to All panelists: (9:02 PM)

Another thing to consider would be that while looking at Avonworth data is most appropriate, we do have many students who live part or half time with parents (divorced/not together) who live in other areas as well.

From Amanda Berneburg to All panelists: (9:03 PM)

I've commented at other meetings, but it bears repeating: it's obvious how thoughtful and considerate our administration/board has been with making these difficult choices. In addition to the every day jobs, our teachers and administrators have been doing an amazing job. thank you. -Amanda Berneburg

From Stacy Faulkner to All panelists: (9:03 PM)

what is the reasoning for not sending all levels back at the same time?

From Danielle Strobel to All panelists: (9:04 PM)

Are your numbers from mainline mama adjusted for zip codes that overlap with with other school district? It seems as though the numbers would be inflated and would not be representative of Avonworth, if the zip code spans several school districts. I cannot access the school district dashboard now, but I know in the past the fine print listed that her data files are by zip code, rather than actual school district boundary lines.

From nicole.hahna@sru.edu to All panelists: (9:04 PM)

The district is doing an amazing job! Thank you for making data-driven decisions to balance the health & safety of faculty, staff, & students as well as focusing on how to best support students' learning.

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From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (9:05 PM)

Has “broadcasting” the normal school day been considered so that both hybrid and virtual students can participate daily. This seems to increase content as well as lessen work on teachers. In other words, the hybrid students would keep their same schedule but all classes (or most) would be broadcasted.

From Michael Hebor to All panelists: (9:06 PM)

The frustration is because the community does not see a plan going forward to a better situation...and the district keeps focusing on the past.

From Maureen OConnor to All panelists: (9:06 PM)

mental health is very important - could you please address? these kids are at real risk

From CHebor to All panelists: (9:06 PM)

There are churches that would offer up space in the area (Baptist church, Christ Church), you have to be open minded to different ideas to get back to face to face.

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (9:06 PM)

This question is for AHS & AMS and the issue with lack of work.

From Rachael MacKenzie to All panelists: (9:06 PM)

I appreciate the care and caution you are taking in making these decisions. There are parents in the community who still take this virus very seriously and we are happy to hear you are not rushing into anything. Thank you!

From Hannah Valeriano to All panelists: (9:07 PM)

when will the survey come out?

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

When will that plan be ready?

From Ronald Antkiewicz to All panelists: (9:08 PM)

with a lesser degree of live instruction and increased asynchronous self non-guided assignments, are there changes in the grading system? Clearly many students may fall behind with less live instruction.

From Anna Marie White to All panelists: (9:09 PM)

Thank you for all you do! Happy to discuss with anyone from my background as a primary care physician. Thanks again!

From Ronald Antkiewicz to All panelists: (9:11 PM)

My above question was in regards to the AHS Hybrid model.

From Vicki Carlson to All panelists: (9:11 PM)

Welcome to Avonworth Mr. Bandi!!

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From Danielle White to All panelists: (9:13 PM)

Congrats Beau and Vicki!

From Melissa to All panelists: (9:17 PM)

PSAT was on a wednesday. It was moved to Saturday to cut down on number of people in building.

From Carol Loutzenhiser to All panelists: (9:23 PM)

what was the answer regarding the athletic coaches. I couldn't hear

From Keera Dwulit to All panelists: (9:25 PM)

Thank you!

From CHebor to All panelists: (9:38 PM)

If we have sports like we do, we should have 5 day in person learning.

From nicole.hahna@sru.edu to All panelists: (9:40 PM)

Yes—context & confounding variables are important. Safety is the most important.

From CHebor to All panelists: (9:43 PM)

You need to let us know what criteria ("the numbers" you refer to) you are using to make the decision to go to 5 day face to face learning. So you need to consider the parents more in these decisions.

From CHebor to All panelists: (9:56 PM)

But there are still restrictions in the outdoor sports too.

melissa 08:13 PM

There is little to no structure with in the hybrid model at this time. I can speak for my son, while he continues to be successful in his academic career, he struggles with stress and time managment. He is in all ap or honors classes and works 7days a week on his class work. I would like to know what is being implemented to help support students struggling with this? Any suggestions to help these students feel more self empowered? To help build upon their self efficacy?

Julie Kolenda 08:37 PM

I am concerned that with this current model there is limited teaching/lectures but plenty of busywork and assignments that don't really ensure that learning is taking place.

Caroline 08:40 PM

I would like to comment that there are assignments for the Wednesday virtual days for hybrid students but they are no where equivalent to what a day in school would be like. There is no instruction/discussion/q&a etc. Also, this varies with course/teacher etc.

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tony trovato 08:42 PM

What date were these surveys conducted? So why did schools like, Montour, WA, Eden Christian, Shadyside Academy, and Central Catholic start back to full-day, 5-day instruction, using the SAME DATA.

tony trovato 08:46 PM

As a former teacher, how can you ensure that our children are getting 180 days of curriculum with only 2 days a week, face-to-face, instruction. There is NO WAY. Put our children first!

tony trovato 08:48 PM

Do you have vertical teams to ensure curriculum mapping?

ttro 08:52 PM

So why did other schools in Allegheny county START the school year with 5-day in-person learning?

Lindsay Wolff 08:52 PM

You said 'if the data supports' returning to school... what data & what are the benchmarks you will use to support that decision?

Caroline 08:54 PM

My student is in group A and had the same work over the course of a week as those in Group B. This doesn't seem to be like multiple lessons being taught or planned for during the week. These are groups A/B in hybrid model.

tony trovato 08:55 PM

So, stop "multiple models" and just do full-day OR virtual. EASY

Stephanie 08:56 PM

Thank you all for your service.

Unknown Guest

What would be the threshold or key data data indicator that would prevent our kids to return full time?

Anonymous Attendee 08:56 PM

Our district has school issued laptops, yet you're not using the technology! So DO synchronous!

Anonymous Attendee 09:00 PM

Avonwoth school district only have 82 cases since March

Anonymous Attendee 09:00 PM

No Deaths

Jenn 09:00 PM

A major challenge I see based on my HS boys experience, is how one can fairly assess a student's ability as there is no substitute or comparison to in-person instruction. Is it fair for a student to be failed in a class, or grossly fall behind, due to equity issues of (parents) time to assist? Some digital assignments are extremely clear and others are not. Furthermore, some teachers are extremely responsive and others don't respond for days. In an environment where it can be 3+ days before a student has an opportunity to physically speak to a teacher for assignment clarification, you can understand why many students are struggling. I don't believe the burden of being part-time educators should fall on the parents, not should the student be penalized for unclear instruction or too heavy of a course load. I support students going back to school full time and (or) re-evaluate how students are graded and assessed.

Anne 09:01 PM

If the classrooms in the HS are equipped with webcams to use synchronous learning, why aren't we using them? The kids are getting stressed out trying to teach themselves.

Anonymous Attendee 09:01 PM

That's why it's the parent's choice: Virtual or Full Day

Anonymous Attendee 09:02 PM

It seems like Avonworth is the only school doing asynchronous learning through the hybrid model. No wonder teachers need 16 hours a week to prep... so inefficient. Why not do synchronous learning and teachers don't need to repeat themselves? Make everyone be on the same page.

Anonymous Attendee 09:02 PM

Avonworth: 82 cases No deaths, since March

ttro 09:05 PM

So why and how are other districts handling the logistics of going full-time? Is Avonworth incompetent?

Anonymous Attendee 09:06 PM

I appreciate your concern for social distancing, masking, etc. But, the reality is that the second kids are off the bus each day they are playing together in the yard, going to sporting practices, etc. In fact, there is a group of high school boys that go golfing together every Wednesday because there is no learning on that day.

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.

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

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1 and 2:

1. To approve **Mr. Joseph Bandi** as a Professional Employee with an assignment as a Music Teacher pending release from current district, at Category B, Step 4, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *Teacher Hire*

2. To approve **Mr. Will Guess** as mentor for **Mr. Joseph Bandi**, Music Teacher, for the 2020-2021 School Year, with a stipend per the current AEA contract. *Mentor*

Dr. Ralston introduced Mr. Bandi and welcomed him to our District.

Dr. Ralston recognized Mr. Beau Blaser and Mrs. Vicki Carlson for their eight years of service on the School Board and presented them with an Honor Roll certificate from the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

The following items were discussed for placement on the agenda of the Regular Meeting to be held Monday, October 12, 2020:

Approval of the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

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

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for September, 2020, beginning with Check #49524 and ending with Check #49697 and Check #50600 and ending with Check #50641 in the total amount of \$522,522.38.
- 1.2 Ratify the September, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,170,587.64)
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for August, 2020.
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for September, 2020, beginning with Check #2754 and ending with Check #2761 in the total amount of \$11,007.66.
- 1.5 Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for September, 2020, beginning with Check #9096 and ending with Check #9135 in the total amount of \$3,280.00.
- 1.6 To approve capital project payments of \$22,626.00.

2. To retroactively approve _____ to write an AIU OnRamp (Foundation) Grant in the amount of \$2,500 and to approve _____ receive a stipend in the amount of \$75 for writing the grant.

Finance, continued

3. To approve payment of \$75 each for four PSAT proctors (teachers and paraprofessionals) for supervision of the exam on Saturday, October 17, 2020.

Mrs. Carlson asked why the PSAT was being held on a Saturday. Mrs. Dwulit said the PSAT week is predetermined. It was planned for a Wednesday but since there are no students in the building on Wednesdays and that Monday is a day off, the only remaining option was on a Saturday.

4. To approve the following EITC Letters of Support to accompany their application for inclusion for educational improvement organizations to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development.
 - A. Junior Achievement of Western PA
 - B. Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh (two letters)
 - C. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
 - D. Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium

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

1. To amend the motion of September 14, 2020 and approve the request of **Ms. Bernice Arienzo**, Food Service Worker, for an unpaid leave from September 28, 2020 through October 23, 2020.
2. The request of _____, Paraprofessional, for intermittent FMLA for up to twelve weeks beginning September 16, 2020.
3. To approve the transfer of 42 sick days for _____ which were accumulated during her employment with the Quaker Valley School District.
4. To approve the transfer of 25 sick days for _____ which were accumulated during her employment with the Pittsburgh Public School District.

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

1. To accept the resignation of _____ as Assistant Varsity Track Coach effective September 24, 2020.
2. To amend the motion of May 13, 2019 and approve _____ as Co-sponsor of the Avonworth Eats Club (Provisional Club) for Grades 7, 8, and 9 beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year, with a stipend according to Policy 122.4.

Athletics & Activities, continued

3. The Administration recommends approval of the following supplemental sponsors 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 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. To approve _____ as sponsor of the Middle School Yearbook for the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - B. To approve _____ as sponsor of Personal Pathway: Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship for the 2020-2021 School Year, effective September 28, 2020.
 - C. To change the status of _____ as Sponsor of the Pittsburgh Galleries Club to Co-Sponsor effective September 28, 2020.
 - D. To approve _____ as Co-sponsor of the Pittsburgh Galleries Club effective September 28, 2020.
 - E. To approve _____, _____, and _____ as shared sponsors of the Social Justice Club for the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - F. To approve _____ and _____ as Co-sponsors of the Avonworth Eats Club (provisional) for the 2020-2021 School Year.

4. To remove the provisionary status of the YoungLife Club and approve it as an Avonworth Co-curricular club/organization commencing with the 2020-2021 School Year. The sponsor for this club is Mr. Blake Hoskins with a stipend paid by YoungLife.

5. The Administration recommends approval of the following Winter 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 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. Boys' Varsity Basketball Head Coach – _____
 - B. Boys' Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach – _____
 - C. Boys' 9th Grade Head Basketball Coach - _____
 - D. Boys' 9th Grade Assistant Basketball Coach - _____
 - E. Boys' 8th grade Basketball Coach – _____
 - F. Boys' 7th grade Basketball Coach – _____
 - G. Boys' Varsity Wrestling Head Coach – _____
 - H. Boys' Varsity Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – _____
 - I. Boys' Varsity Weightlifting Head Coach (Shared) – _____
 - J. Bocce Coach – _____
 - K. Volunteer Bocce Coach – _____
 - L. Girls' Head Basketball Coach - _____
 - M. Girls' Shared Assistant Basketball Coach - _____
 - N. Girls' Shared Assistant Basketball Coach - _____

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – P. Stewart/S. Bolain – Co-Chairs

1. To enter into an agreement with Gateway Engineers at a cost not to exceed \$41,500.00 (approximately 4% of cost estimate) to develop documents to construct a parking lot on the high school expansion property.

POLICY – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the recommended changes to the Graduation Requirements as attached.

Old Business

Ms. Cheng asked for an update on the Facilities Master Plan. Dr. Ralston said they've had an SDAT meeting after the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. The next meeting, which will be the last, is scheduled for this Thursday. Dr. Ralston will meet with Matt Hansen for a draft of the plan. Ms. Cheng suggested putting in what assumptions they made and the recommendations they're making.

Mr. Waters noted that the payment app #3 is on for next week – it is 90% complete. The only remaining item is putting the front of the old bleachers on. TPK, the subcontractor, has recommended replacing the old fencing and gate be replaced. The \$15,000 for this would come out of the maintenance budget.

Mr. Blaser introduced Mr. Jim Summerville of the PA School Board Association. Mr. Summerville congratulated Mr. Blaser and Mrs. Carlson on their eight years of service.

Dr. Ralston asked Board members for their thoughts about re-opening. Mr. Brandt is very glad with the planning and decisions that we made. Wants to get back to as much face-to-face learning as possible as soon as possible. Ms. Cheng said the majority of schools have been remote. Asked what do we gain by coming back. There could be improvement on the secondary campus. Mrs. Thompson is proud of our District because staff and student safety have been the top priority. Her concern is that we pay attention if we are going back in the other direction. She is not sure that quickly coming back is the best thing. Dr. Ralston said even though we don't know what it will be like November 4, we still need to plan. Mrs. Carlson feels we have done a really good job with planning. It would be great if the plan can be done by the next meeting but if we need more time, that's okay, we can call a special meeting. She expressed her appreciation for our teachers. Mr. Stewart feels we did the right thing and the administration should continue to do what they feel is right. Mrs. Monti appreciates everything our staff has done and parents sharing the needs of their children. Mrs. Bolain said by the end of the week kids are frustrated. She is concerned about social distancing. Mrs. White said no two learners are alike and feels the options we have provided have been a wonderful thing. She feels we should try to accommodate as many learners as we can and plan ahead as best we can and stay as flexible as we can. Mr. Blaser prefers five days a week but realizes it creates other problems and concerns. Mrs. Thompson feels it is very important to have the virtual academy. Most sports have been outside and it is different having them inside.

New Business

Mrs. Cheng felt the recent Diversity meeting as fantastic and had wonderful breakout sessions.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting at 10:00 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss real estate matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary

Proposed Graduation Requirement Changes

<u>Proposed Graduation Requirements</u> <u>Content Area</u>	<u>Required</u> <u>Credits</u>	<u>Current Graduation Requirements</u> <u>Content Area</u>	<u>Required</u> <u>Credits</u>
English (one course/credit per year required)	4	English	4
Social Studies	3	Social Studies	4
Math	3	Math	3
Science	3	Science	3
Core Flex Credit (Student Choice: Social Studies, Math, or Science)	1		
Required Elective Courses (personal finance, art, technology, 9th gr seminar, computer science)	2.5	Required Elective Courses (personal finance, art, technology, 9th gr seminar)	2.0
Physical Education (adjustments will be made to include gr 10-12 required PE and health standards)	1.5	PE (2) Health (.5) (we are currently addressing health standards in gr 9 and not gr 10-12)	2.5
Elective Credits (student choice) *Students can select to utilize the self-direction option of an internship, work-study, and/or apprenticeship toward up to two elective credits.	7	Elective Credits (student choice)	7
Total Credits Required for Graduation	25		25.5

Note: PA School Code does not require a specific amount of credits or courses to be taken to meet graduation requirements in PA. PA Code 22 Chapter 4.24 outlines graduation requirements for PA as course completion and grades, completion of a culminating project, results of local assessments aligned with the academic standards, and demonstration of proficiency on required State assessments.

Continued Explanation/Timeline for Graduation Credit Requirement Changes

Change	Explanation	Implemented
Self-directed option available in place of up to 2 elective credits	Students will continue to be required to earn 7 elective credits. However, a student can select to utilize the self-direction option of an internship, work-study, and/or apprenticeship toward up to 2 elective credits.	2020-2021 School Year
Flex Core Credit	Students must continue to earn a total of 14 core content credits. These 14 credits must be accumulated by continuing to earn 4 credits of English. The student must earn a minimum of 3 credits of science, social studies, and math and will have a choice to earn the 14th credit in their choice of science, social studies, or math.	2021-2021 School Year
1.5 Physical Education/Health Credits Required	Students will be required to earn 1.5 Physical Education/Health credits to graduate. To ensure the required Health Standards are met, high school physical education courses will be rewritten to include the grade 10-12 required health standards.	2021-2022 School Year
.5 Credit of Computer Science Required (grade 9)	Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, all 9th-grade students will be required to take a computer science course. This .5 credit course will be required for graduation.	2021-2022 School Year
1 Credit Required to be a Blended Course	Beginning with the Class of 2025, students will be required to earn 1 credit by taking and passing a blended course. A blended course is a course that does not meet in-person 100% of the time. The course will meet both in-person and asynchronously. A blended course may be a core content course or elective.	Class of 2025
Replace Valedictorian/Salutatorian with additional recognitions for graduating seniors.	Beginning with the graduating class of 2025, valedictorian and salutatorian will be replaced with a new system of recognition for graduating seniors. The goal is to recognize more graduating seniors in more areas of excellence.	Class of 2025
Total Credits for Graduation = 25	The final total, minimum credits required to graduate will be 25.	Class of 2025