

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes - Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – September 3, 2019
Avonworth School District – Board Room
7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Ms. Kathryn Monti (*via phone, voice verified, and arrival at 8:25 PM*), Ms. Kristin Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Mr. Brayden Wisniewski, Student
Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen*
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

Call to Order

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

Visitors' Comments

Ms. Whyte asked if the District had plans for the property for which the District had recently approved a sales agreement and what that property and the secondary campus were zoned for. Dr. Ralston said steps need to be taken, such as soil sampling, before the closing date is set. He said the property was zoned residential and the secondary campus is zoned governmental.

Mr. Christopher Brewer of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP (bond counsel) discussed the Series 2014 Bond refinancing Resolution for approval at the September 9 meeting.

Mrs. Dwulit discussed the Senior Parking Spot Painting Project. Fifteen senior students have submitted their designs for approval. If Board approved, proposed painting dates are Sept. 16, 17, and 21.

Mr. Tony Misiti of PNC Capital Markets (underwriter) discussed the District's current and refinancing opportunities and reviewed the current bond market.

The Athletic Committee met this evening at 7:00 P.M. to discuss athletic matters.

Motion: K. Thompson; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2019 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting, the August 12, 2019 Regular Meeting, and the August 15, 2019 General Purpose Meeting. (Voice Vote)

Minutes

FINANCE – J. Carraway/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for August, 2019, beginning with Check # _____ and ending with Check # _____ in the total amount of \$ _____.
 - 1.2 Ratify the August, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$968,079.45.
 - 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for July, 2019.
 - 1.4 To approve year-end 2018-2019 Budget Transfers as attached.
2. To approve _____ and _____ to attend the Integrated Learning Conference: The School to Career Connection at the Penn Stater Wed., November 6 through Fri., November 8, 2019, at a cost not to exceed \$750.
 3. To approve _____ and _____ to attend the League of Innovative Schools Professional Development Conference October 15-18, 2019 in Washington D.C. at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. Digital Promise will reimburse the district a portion of the travel cost. Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley will also be staying in Washington D.C. October 19 and 20 to meet with Israeli teachers through the Classrooms Without Borders program.
 4. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** to attend the Superintendent’s Professional Development Program October 9-11, 2019 at the Oaklander Hotel in Oakland, PA, at no cost to the District.
 5. To approve _____ and _____ to attend the HundrED Conference in Helsinki, Finland, November 6-9, 2019, at a cost not to exceed \$ _____.
 6. To approve the Title I Non-Public Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for non-public services during the 2019-2020 School Year at a cost of \$1,701.00 (to be paid using allocated Title I funds). (*Annual contract for services of students who reside in our district but attend non-public schools.*)
 7. To approve the Title II Non-Public Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for non-public services during the 2019-2020 School Year at a cost of \$ _____ (to be paid using allocated Title II funds). (*Annual contract for services of students who reside in our district but attend non-public schools.*)
 8. To approve the Kennywood School Picnic Agreement for Saturday, May 9, 2020. (*Note two different ticket prices.*)
 9. To approve the following newspapers of record for the 2019-2020 School Year:

The Citizen	The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
The Pittsburgh Tribune Review	The New Pittsburgh Courier
 10. District petty cash funds for the 2019-2020 School Year as follows:

Business Office - \$200	Athletic Dept. - \$1,100 (<i>ticket booth operation</i>)
Food Service Dept. - \$500	Life Skills/Special Education - \$400
 11. To approve **Dr. Jay Micucci, DDS** continue as School Dentist for the 2019-2020 School Year at a rate of \$10.00 per student exam.

Finance, continued

- 12. To approve Resolution 090919 to authorize the refinancing of the Series 2014 bonds.
- 13. To accept the award of a Polar Cloud enabled 3D printer, filament, and online resources for the America Makes – G. E. Additive Education Program (Corporate) grant (worth \$2,500) and to approve a stipend for Mr. Bill White in the amount of \$75 for monitoring the grant and \$125 for receipt of the grant/printer.

PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/D. Oberdick, Co-Chairs

- 1. To accept the resignation of _____, Substitute Food Service Worker, retroactive to August 17, 2019.
- 2. To change the resignation date of **Ms. Amanda Clark**, Paraprofessional, from September 20, 2019 to August 21, 2019.
- 3. To move to record in the Minutes of this meeting that _____ has attained Professional Employee status and will be issued a Professional Employee contract as per PA School Code #1108 and #1121
- 4. To retroactively approve one professional learning day for _____, _____ and _____ for Life Skills training at the per diem rate less \$150 per teacher which is reimbursed to the District through the Life Skills grant.

Mr. Brandt asked that Item #4 be restated on the Regular Meeting Agenda to more clearly show the details.

- 5. To retroactively approve two professional learning days for the following teachers for Carnegie Learning Math training at the per diem rate:
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____
 - F. _____
 - G. _____
- 6. To renew the contract with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services for the 2019-2020 School Year to continue building staff capacity in dealing with student behavioral concerns.
- 7. To approve _____ as a substitute Paraprofessional and substitute Nurse at the daily rate established by the District, beginning September 10, 2019, pending requirements of the District.

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

1. To declare the following Family & Consumer Science items as obsolete and to donate or dispose of:
 - Electric skillets (legs broken)
 - Measuring cups (labels worn off; incomplete sets)
 - 9x13 metal cake pans (rust spots)
 - Grill pans (nonstick coating is peeling)
 - Skillets (nonstick coating is chipped and peeling)
 - Punch bowl
 - Various old, small pots with lids
2. To approve the Senior Parking Spot Painting Project for the 2019-2020 School Year as per the attached.
3. To approve the replacement and purchase of new scoreboards in the high school gymnasium from Institutional Specialties under the Costars contract at a cost not to exceed \$18,500.00. (Note: \$8,300 of the cost will be covered by AHN contribution.)

PUBLIC RELATIONS – K. Monti/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

1. **PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS – ELECTION OF OFFICERS** *(See web folder)*

For President-elect (One Year Term): Art Levinowitz, Upper Dublin SD (Montgomery Co.)

Motion to elect: _____ as President-elect of the PSBA Board
_____ **second**; Roll Call or Voice Vote

Declare _____ as the Avonworth School Board choice for President –elect of PSBA Board.

For Vice President (One Year Term): David Hein, Parkland SD (Lehigh Co.)

Motion to elect: _____ as Vice President of the PSBA Board
_____ **second**; Roll Call or Voice Vote

Declare _____ as the Avonworth School Board choice for Vice President of PSBA Board.

For Section 5 Advisor (Two Year Term): Marsha Pleta, Washington SD (Washington Co.)

Motion to elect: _____ as Section 5 Advisor of the PSBA Board
_____ **second**; Roll Call or Voice Vote

Declare _____ as the Avonworth School Board choice for Section 5 Advisor of the PSBA Board.

Public Relations, continued

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS – ELECTION OF PSBA INSURANCE TRUSTEES. There are currently two seats open and two candidates. A school entity may vote for up to two individuals.

Trustee (Term ends Dec. 31, 2022)

- Ms. Kathy K. Swope (Lewisburg SD)

Trustee (Term ends Dec. 31, 2022)

- Mr. Mark B. Miller (Centennial SD)

Motion to elect _____ and _____, as PSBA Insurance Trustees, _____
second; Roll Call or Voice Vote

Declare : _____ and _____, as the Avonworth School Board choices for PSBA Insurance Trustees.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARD SECRETARIES FORUM STEERING COMMITTEE. Term ends Dec. 31, 2021. Choose up to three incumbents for a two year term.

- Crystal Mance (Cheltenham Township SD)
- Jamie Lynn Zimerofsky (Schuylkill IU 29 & Schuylkill Technology Center)
- Bethanne Zeigler (Shikellamy SD)
- Jennifer Davidson (Manheim Township SD)

Motion to elect _____, _____, and _____, as PSBA Secretaries Forum Steering Committee, _____
second; Roll Call or Voice Vote

Declare: _____, _____, and _____, as the Avonworth School Board choices for PSBA Secretaries Forum Steering Committee.

(The Board Secretary will cast the PSBA online vote on behalf of the Avonworth School Board vote at the Regular Meeting.)

2. The bus schedules for the 2019-2020 School Year distributed by First Student, subject to change.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the Supplemental Sponsors for the 2019-2020 School Year as attached.
2. To approve _____ as a volunteer Assistant Middle School Football Coach beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year, pending requirements of the District.

POLICY – V. Carlson/K. Monti – Co-Chairs

1. To approve the eligible First Student bus operators and bus monitors who have qualified under the laws and regulations as required by PA State Regulations.
2. To change the name of the Girls on the Run club to “Running With the Lopes” club beginning with the 2019-2020 School Year.

Discussed creating a more inclusive running club and restructuring/writing our own values.

3. To approve the Avonworth School District Flexible Instructional Day program.

Dr. Ralston said he has received 700+ responses to the FID survey that was sent out. 90% of respondents were for the FID and 7% against, with the remaining 3% undecided. Dr. Ralston plans to do a screencast this week to address questions people have asked.

Old Business

*Dr. Hadley will discuss Honors Band/Chorus credit at Monday’s Curriculum Meeting.
Discussed creating an assistant Fall Play/Spring Musical position.*

New Business

Dr. Ralston discussed the opportunity for four high school teachers to attend a seminar in Israel in March, 2020 through Classrooms Without Borders. The Board is interested in the number of students impacted, the insurance details, length of time abroad, what message the teachers will bring back, and the cost/number of substitutes and class assignments during the teachers’ absence. Ms. Dwulit is working out the details.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Carraway; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting at 9:20 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary