

**Avonworth School District**  
**258 Josephs Lane**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**  
**Avonworth Board of School Directors**  
**Minutes – Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – May 7, 2018**  
**Avonworth School District – Board Room**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mr. Beau Blaser, Ms. Sandra Bolain, Mr. John Brandt, Mr. Jeff Carraway,  
Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Kathryn Monti (arrived 7:45 PM), Mr. David Oberdick,  
Ms. Kristin Thompson**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Mr. Patrick Stewart**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent**  
**Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management**  
**Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services**  
**Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal**  
**Ms. Jennifer Wickert, Teacher**  
**Ms. Tara Wahl, Teacher**  
**Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen***  
**Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary**

**Call to Order**

*Board Vice President, David Oberdick, called the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.*

**Visitors' Comments**

*No Visitor Comments*

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

**Motion:** J. Carraway; **Second:** B. Blaser; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item #1:

- 1.** To adopt the Avonworth School District 2018-2019 Proposed Final Budget with Revenue of \$32,277,005 and expenditures of \$33,369,593 as per attached document.

*Public Budget  
Hearing*

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**  
**AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

Take notice that the Board of School Directors of the Avonworth School District, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, has prepared a Proposed Final Budget in the amount of funds that will be required by the School District for the 2018-2019 School Year.

The Avonworth School Board will conduct a **Public Budget Hearing at 7:30 P.M.** prior to the advertised Work Session Meeting slated for **June 4, 2018**, in the District Administration Office Board Room, 258 Josephs Lane. The scheduled Work Session Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

*Take further notice that the Proposed Final Budget shall be made available for public inspection to all interested citizens in the Administration Office, 258 Josephs Lane, Pittsburgh PA 15237 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday through June 11, 2018.*

Take further notice that the Board of School Directors, after making such revisions and changes in the Proposed Final Budget as appear advisable, shall adopt the budget and necessary appropriate measures required to put it into effect at the Regular Meeting of the Board on June 11, 2018.

*Mr. Waters said the millage would go up .43 mills (2.3%) next year due to additional staffing and increased security measures. Mr. Oberdick noted the last tax increase was in 2014.*

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

**Motion:** K. Thompson; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve Item #1:

1. To approve the request for an unpaid leave of absence for **Mr. James Funderwhite**, Food Service worker, from May 8, 2018 through June 1, 2018.

*Leave Request*

**The following items are for discussion for placement on the agenda of the Regular Meeting to be held Monday, May 14, 2018:**

*Approval of the Minutes of the April 3, 2018 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting, the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting, and the April 18, 2018 General Purpose Meeting.. (Voice Vote)*

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

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for April, 2018, beginning with Check # \_\_\_\_ and ending with Check # \_\_\_\_ in the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_.
- 1.2 Ratify the April, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$1,056,690.17.
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for March, 2018.
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for March, 2018, beginning with Check # \_\_\_\_ and ending with Check # \_\_\_\_ in the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_.
- 1.5 Approve Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_.
2. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the PA Leadership Summit at Penn State July 29-31, 2018, at a cost not to exceed \$425.00.

**Finance, continued**

- 3. To approve the EITC Letter of Support for the following to accompany their applications for inclusion for educational improvement organizations to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development.
  - A. Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania retroactive to April 11, 2018
  - B. The Senator John Heinz History Center retroactive to April 11, 2018
  - C. The YMCA retroactive to April 20, 2018
  - D. Phipps Conservatory and botanical Gardens retroactive to May 1, 2018
  - E. The Watson Institute retroactive to May 4, 2018
  - F. Fern Hollow Nature Center retroactive to May 4, 2018
- 4. To approve the Affiliation Agreement between Clarion University and the Avonworth School District. The term of this agreement is five (5) years from the date of execution.
- 5. To retroactively approve \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to write an AMLE Collaboration Mini Grant (Foundation) in the amount of \$2,000.00 and to approve them receiving a stipend in the amount of \$37.50 each for writing the grant.
- 6. To approve a \$100 stipend (from TAP grant funding) to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ as part of the visiting artist requirements.

*Dr. Ralston said this year the state decided to fund only one grant and ours was chosen.*

- 7. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the Joy of Singing conference in King of Prussia, PA for professional development July 23-24, 2018 at a cost not to exceed \$700.
- 8. To approve Resolution #051418 to approve the A. W. Beattie Career Center Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year as set forth in the proposed budget totaling \$9,470,125.

**RESOLUTION #051418**

**District Name: Avonworth School District**

**2018-2019**

**A. W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER BUDGET**

RESOLVED, that the proposed A. W. Beattie Career Center Budget dated 040418, as approved by the A. W. Beattie Career Center Joint Operating Committee on 042618, totaling \$9,470.125, is approved by School District named herein.

**Total Votes:**

Aye \_\_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary Name Cindy S. F. Donovan

Board Meeting Date May 14, 2018

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

1. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a substitute Paraprofessional for the 2017-2018 School Year retroactive to April 16, 2018, at a rate of \$11.43/hour, pending requirements of the district.
2. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a Student Summer Worker – Buildings & Grounds, at \$10.00/hour, pending requirements of the District, retroactive to May 1, 2018.
3. To approve summer hours for the following:
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ - 4 Days
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ - 5 Days
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ - 3 Days
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_ Days
  - E. \_\_\_\_\_ - 4 Days
  - F. \_\_\_\_\_ - 15 Days
  - G. \_\_\_\_\_ - 15 Days
  - H. \_\_\_\_\_ - 10 Days
  - I. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_ Days
4. To retroactively approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Long Term Substitute from February 26, 2018 through April 20, 2018, at \$140/day with no benefits.
5. Create the following new positions beginning with the 2018-2019 school year:
  - A. Kindergarten
  - B. Grade 8 Math Teacher
  - C. Elementary Assistant Principal
  - D. Half Time Art Teacher
  - E. Half Time Computer Teacher
6. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a Day-to-Day High School Learning Support substitute, from February 12, 2018 through April 16, 2018 and as a Day-to-Day High School Social Studies substitute retroactive to April 17, 2018 through June 1, 2018 at \$140/day with no benefits.
7. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as a Day-to-Day High School Learning Support substitute, retroactive to April 18, 2018 through June 1, 2018, at \$140/day with no benefits.
8. To approve the agreement with Keysource Staffing retroactive to April 20, 2018.
9. To approve the agreement with Keysource Staffing for the 2018-2019 School Year.

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

1. To award the bid for the High School/Middle School, Lenzner Field, and Primary Center parking lot project to the lowest responsible bidder, A. Folino Construction, in the amount of \$69,998.98.
2. To approve the proposal from School Specialty (Quote #2018000480 dated April 26, 2018) for the purchase of classroom furniture for the High School/Middle School at a cost not to exceed \$34,301.00.

*Mr. Waters stated the total would increase to \$35,068.48 to purchase 15 additional chairs and 5 stools for the middle school.*

3. To declare various books from the Elementary School Library as obsolete and outdated and that they be donated/disposed of.

**TECHNOLOGY – B. Blaser/J. Brandt, Co-Chairs**

1. Renewal of the Agreement with Harris School Solutions to provide maintenance and software support for the District’s financial software for the 2018-2019 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.
2. To enter into an agreement with Harris School Solutions to provide maintenance and software support for the following modules: Gradebook, Teacher Portal, Parent Portal, Student Portal, and Automated Calling System for the 2018-2019 School Year at a cost not to exceed \$24,289.53. (Note: These modules were formerly provided by Edline).

*In response to a question by Ms. Bolain, Dr. Ralston said ECHO would just be used for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.*

3. To enter into a five-year agreement with DQE Communications to provide firewall (with threat intelligence) service at a cost of \$495/month.
4. Approve disposal/donation of the 1:1 devices from Grades 3, 6, and 12 that are at the end of their planned lifecycle.
5. To accept the donation of \$7,000 from the PTA to purchase a Smart Board for the Elementary School.

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

1. To amend the motion from February 12, 2018 to read “To approve the creation of a National Arts Honor Society as a **Provisional** Club beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year.

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

2. To accept the resignation of \_\_\_\_\_ as Co-Sponsor of the Unified Club retroactive to April 9, 2018, and approve her as a Volunteer Sponsor of the Unified Club.
3. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ as Assistant JV High School Baseball Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District.
4. To approve \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as Co-Sponsors of the Senior Class retroactive to August 22, 2017. (No teachers have applied and the entire workload, planning, and coordination continues to be required of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This is an effort to keep the position an available supplemental.)
5. To approve payment of \$858 to \_\_\_\_\_, as substitute Athletic Director for 13 games at \$66/day, during the absence of the Athletic Director.

*Mr. Oberdick recapped the Athletic Committee meeting:*

- *Parents and students attended the Athletic Committee meeting to advocate for a JV Cheerleading team that would not travel. They noted that interest in this sport has grown. Mr. Waters estimated the cost for two new coached and uniforms would cost approximately \$6,000-\$8,000.*
- *Parents from the Eagles also attended to ask the District to share in the cost of new bleachers for Corp. Patrick Kenny Field. The District's portion would be approximately \$8,700.*

### **Old Business**

*Ms. Dwulit discussed the new schedule being developed for next year. She has been working on information to send to parents regarding the schedule. Prom is this Friday and will be chaperoned by administrators. There are 21 Global Scholar students this year which is the highest in the State. Ms. Dwulit and Mr. Gary, our IT Manager, will give Seniors information on an app to use to access their Google documents after graduation. Seniors will keep their Chrome books when they graduate. Ms. Dwulit commended Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, Assistant Principal, on the Teen Resiliency Summit she recently organized and held at Christ Church at Grove Farm. Ms. Dwulit discussed next year's high school graduation and the planned rain dates.*

### **New Business**

*Dr. Ralston discussed the day of elementary and middle school teachers writing curriculum with Dr. Hadley and Gabriela Rose, Science Coordinator from the AIU.*

*Dr. Ralston recapped the League of Innovative Schools Spring Meeting he and Dr. Hadley recently attended in North Carolina. The focus was on working groups and collaboration. They visited two schools who use flexible mod scheduling.*

### **New Business, continued**

*Dr. Ralston said author and producer, Ted Dintersmith, visited with students and discussed his thoughts on education.*

*Ms. Monti expressed what a great first year the Middle School Track team had. It was a very positive experience for the team.*

*Dr. Ralston told the Board that next week's combined Technology & Public Relations meeting will be at 6:30PM in the Collaboration Center. Mr. Gary will give an update on the new website and discuss this year's 1:1 program.*

*Dr. Ralston also noted:*

- *The Third grade Spelling Bee was held today.*
- *Elementary students, parents, and teachers planted trees along the Primary Center hillside today as part of the One Tree Per Child program. We are the first school in the United States to participate thanks to Dr. Isabela Angelelli who spearheaded this program.*
- *The District-wide Art Show is tomorrow evening.*
- *Mrs. Galecki hosted a guest speaker today in her 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts class. Mrs. Bridget Goetz shared her grandfather, Carroll Walsh's story of his tank battalion liberating a Nazi "death train" of over 2,500 Jewish people during World War II.*
- *There are no district chaperones for the Senior Trip to Cedar Point on May 25. Board members discussed the possibility of parents chaperoning the trip as long as they have clearances.*

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: J. Carraway; Second: J. Brandt; Motion Carried: Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session to an Executive Session at 8:47 P.M. to discuss contract matters.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,  
Board Secretary