

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – November 6, 2017
Avonworth School District – Jeffrey Boggess Collaboration Center
7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Mr. Jeff Carraway, Ms. Kathryn Monti,
Mr. David Oberdick, Mr. Patrick Stewart, Ms. Kristin Thompson**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Eric Templin

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Ken Lockette, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Brad Waters, Director of Fiscal Management
Ms. Jessica Taylor, Director of Student Services
Ms. Keera Dwulit, High School Principal
Mr. Nathaniel (illegible last name)
Ms. Carrie Brady, Parent
Ms. Alivia Wright, Student
Mr. Aidan Brady, Student
Mr. Joey Boughton, Student
Mr. Sam Veleke, Student
Ms. Mia Burens, Student
Ms. Kathleen Conway, Parent
Mr. Pat Conway, Parent
Mr. Gregory Henniquan, Former Student
Mrs. Henniquan, Guest
Ms. Theodora Zahn, Guest
Ms. Jeanette Sommasud, Guest
Mr. Richard Zahn, Guest
Ms. Abby Stewart, Student
Ms. Sue Stewart, Parent
Mr. Blake Hoskins, Wyldlife/Younglife
Ms. Lauren DelRicci, Community Outreach Director-Veteran's Breakfast Club
Ms. Nancy White, *The Citizen*
Mr. Tom Steiner, *The Citizen*
Ms. Jamie Martines, The Tribune Review
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

Call to Order

Board President, David Oberdick, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Ralston welcomed Mr. Gregory Henniquan and his family. He said Mr. Henniquan had left school in 1966 to join the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and therefor was not able to receive his 1968 high school diploma. On behalf of the School Board and District, Dr. Ralston thanked Mr. Henniquan for his service and presented him with his diploma.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – P. Stewart/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item #1:

1. To award a high school diploma to U.S. Navy veteran, Mr. Gregory K. Henniquan. *Veteran Diploma*

Dr. Ralston invited everyone into the Lopes Lounge for the Grand Opening. He explained that with the 1:1 effort we were able to open up what was previously a computer lab and make it into the Lopes Lounge. It was designed by students and is run by learning support students. Ms. Tiffany White outlined the program, students served refreshments to guests, and Mr. Henniquan was presented with cards and letters written by students.

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

Motion: D. Oberdick; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items #1 and #2:

1. To accept the Fact Finder’s report for PLRB Case #Act 88-17-27-W, Avonworth School District and Avonworth Education Support Professionals Association PSEA dated October 30, 2017. *Fact Finder*
2. To approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Avonworth School District and the Avonworth Education Support Association (AESPA) effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022 as attached. *AESPA Agreement*

Visitors’ Comments

Mr. Blake Hoskins of Wyldlife and Younlife and five students proposed starting a provisional Wyldlife Club at the middle school. Mr. Hoskins said Wyldlife has been renting our facilities once a month for five years for games and activities for 30-40 middle school-age students who are Wyldlife attendees. Miss Burens and Miss Wright discussed how they have enjoyed participating in Wyldlife events. Mr. Oberdick explained the process of starting a new club and asked Mr. Hoskins to discuss the club with Middle School Principal, Mr. Mike Hall.

Ms. Keera Dwulit updated the Board on the upcoming parent/teacher conferences. Mr. Haskins and Mrs. Clark devised a better way of scheduling conferences either with a single teacher or a group of teachers. Ms. Dwulit said teachers and paraprofessionals on the secondary campus had diversity training on the topics of gender and race. A second session is scheduled for November 15.

Ms. Dwulit said in honor of Veteran's Day, students and staff may sign up for 10 minute increments to carry the flag around the building. Staff will carry the flag from 7:30 AM and students from 8:0 AM until 3:00 PM. The purpose is to keep the flag moving. Andrew Hapeman of our IT Department has set up a drop box for veteran photos and will create a slideshow.

Ms. Dwulit said Assistant Principal, Ms. Kaitlin Remensky has updated attendance letters with the new laws and letters will be sent home to parents/guardians of students who have four or more unexcused absences or tardies.

Mr. and Mrs. Conway expressed kudos to the District and Ms. White for the Lopes Lounge and how nice it was to see how we have empowered the kids.

Recess

Motion: P. Steward; **Second:** J. Carraway; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to recess to an Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. to discuss contract, student, and litigation matters.

Reconvene

The Work Session/General Purpose Meeting reconvened at 8:45 PM.

Mr. Oberdick read the following: The Athletic Committee met this evening at 6:30 PM in the Board Room to discuss athletic matters.

The following items are for discussion for placement on the agenda of the Regular Meeting to be held Monday, November 13, 2017:

Approval of the Minutes of the Work Session of October 2, 2017 and the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2017 (Voice Vote)

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

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for October, 2017, beginning with Check #42727 and ending with Check #42995 in the total amount of \$4,852,117.25. *Note: includes \$4 million check to PSDLAF for District investment.*
- 1.2 Ratify the October, 2017 payroll in the amount of \$1,153,931.83.
- 1.3 Treasurer's Report for September, 2017.
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund bills for September, 2017, beginning with Check #2491 and ending with Check #2498 in the total amount of \$24,776.15.
- 1.5 Approval of Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$_____.

2. **RESOLUTION #111317:** To continue membership in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Joint Purchasing Program:

Finance, continued

**2018 ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT RESOLUTION 111416A
AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN CREATION AND OPERATION OF A JOINT PURCHASING BOARD**

Whereas material savings in cost of preparing specifications and advertising for bids for school supplies, as well as bulk price advantages, are frequently obtainable by joint purchasing arrangements entered into by a number of school districts or school agencies in the same area; and an agreement entitled “Joint Purchase Agreement,” in form as prepared by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and as presented at this meeting, would afford this **Avonworth School District** an opportunity, if a Participant therein, to OPTIONALLY enjoy these possible joint purchasing benefits, but without being required to participate in any bidding thereunder.

THEREFORE, in order to obtain the possible advantages of joint purchasing of school supplies,

BE IT RESOLVED that the **Avonworth Board of School Directors** of the **Avonworth School District** hereby approves said Joint Purchase Agreement and authorizes this **Avonworth School District** member as a Participant therein, directs that a copy thereof be filed with the minutes of this meeting as part of this Resolution, directs its Secretary to certify to the Executive Director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit the adoption of this Resolution, together with the names, addresses and official capacities of its regular and alternate member appointees to the Joint Purchasing Board, and directs its proper officers to execute said Agreement on behalf of this **Avonworth School District**.

RESOLVED AND ENACTED THIS 13th day of November, 2017.

ATTEST:

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Secretary

President
School District Board of Directors

3. To approve **Dr. Thomas Ralston** to attend the Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents at Nemaquin Woodlands November 29-December 1, 2017.
Dr. Ralston stated the focus of the Forum is on student social media usage.

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

1. To approve the Director of Fiscal Management and Support Services’ contract for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023.
2. To approve the following staff members as Primary Center tutors for the 2017-2018 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: _____, _____, _____, _____.

Personnel, continued

3. To approve the following staff members as Reading Club tutors for the 2017-2018 School Year with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
4. To approve the following staff members as mentors for the 2017-2018 with a stipend per the current AEA contract: _____, _____.
5. To accept the letter of Intent to Retire from _____, Food Service Lead, effective December 22, 2017.
6. To accept the letter of resignation from _____, Food Service Worker, retroactive to October 30, 2017.
7. To approve the transfer of 15 sick days for _____ which were accumulated during her employment with the Pittsburgh Public Schools.
8. To approve _____ as a Day-to-Day 7th Grade English Language Arts Teacher, commencing approximately November 17, 2017 through January 22, 2018, at \$140/day, with no benefits.
9. To approve the following as substitute paraprofessionals for the 2017-2018 School Year pending requirements of the District: _____, _____, _____.

CURRICULUM – J. Brandt/V. Carlson, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the Agreement with Community College of Beaver County for students to have the opportunity to begin taking college-level course work while completing their high school degrees. The term of this Dual Enrollment program is from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020.
2. To approve the Pilot Program Agreement with TeamBuilders for the 2017-2018 School Year in the amount of \$2,000 to be paid using funds from the Ohio River Consortium/RMU Grant retroactive to October 1, 2017.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – D. Oberdick/E. Templin, Co-Chairs

1. To approve _____ as Boys’ Senior Wrestling Assistant Coach for the 2017-2018 School Year.

Athletics & Activities, continued

2. To approve the following supplemental sponsors for the 2017-2018 School Year:
 - A) _____ as Grade 2 Mentor
 - B) _____ as Grade 2 Long Term Substitute Mentor
 - C) _____ as Interim AM Bus Duty retroactive to August 22, 2017
3. To create an Elementary School Concert Band Director supplemental position for the 2017-2018 School Year at a stipend of \$1,163 (this amount is equal to the Elementary Choral Director supplemental position).

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – E. Templin/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs

1. To declare various books from the Jeffrey Boggess Collaboration Center as unusable, outdated, and obsolete and to be disposed of accordingly.
2. To declare two televisions from the Elementary School as obsolete and that they be discarded/recycled accordingly.

Mr. Waters advised the Board that a motion will be placed on the November 13 agenda to declare an old small upright piano as broken and obsolete and to be disposed of.

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

1. To approve the application for Strings & Things as a Provisional Club in the High School beginning with the 2017-2018 School Year, with a stipend according to Policy 122.4. Sponsor for this club will be _____.
2. To approve an overnight High School Girls’ Softball trip to the Cal Ripkin Experience in South Carolina over Spring Break (5 days) at no cost to the district. Coach (teacher) and team members will not miss school.
3. To approve an overnight High School Girls’ Basketball trip to the Brownsville area to participate in a basketball tournament at no cost to the District. The team will depart after school on Friday, December 8 to play Friday evening and stay overnight to play again on Saturday. Coaches will chaperone. Staff and students will not miss school.

4. The following changes to Policy #802 School Organization:

802. SCHOOL ORGANIZATION
<u>Purpose</u>
The Board recognizes that the district's organizational structure can affect both the instructional program and the operation of the schools.

Authority

Upon approval of the Department of Education, the Board directs that district schools be organized as follows:

Avonworth Primary Center	K-2
Avonworth Elementary School	K-5 3-6
Avonworth Middle School	6-8 7-8
Avonworth High School	9-12

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall continually monitor the effectiveness of the district's organizational plan and recommend to the Board modifications that benefit the instructional program, effectively utilize district resources, and implement the Board's educational goals.

Old Business

Dr. Ralston reminded Board members that the November 28 Work Session is cancelled. Diversity Training will be held in its place beginning at 6:30 PM in the Collaboration Center.

New Business

Dr. Ralston advised the Board that we broke ground for the LGI space last week. We had some rock to get through while digging the footer. Noise and exhaust fumes caused us to move some classes to other rooms. In the future if any fume issues occur construction will be shut down until after school hours.

Dr. Ralston recapped his recent trip to the EdSurge conference he recently attended in San Francisco. EdSurge tries to match technology solutions with the needs of school districts with personalized use of education and how technology can aide in that. We are starting to see technologies being incorporated in educational programs. Math and Language Arts programs are being done so that computers can hone in on technology needs. We may run pilots the second half of the school year.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary