

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Regular Meeting – June 14, 2021
Avonworth School District – Board Room & Virtually
7:30 P.M.

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

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Mr. Patrick Stewart,
Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. Danielle White

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY (Roll Call Taken):

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Dr. Jeff Hadley, Assistant Superintendent	Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.
Ms. Karen Penrod, Parent	Ms. Betsy Radcliffe, Resident
Ms. Anne Hunt, Resident	Mr. Andrew Hunt, Resident
Mr. John Radcliffe, Resident	Mr. Edward F. Miller, Grandparent/Resident
Mrs. Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary	

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent	Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent
Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent	Ms. Rima Esper, Parent
Mr. Joshua Cable, Intern to Supt.	Ms. Laurie Mathie, Parent
Ms. Maureen O'Connor, Parent	Ms. Monica O'Neil, Parent
Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent	Ms. Melinda Newhouse, Parent
Ms. Katherine Horigan, Parent	Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Paraprofessional	Ms. Pat Drogowski, Parent
Ms. Emily Heller, Parent	Mr. Joe Angelelli, Parent
Ms. Jessie Opalko, Parent	Ms. Jodi Walsh, Parent
Ms. Kara Roggenkamp, Parent	Ms. Carrie Brady, Parent
Ms. Kimberly Palmer, Parent	Mr. Laureen Morgan-Douds, Parent
Ms. Kirsten Giovengo, Resident	Ms. Rebecca Lamperski, Parent
Ms. Lynn Evans, Resident	Ms. Rachael MacKenzie, Parent
Mr. Thomas Pappalardo, Resident	Ms. Tania Cook, Parent
Mr. Greg Behr, Parent	Ms. Lindsay Marx, Parent
Mr. Jim Buccigrossi, Resident	Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent	Ms. Tennille Shields, Parent
Mr. Matthew Kline, Parent	Ms. Rebecca Stetser, Parent
Mr. Dave Chekan, Parent	Ms. Marilyn Mulvihill, Resident
Mr. Robb Pfeil, Parent	Ms. Nicole Smith, Parent
Ms. Mala Mason, Parent	Mr. Michael Warren, Former Teacher
Ms. Torri, Robinson, Parent	Ms. Crystal O'Neil, Parent
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent	Ms. Katherine Costa, Resident
Ms. Jen Wagner, Parent	Ms. Maureen Sweeney, Parent
Ms. Christine St. Clair, Parent	Mr. Oscar Matous, <i>The Citizen</i>

Minutes – Regular Meeting June 14, 2021

Mr. James Neville, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Rissa Witul, Parent
Ms. Samantha Podnar, Resident
Mr. Patrick Bolam, Parent
Ms. Andrea Patton, Athletic Director
Ms. Bridget Goetz, Parent
Ms. Kristen Hubbell, Parent
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Mr. Matthew Richards, Resident
Ms. Jill Shumaker, Teacher
Mr. Donnell Scott, Parent
Ms. Joy Allen, Resident
Mr. Chris Foreman, Parent
Ms. L. M. Hart, Resident
Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, Asst. MS/HS Principal
Ms. Jess Bonnet, Parent

Ms. Omolara Fatukasi, Parent
Ms. Leslie Wessner, Parent
Ms. Tammy Scott, Parent
Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher, AEA President
Ms. Amy Berezney, Parent
Ms. Tracy Kephart, Parent
Ms. Sara Osborn, Parent
Ms. Jennie Liska, Parent
Ms. Elizabeth Richard, Resident
Ms. Melissa Lesko, Parent
Ms. Zareen Farooqui, Resident
Mr. David Holcomb, Resident
Ms. Melanie Holcomb, Resident
Ms. Tatiana Glasgow, Parent
Ms. Nancy Yarris, Resident
Ms. Morgan, Carpenter, Parent
Ms. Amy Tokar, Parent

Call to Order

Board Vice President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:45 P.M.

Visitors' Comments

No Visitor's Comments

The Board moved to discuss Finance Addendum item #12 concerning the proposal from the Insight Education Group.

Dr. Ralston said during the 2019-2020 School Year the District began building the Strategic Plan; the current Plan ended in 2020. Five areas were identified through surveys: curriculum, college and career, culture, mental/social health, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Groups were formed and assigned different focus areas. With DEI, a number of strategies were identified. One item was conducting an equity audit which would provide rich information.

Dr. Hadley said due to COVID we did not focus on the strategic plan at the beginning of the school year. In his research regarding an equity audit, he found most schools look at what causes inequities. There is not one concrete way prescribed for an equity audit. Dr. Eva Allen has been working with our district. She works with area schools regarding equity. She directed Dr. Hadley to Dr. Generett because she was not able to point Dr. Hadley to anyone in the area. He identified two ways to do an audit: 1) Using an on-line tool. Administration felt the online tool was a challenge. 2) Dr. Hadley reached out to organizations to discuss and understand what their process was. Dr. Hadley interviewed seven organizations. The information Dr. Hadley received from the organizations regarding the cost for an equity audit ranged from \$12,000 to \$80,000. He received two proposals and requested references. He spoke with a Superintendent from Delaware who was very complimentary about the Insight Education Group. At the May 17 meeting the audit was discussed and the Board thought it was best to use an outside organization. Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley felt the Insight Education Group was reasonable and shared their proposal with the Board. Dr. Moody, Co-Founder of the Insight Education Group, joined the meeting virtually and gave an overview of their process.

Mr. Blaser invited questions from visitors. Ms. Betsy Radcliffe read a statement expressing her thoughts and concerns about the equity proposal. She urged the Board to consider other options. Virtual visitor, Ms. Nicole Smith of Ohio Township feels the DEI supports our goal and doesn't see a problem with the District conducting the audit and includes women, LBGTQ. Virtual visitor, Ms. Melinda Newhouse of Ohio Township is a member of the DEI Committee and feels the audit is foundational for the work the DEI Committee wants to do. She feels the audit will give us an idea of where we are and how we want to move forward and it's important for an outside group to do the audit. In-person visitor, Mr. Andrew Hunt said he was curious about the equity audit when reading on the IEG website it seems IEG has a particular viewpoint. Virtual visitor, Ms. Melanie Holcomb of Ben Avon said through her work she has worked with parents and students who have experienced all kinds of discrimination. She thinks this is a perfect thing to do. Virtual visitor, Mr. Dave Chekan of Ohio Township spoke in support of this initiative. He feels we need to think beyond 2020-2021 and what we want to become. Virtual visitor, Mr. Tom Pappalardo of Ben Avon questioned our meaning of unconscious bias and does not think it's good to spend \$20,000 on an organization who seems to have their own bias. Virtual visitor, Ms. Leslie Wessner of Kilbuck Township feels we need an equity audit because we do not have a diverse student body and teaching staff. Virtual visitor, Ms. Tammy Scott of Ohio Township spoke in favor of the audit and feels it would be amazing if students could be taught by a teacher who looks like them. Virtual visitor, Mr. David Holcomb of Ben Avon applauded the DEI Committee. He works for an institution who has had an equity audit and feels it's an eye opening thing. Virtual visitor, Ms. Rachael Mackenzie of Ohio Township said she looked over the proposal and supports the audit. Virtual visitor, Ms. Monica O'Neil asked if the District had looked at the long term cost after the \$19,500. She asked if the recent Johns Hopkins school culture survey we just conducted would work together with IEG. Dr. Ralston said it is up to the Board whether they want to engage them, some other vendor, or do it ourselves. The Johns Hopkin survey will be very important and they will analyze the results. Virtual visitor, Ms. Tania Cook said as neither black, white, nor mixed, it gives her and her children a voice. Their race is often overlooked. She feels people in those small categories feel included when the District surveys reflects this. Board member, Ms. Kristin Thompson said as a parent of a child with a disability, she feels there is still so much to learn. She feels an assessment or audit can help make school a better experience. Virtual visitor, Ms. Laureen Morgan-Douds thinks this is worth the money and feels it's important to develop the data. In-person visitor, Ms. Anne Hunt of Kilbuck Township asked how this came about and if other auditors were considered. Are we going to offer classes so they can be taught differently based on this audit? Dr. Hadley said he reviewed seven companies and an eighth one today as well as online tools. Administration piloted one tool. He said this came from the Strategic Plan. A survey for stakeholders was conducted with parents, students, and staff. They could make additional comments. Two areas stood out – diversity and inclusion, and curriculum and instruction. Ms. Hunt asked what we can expect to happen. Dr. Hadley said it depends on the results. Ms. Katie Horigan of Ohio Township is strongly in favor of the audit. The Strategic Plan was established with the decision to have an equity audit. Virtual visitor, Ms. Amy Tokar of Ben Avon spoke in support of the audit. She feels it may change the way people feel about the type of community we live in and provide information that can be used to teach our children about the world around them. It isn't just about race but goes beyond the scope and includes kids with mental, physical, and learning disabilities. Virtual visitor, Ms. Tracy Kephart of Ohio Township supports the initiative. She quoted an article from Scientific American about why diversity makes you smarter.

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

Motion: J. Brandt; **Second:** K. Thompson; **Motion Carried to approve Item #12 with Mr. Blaser voting “Nay.”**

12. To approve the proposal from the Insight Education Group to complete an equity audit for the Avonworth School District at a cost not to exceed \$19,500. *Equity Audit*

Mr. Brandt feels this is a check-up to start with and to see how everything is working. The Board feels strongly about going out for the audit. \$20,000 is much less than would be spent internally. We would be pulling them off other things. Ms. Cheng agreed with Mr. Brandt. We don't know what we are overlooking. It is one of our five pillars. The EIG group confirmed they look at all inequities. Mr. Stewart feels there's a need to look at all categories of needs. Ms. White asked if there's an additional liability created by the audit. Solicitor, Mr. Bill Andrews, said no, the information would be processed and used as any other information. Mr. Blaser is not opposed to a health check-up to be sure we have a healthy school. He is not sure they can do this without bias. Dr. Moody is from the Washington School system and Ms. Mays from the Baltimore School system. Their group has consulted with those schools. Mr. Blaser feels he does not have enough information so he will vote “No.” He feels six weeks is not enough time. Ms. Thompson feels this is important to hear outside voices. Ms. Carlson said we could do some things internally and we all come in with biases. This firm was looking at data across the board and looking for trends. They will take the data and talk to stakeholders about what they think they saw. Mr. Brandt said in the long term, may want to do this internally. Ms. Thompson said it could be a staff person.

Mr. Blaser noted that Mr. Mike Hall, School Safety Coordinator, provided the annual Safety Report required by the Department of Education, during an Executive Session at 7:00 P.M. this evening.

Report of Administration – Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent

Dr. Ralston said we had a successful end of the school year. High School graduation was on June 4. He thanked Ms. Dwulit, Ms. Remensky and the Senior class sponsors. The 8th grade class graduated on June 9. He thanked Mr. Hall and Ms. Remensky. The Middle School held a Don Eichhorn School to Watch re-designation celebration on June 4. We are one of six middle schools in Pennsylvania to be re-designated. Dr. Ralston reported there is a large number of students taking advantage of programs teachers have put together over the summer. Dr. Ralston thanked Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, Mr. Brant Colamarino for his work. He has dealt recently with a major water line break, snaking a clogged drain in the boiler room with a great attitude.

Report of the Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jeff Hadley

Dr. Hadley said the stakeholder surveys have closed as of today. He will review and share with the school community in the Annual Report. We will begin a Strings program with third grade next year. Dr. Hadley thanked Ms. Alexandra Martin for her help in getting the Strings program up and running. He also recognized Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi for being a semi-finalist for a Grammy Educator Award.

Report of the Solicitor – Mr. William Andrews, Esq.

Mr. Andrews had no report at this time but will provide his quarterly report at the July meeting.

Beattie Key Notes/AIU News – Ms. Kate Monti/Ms. Kristin Thompson

Ms. Thompson said the finalized budget was approved at the May 20 meeting. She mentioned the agreement with Butler Community College which would enable students to earn up to ten college credits. The first ever Network Engineering Cyber Security scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$2,500.

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** D. White; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve the Minutes of the May 3, 2021 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting, the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting, and the May 17, 2021 General Purpose Meeting. (Voice Vote)

Minutes

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

Motion: D. White; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1.1-1.7 and 2-11:

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 1.1 | Ratify payment of General Fund bills for May, 2021, beginning with Check #51365 and ending with Check #51554 and ACSHIC wire transfer in the total amount of \$914,819.17. | <i>General Funds</i> |
| 1.2 | Ratify the May, 2021 payroll in the amount of \$1,375,524.39. | <i>Payroll</i> |
| 1.3 | Treasurer’s Report for April 2021. | <i>Treasurer’s Rpt.</i> |
| 1.4 | Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for May, 2021, beginning with Check #3116 and ending with Check #3123 in the total amount of \$20,676.28. | <i>Fd. Svc. Fund</i> |
| 1.5 | Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for May, 2021, beginning with Check #9313 and ending with Check #9339 in the total amount of \$1,930. | <i>Athletic Fund</i> |
| 1.6 | To approve Capital Project Fund payments in the amount of \$60,829.85. | <i>Capital Projects</i> |
| 1.7 | To approve the budget transfers for May, 2021 Budget transfers as attached. | <i>Budget Transfers</i> |
| 2. | To approve the Final Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year in the amount of \$35,744,915 as presented on State Form PDE-2028. | <i>Final Budget</i> |
| 3. | To approve the adoption of Resolution 061421-A to establish millage at 19.53 mills for the 2021-2022 School Year as attached. | <i>Resolution</i> |
| 4. | To approve the adoption of Resolution 061421-B Homestead and Farmstead Resolution as attached. | <i>Resolution</i> |
| 5. | To approve the following depositories for school funds for the 2021-2022 School Year: Dollar Bank, PNC Bank, and PA School District Liquid Asset Fund (PSDLAF). | <i>Depositories</i> |
| 6. | To approve the 2021-2022 Renewal Coverage for the District’s insurance coverage for “Package, Property, Automobile, Excess Liability, and Errors & Omissions” through UTICA at a total annual premium of \$79,619 and “cyber coverage” through PSBA at an annual premium of \$5,277. | <i>Ins. Coverage</i> |

Finance, continued

7. To approve the District Worker’s Compensation program renewal through UPMC Health Benefits for the 2021-2022 School Year at an annual premium of \$75,329. *Worker’s Comp.*
8. To approve the Agreement with Pediatric Therapy Specialists, Inc. to provide occupational and physical therapy services for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years. *Ped. Therapy Spec.*
9. To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the AIU Title III for the 2021-2022 School Year. *AIU Title III*
10. To approve the Agreement with the Children’s Institute for ESY services from June 1, 2021 through August 6, 2021. *Child. Inst. ESY*
11. To approve **Mrs. Maureen Frew** to receive \$75 for writing the OnRamp (state) Grant for Remote Learning grant, \$75 for monitoring the grant, and \$75 for receipt of the grant and to accept the grant award in the amount of \$2,500 from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. *Grant*

PERSONNEL – K. Monti/Y. Cheng, Co-Chairs

Motion: K. Monti; **Second:** Y. Cheng; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items 1-18:

1. To change the resignation date of **Dr. Thomas Ralston** as Superintendent, with the intent to retire from public school service from August 3, 2021 to July 30, 2021. *Resignation with Intent to Retire*
2. To change the retirement date of **Ms. Barbara Graham** from June 9, 2021 to May 20, 2021. *Retirement*
3. To accept the resignation of **Mrs. Brittany Covalt**, Science Teacher, effective June 10, 2021. *Resignation*
4. To accept the resignation of **Mr. Eugene Heath Buchholz**, Custodian, effective May 31, 2021. *Resignation*
5. To approve **Ms. Danielle Tepe** as a Temporary Professional Employee with an assignment as a Third Grade Teacher commencing August 16, 2021, at Category M, Step 3, with benefits, according to the current AEA contract, pending requirements of the District. *New Hire*
6. To approve increasing the position of Half Time Reading Specialist, **Ms. Sarah Salvatore**, to a full time position for the 2021-2022 School Year. At the conclusion of the 2021-2022 School Year, this position will return to Half Time Reading Specialist. *New Hire*

Personnel, continued

7. To approve **Ms. Susan Miller** as a Lunch Duty Monitor at \$50/day with no benefits for the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year, effective May 3, 2021, pending requirements of the District. *Lunch Monitor*

8. To approve the following as Summer Camp teachers with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: *Summer Camp*

Ms. Mallory Accamando	Ms. Denise Hauser	Ms. Jennifer Revesz
Ms. Sheila Applegate	Ms. Stacy Hanny	Ms. McKenna Robinson
Ms. Marnie Arnold	Ms. Emily Hickman	Ms. Sarah Salvatore
Ms. Kelsey Belko	Ms. Jaci Keane	Ms. Monica Swartz
Ms. Amy Besterman	Ms. Rebecca Kolesar	Ms. Danielle Tepe
Ms. Chelsea Billick	Ms. Marisa Kreider	Ms. Jennifer Thorn
Ms. Miranda Broniak	Ms. Adrienne Leveto	Mr. Scott Tuffiash
Ms. Sara Croft	Ms. Nicole Levis	Mr. Jesse Wells
Ms. Ellen DeFrances	Ms. Gail Lipchak	Ms. Jennifer Wickert
Mr. Robert Eastwood	Mr. Nick Mancini	Ms. Stefanie Wiegand
Ms. Nicole Findon	Ms. Alexandra Martin	Ms. Elise Wilson
Ms. Sarah Flower	Ms. Lucy Negron	Mr. Peter Yannapoulos
Ms. Tricia Floyd-Scheller	Ms. Cheryl Noethiger	Ms. Lynn Martucci
Ms. Michelle George	Ms. Megan Parreaguirre	
Ms. Jennifer Gould	Ms. Julie Raitano	

9. To approve the following as Summer Tutors with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: *Summer Tutors*

A. Ms. Mackenzie Porter	D. Ms. Courtney Symons
B. Ms. Christine Hartmann	E. Ms. Lynn Martucci
C. Ms. Pam Rawlings	F. Ms. Erin Funwela

10. Approval of the following Summer ESY Program Staff commencing with a Planning Meeting on June 14, 2021 and the program begins June 28, 2021, at a rate per the current AEA and AESPA bargaining agreements: *Summer ESY*

Teachers

Ms. Melanie Behr	Ms. Lynn Martucci
Ms. Emily Cropper	Ms. Ms. Hannah Fassler
Ms. Mackenzie Porter	Ms. Leslie Berg
Ms. Carrie Velisaris	

Paraprofessionals

Ms. Pam Wingfield	Ms. Lisa Simmons	Ms. Emma Gustic
Mr. Justin Campalong	Ms. LeeAnne Ward	Ms. Ashley Hanzes
Ms. Amy Kantenwein		

Support Staff

Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse (2 weeks)
Ms. Amanda Lemon, School Nurse (2 weeks)

Personnel, continued

11. To approve a change in assignment for the following AEA staff for the 2021-2022 School Year: *Change in Assignmt.*
- A. **Ms. Becky Kolesar from Grade 3 to Elementary GATE Teacher**
 - B. **Ms. Katie Libbon from Grade 6 to Grade 4 Teacher**
 - C. **Ms. Julie Raitano from Grade 8 to Grade 6 Reading/English Teacher**
 - D. **Ms. Natalie Barkovich from Grade 10 English to Grade 8 English Teacher**
12. To approve summer hours for the following: *Summer Hours*
- A. **Ms. Alaina Schrader, Elementary School Counselor – 10 days**
 - B. **Ms. Sara Osborn, Elementary Media Center Specialist – 4 days**
 - C. **Ms. Barb Bauer, Primary Center Counselor - 4 Days**
 - D. **Ms. Katy Tarasi, APC/AES Literacy Coach- 6 Days**
 - E. **Mr. Aaron Pellicano, Grades 7-9 Counselor - 15 Days**
 - F. **Mr. Dave Como, Grades 10-12 Counselor - 15 Days**
 - G. **Ms. Nicole Levis, College & Career Counselor - 10 Days**
 - H. **Ms. Patty Clark, High School Guidance Secretary - 70 Hours**
 - I. **Dr. Sandra Swen, School Psychologist – 10 Days**
 - J. **Ms. Katie Libbon, Re-assigned Grade 3 Teacher – 2 days**
 - K. **Ms. Danielle Tepe, New Grade 3 Teacher – 2 days**
13. To approve the following agreements with KeySolution Staffing, LLC: *KeySolution*
- A. For a Licensed Professional Counselor at an amount not to exceed \$56,500 for the 2021-2022 School Year. *(100% of the cost to be paid by ESSER III funds.)*
 - B. To provide Transition Coordinator services for 10-15 hours per week for the 2021-2022 School Year.
 - C. For Social Work services at an amount not to exceed \$54,075 for the 2021-2022 School Year. *(50% of the cost is to be paid by PCCD Grant funds and 50% by ESSER III funds.)*

ADDENDUM ITEMS: (5)

14. To approve the following as Summer Transition Tutors beginning June 14, 2021, with an hourly rate per the current AEA contract: *Summer Transition Tutors*
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Ms. Jaclyn Keane | D. Ms. Ashley Randall |
| B. Ms. Juliana Gidaro | E. Ms. Karen Russell |
| C. Ms. Marisa Kreider | F. Ms. Alexis Taylor |
15. To approve **Ms. Nancy Alberth** for the 10 month position of Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent beginning June 15, 2021, pending requirements of the District, with single benefits. *Conf. Secy. to Asst. Supt.*

Personnel, continued

16. To approve up to 20 summer days for **Ms. Nancy Alberth.** *Summer Days*
17. Approval of the following as Summer ESY Program Substitute Paraprofessionals commencing with a Planning Meeting on June 14, 2021 and the program begins June 28, 2021, at a rate per the current AESPA bargaining agreement: *Summer ESY Sub Paras*
- A. **Mr. Arlon McGaha**
 - B. **Ms. Makenzie Wetzel**
 - C. **Ms. Linda Morgan**
 - D. **Ms. Elena Mariano**
18. To approve the Agreement with Pediatric Therapy Specialists, Inc. to provide speech and language therapy for the ESY program from June 28, 2021 through July 22, 2021. *Ped. Therapy Spec.*

CURRICULUM – Y. Cheng/J. Brandt, Co-Chairs

Motion: Y. Cheng; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item #1: *Eureka Math*

1. To approve the proposal from Ms. Sallie Kaan and contracting her services for the support of the implementation of the K-5 Eureka Math program at a cost not to exceed \$8,000 during the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

1. To declare the Lenzner Field House exercise equipment on the attached list as obsolete and to dispose of accordingly. *Obsolete Equipmt.*

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

Motion: YJ. Brandt; **Second:** K. Monti; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve items #1 and 3. Items #2 and 4 were tabled.

1. To approve **Ms. Lindsey Thelk** as an Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach for the 2021-2022 School Year, pending requirements of the District, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract. *Asst. Cheer Coach*
- ~~2. To approve **Ms. Adrianna Giusto** as a Volunteer Varsity Cheerleading Coach, with no benefits, pending requirements of the District.~~
3. To approve the 2021-2022 Student Athletic Insurance underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company at an annual premium of \$6,950. *Student Athl. Ins.*

Athletics & Activities, continued

ADDENDUM ITEM

4. ~~To retroactively approve Mr. Mike Manning, Jr. move from a Volunteer Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach to an Assistant Middle School Baseball Coach for the 2020-2021 School Year, pending requirements of the District, with a stipend according to the current AEA contract.~~

POLICY – S. Bolain/K. Monti, Co-Chairs

Motion: S. Bolain; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item #1. Item #2 was tabled.

1. To approve Student Adjudication #061421.

Student Adjudication

2. ~~To approve the changes to Policy 006.1 Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications as attached.~~

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Ms. Carlson asked the Board if they were ready to welcome the public back to the Board Room for Board meetings. Mr. Brandt said we need to know ahead of time the number of visitors who plan to attend. Mr. Stewart said he could expand the visitor sign-in to include in-person and have a dual registration.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary

RESOLUTION #061421-A
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MILLAGE 2021-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District, under and pursuant to the authority of the Public School Code of 1949, its supplemental and amendments that, for the school year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 the following tax is levied and assessed:

A tax of 19.53 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all property assessed and certified for taxes, and taxable for school purposes within the School District, being \$19.53 for each \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation.

All taxpayers subject to the payment of taxes, assessed by the taxing district, shall be entitled to a discount of two per centum from the amount of such tax upon making payment of the whole amount thereof within three months after the effective date of the tax notice. Thereafter, all taxpayers who fail to make payment of any such taxes charged against them after six months of the effective date of the notice shall be charged a penalty of ten per centum, which penalty shall be added to the taxes by the tax collector and be collected by him/her, or the appointed delinquent real estate tax collector. Any statutorily permissible penalty during the initial six-month payment period shall be set at zero per centum.

In accordance with Avonworth School District **Resolution No. (b) Collection of Installment Payments – Real Estate** dated June 13, 2001, homeowners with a homestead or farmstead property approved pursuant to Section 341 of the Act are eligible to pay real property taxes in three (3) equal installments with each payment being one-third (1/3) of the total face amount of said taxes due and owing as billed by the school district’s local Real Estate Tax Collectors.

Such payments will be due on or before:

- a. August 31**
- b. October 31**
- c. December 31**

A ten per centum (10%) penalty shall be charged for any late payment.

RESOLVED, this 14 day of June, 2021

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cindy S. F. Donovan, Board Secretary

Victoria Carlson, Board President

RESOLUTION #061421-B
AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDING THE HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION AS MANDATED BY ACT 50 AND ACT 1.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2020, under provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 2008 and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$3,589.36.
2. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$3,589.36.
3. For the purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report received by the School District from the County assessment office on or before May 1st pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341(g) (3), based upon homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County assessment office on or before March 1st. This tax notice shall apply only to notices issued based upon the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1st and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.
4. The relevant calculations in reference to said exclusion shall be prepared in an appropriate form document by the School District Business Office and made available upon request.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Avonworth School District at a regularly convened meeting held on the 14th day of June, 2021.

ATTEST:

AVONWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cindy S. F. Donovan, Board Secretary

Victoria Carlson, Board President

Buildings & Grounds Attachment - Obsolete Exercise Equipment

Two benches

Two squat racks

Leg press

Leg machine

Smith multipurpose machine

Dip/pull up assist machine

Leg extension

Glute/ham machine

Minutes – Regular Meeting June 14, 2021

Book Policy Manual
Section 000 Local Board Procedures
Title Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications
Code 006.1
Status Review
Adopted December 5, 1994
Last Revised September 13, 2004

Authority

The Avonworth Board of School Directors recognizes ~~the responsibility of its members to make every effort to attend meetings, but from time to time necessary absence may prohibit attendance, therefore, requiring the use of speaker phone by the absent member.~~ that factors such as illness, travel, schedule conflicts, weather conditions and other emergency situations can make impossible the physical presence of a school director or other necessary participants at a Board meeting and that electronic communications can enable a school director or other necessary participants to participate in a meeting electronically from a remote location.

~~The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of Babae v. Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board in which it held that under the Sunshine Law, a quorum of members of an agency can consist of members who are not physically present at a meeting, but who participate through telephonic means.[1]~~

Definitions

~~Meeting—Any prearranged gathering of an agency which is attended or participated in by a quorum of members of an agency held for the purpose of deliberating agency business or taking official action.~~

~~Quorum—A majority of the members of a Board of School Directors participating in a meeting shall be a quorum.~~

Board members should make meetings in person a priority, however; they may attend through electronic communication when necessary. A Board member may participate in and will be considered present via electronic communications for either a work session or voting meeting. A majority of school directors must be physically present at a General Purpose meeting including Work Sessions and voting meetings unless emergency conditions exist.

To attend a Board meeting through electronic communication, a Board member must:

- Notify the Board President and Board Secretary three days prior to the meeting date, except in emergency situations.
- Ensure that the remote location is quiet and free from interruptions.

A school director shall be able to attend a Board meeting, and participate in Board deliberations and voting, through electronic communications, but only under extraordinary circumstances. The Board President may permit other necessary participants to participate in meetings via electronic communications as the Board deems appropriate. (1)

The Public will have access to Board meetings in-person unless in emergency situations.

The public will be able to access Board meetings either in person or by electronic communication. They will have the ability to address the Board at specified times both in person and through electronic communication. If an individual is to address the Board electronically, they will need to identify themselves to be noted on record

before stating their question or comment. This must be done by raising their hand and speaking, or typing a comment/question in the chat/Q&A feature.

The Board authorizes the administration to provide the equipment and facilities required to implement this Board procedure.

Guidelines

A school director who attends a meeting through electronic communications shall be considered present only if the school director can hear everything said at the meeting and all those attending the meeting can hear everything said by that school director and other participants addressing the Board. If the in-person Board members determine either condition is not occurring, the in-person Board members shall terminate the school director's attendance through electronic communications.

~~A majority of school directors shall be physically present at a Board meeting when a school director attends through electronic communications.~~

To attend a Board meeting through electronic communications, a school director shall comply with the following:

- 1. Submit such request to the Board President at least three (3) days prior to the meeting to the extent possible.**
- 2. Ensure that the remote location is quiet and free from background noise and interruptions.**

Emergency Conditions

In the event that the country, state,, or federal public health authorities, the Governor, or any similar authority with appropriate jurisdiction declares an emergency condition that prevents or discourages public gatherings due to a public health or safety concern, the Board shall be authorized to conduct meetings primarily or entirely via electronic communications to enable all school directors and other necessary participants to fully participate in the conduct of official Board business through electronic communications. (2)

Meetings held primarily or entirely via electronic communications shall be conducted in a manner that assures compliance with the public access and public comment requirements of the Sunshine Act. All rules normally applicable to in-person meetings of the Board shall be observed in meetings held primarily or entirely via electronic means to the extent practicable and appropriate to the nature and features of the technology used. (3) (4)

The requirement for school directors to submit a request to participate in meetings through electronic communications shall be waived during such emergency conditions.

The Board authorizes the administration to utilize available technical resources to permit the public to attend and submit public comment during open meetings via electronic communications, in accordance with law and Board procedures and policy. (3) (4)

Procedures

A Board member has the option to participate in a voting meeting by telephone when the member is unable to attend in person.

~~The recognized use of speaker phones will be limited to necessary absence due to sickness, travel required by the Board member's employer, family emergency, death of a family member, etc.~~

~~The cost of the phone call for a necessary absence would be a reimbursable expense of the Board member under Section 516.1 of the School Code which provides that each school director be reimbursed by the district for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in attending meetings.~~

~~The Board member participating by telephone must be able to hear the comments of and speak to all those present at the meeting, including members of the public, and all those present at the meeting must be able to hear the comments of and speak to such absent members contemporaneously.~~

~~The Board member participating by telephone will be counted present for the meeting.~~

~~A Board member may still participate by telephone while absent for reasons other than stated above but only at the member's expense.~~

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. 407](#)

2. [Pol. 805](#)

3. [65 Pa. C.S.A. 701, et seq.](#)

4. [Pol. 903](#)

[Pol. 006](#)

Legal

1. [65 Pa. C.S.A. 701 et seq](#)