

**Allegheny Valley School District**  
**June 12, 2018**

The planning session of the Allegheny Valley School Board was held Tuesday evening, June 12, 2018. President Mr. Antonio Pollino presided. The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m.

Roll Call:	Mr. Gaschler	Mrs. Renaldi
	Mrs. McFarland - absent	Mr. Rocco
	Ms. Moretti	Mr. Whelan
	Mr. Pollick	Mr. Pollino
	Mr. Puskar	

Also in attendance were Mr. Graczyk, Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Ms. Rajgopal, Ms. Holler, Mr. Heavner, Dr. Nuzzo, Ms. Vecchio, Dr. Welter, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Kaczor, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Davis, Mr. Slezak, students, staff members, and community members.

Mr. Pollino announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss Personnel matters.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:**

The following individuals were recognized:

1. Ms. Jennifer Novich, AVEA President, who read a prepared statement detailing her disappointment with the staff reductions that are being recommended to the Board. She asked the Board to reconsider.
2. Ms. Rachel Rak also stated her opposition to the proposed staff reductions, asking the Board to reconsider.
3. Mr. Rich Graff also stated his opposition to proposed staff reductions.
4. Ms. Tammy Campus read a prepared statement asking the Board to reconsider tax increases. She was opposed to staff reductions.
5. Ms. Debbie Helwing, who also opposed staff reductions, commented that the Board shouldn't jeopardize the quality of education when trying to balance the budget.
6. Mr. Brett Kymer commented on the consideration of eliminating one technology education teacher, commenting on the program that has been growing over the years and winning awards for the District.
7. Mr. Scott Redman stated that he appreciated the difficult decisions that need to be made, but that schools are only as good as the staff they employ. He was also opposed to staff reductions.
8. Mr. Jason Overly stated his support for the technology teacher and didn't believe the Board should eliminate any teachers.
9. Mr. Rick Toney stated his agreement with Ms. Novich, asking about the deficit in the budget. He asked that the Board reconsider the proposed reductions in staff.
10. Ms. Judy Rablowki commented that she is upset about the proposed furloughs of the assistant principal and the future of the STEM program.
11. Mrs. Zahner asked that the Board keep technology classes.
12. Mr. Jake Summerhill commented that he wouldn't be where he is today (engineering) without the STEM program at Springdale Jr-Sr High School. He asked that the Board reconsider any reduction in staff.
13. Mr. Matthew Patterson stated that industrial arts and technology programs are vital to society. He asked that the Board find other areas in which to make budget cuts.
14. Ms. Michele Walsh asked the Board to reconsider all proposed furloughs.
15. Miss Isabella Walsh, student, commented that cutting the technology program will greatly affect students.
16. Ms. Kathleen Haas stated her support of the assistant high school principal, commenting on his handling of student discipline on buses.
17. Mr. Zachary Conte, student, commented his support of the technology education teacher and program.

18. Ms. Jeannine McCutcheon stated her support of the technology education teacher and assistant principal, also noting the “hole” in the physics department with the resignation of the teacher. She asked for the Board to reconsider any furloughs.
19. Mr. John Schronski commented on the importance of STEM classes and asked for the Board to reconsider any furloughs.
20. Mr. Justin Dvorzak, student, spoke in support of the technology education teacher.
21. Mr. Alexander Shaginaw, student, spoke in support of the STEM program.
22. Mr. Ryan Publowski, student, asked that the Board reconsider eliminating the positions of the technology education teacher and high school assistant principal.
23. Ms. Jackie Freman spoke in support of the Acmetonia Kindergarten teacher, stating she is against larger classrooms in kindergarten.
24. Ms. Shari Trifinole spoke in support of the Acmetonia Kindergarten teacher.

Mr. Graczyk thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting. He expressed appreciation for how the comments were expressed and the individuals conducted themselves.

#### PRESENTATIONS:

1. Mr. Joe Massaro provided an update on the Acmetonia Construction Project and reviewed the change orders listed on the agenda. He noted that a letter was sent to Coates Construction to submit a recovery schedule. He also commented on status of the project and that there had been an increase in the number of workers on site. Mr. Puskar asked if it was reasonable to say that the entire building would not be available for the start of school. Mr. Massaro replied that the entire building would not be ready. Mr. Rocco asked if there is a date for when the building would be ready to move into? Mr. Massaro explained that there are dates for the various areas, the completed areas could be moved into when available and accommodations would have to be made for the areas that are not. Mr. Graczyk stated that options will be discussed.
2. Mr. Graczyk recognized a donation from Amanda Puskar and Katie Huss of freezers for the concession stand at Veterans’ Field. He thanked the individuals for their generosity.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Graczyk. The following motions were discussed with no action taken:

MINUTES: Recommend the Board approve the minutes of the May 8 and 14, 2018 meetings.

BILLS/PAYMENTS: Recommend the Board approve the May 2018 Treasurer’s Report, the payment of bills (Disbursement Ledger), and the Accounts Payable List.

#### OPERATIONS/FINANCE:

1. Recommend the Board adopt Draft #2 of the AVSD 2018-2019 Master Calendar as the final version.
2. ROLL CALL AT VOTING MEETING – Recommend the Board approve the Final General Fund Operating Budget for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$22,493,595. The Budget represents an increase of 1.9% or \$410,118 more than the 2017-2018 Budget of \$22,083,477. Local revenue for this Proposed Final Budget will be provided by a real estate tax of 20.3494 mills, one half of 1% earned income tax, one-half of 1% real estate transfer tax and one-half of \$10 occupation privilege tax. Budget was prepared on direction given by School Board to balance the deficit in prepared budget with the following cuts: \$300,000 in staffing and \$100,000 to \$200,000 in fixed costs, and use fund balance for remaining. Mr. Graczyk read a statement detailing budget planning, stating that this budget includes additional technology, additional programs (PreK and Life Skills programs), additional security, and increases in retirement costs. He noted that the District is not one in decline, but one that is fulfilling its mission. Mr. Puskar proposed that the current budget listed in

the agenda be amended to the proposed final budget recommendation. Mr. Gaschler commented that it's a question of what the District needs versus what it can afford. Mrs. Renaldi commented that she would not vote in favor of a budget that furloughs teachers. Mr. Whelan stated that he believes in maintaining the integrity of the District, with taxes being the main revenue stream, the Board must consider increasing taxes. He stated that he does not support furloughs. Mr. Pollick commented that when consolidating buildings, there has to be positions that overlap duties. How much does a quality education cost? Ms. Moretti asked how does the Board justify consolidating buildings and a construction project with declining enrollment and keep the same costs? Mr. Pollino asked if the Board would like to have the proposed final budget, with the tax increase and no furloughs, on the agenda for a vote at the monthly meeting. The consensus of the Board was to make the change of the motion.

8:41 p.m. – Mr. Pollino asked for the Board to adjourn to Executive Session.

9:02 p.m. – Board returned to regular session.

3. Recommend the Board approve the 2018-2019 expenditures from the Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$46,650.
4. Recommend the Board approve the 2018-2019 expenditures from the Technology Reserve Fund in the amount of \$403,896.40. Mr. Puskar asked for the balance of this fund. Mr. Graczyk stated approximately \$410,000.
5. ROLL CALL AT VOTING MEETING - Recommend the Board approve the 2018 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion, for the District to reduce property taxes, for qualified homestead/farmstead properties by \$134.25. In accordance with the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), the District must reduce property taxes beginning July 1, 2014.
6. Recommend the Board approve PNC Bank, Harmar Township, as the school district depository for the 2018-2019 school year.
7. Recommend the Board appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as Board Treasurer, effective July 1, 2018. Mr. Pollick nominated Ms. Moretti; Mr. Rocco nominated Mr. Puskar.
8. Recommend the Board award the Athletic and General Supplies Bids.
9. Recommend the Board award the paper and custodial supplies bid to be purchased through the AIU Consortium.
10. Recommend the Board approve the Forbes Road Career & Technical Center 2018/2018 Revenue Anticipation Note in the amount of \$5,400,000 with an interest rate of 3.09%.
11. Recommend the Board approve the following companies as the District's investment companies for the 2018-2019 school year:
  - PLGIT (State-Approved Agency)
  - PSDLAF (State-Approved Agency)
12. Recommend the Board acknowledge receipt from the Pennsylvania Department of Education of the PlanCon H: Project Financing Approval Document and its attached Appended Materials for the Additions and Alterations Project at Acmetonia Primary School.
13. Recommend the Board approve the closure of Colfax Upper Elementary School and to reassign pupils from that school to the Acmetonia Elementary School. The closure and reassignment of pupils shall be effective upon the commencement of the 2018-2019 school year; provided, however, if construction of the additions and renovations to Acmetonia Primary School are not completed in time to allow full occupancy of the Acmetonia Elementary School as of the commencement of the 2018-2019 school year, the closure and reassignment shall be effective upon such later date as subsequently is determined by the Board of School Directors as will allow an orderly transition into the renovated school. Mr. Pollino explained that a Board committee is exploring options for the Colfax building. Creative ideas have been brought to the table that need to be discussed.
14. Recommend the Board approve the reconfiguration and change of name of the current Acmetonia Primary School. Effective the 2018-19 school year, the name of the school building shall be the

Acmetonia Elementary School and, coincident with the closure of the former Colfax Elementary School, all students in kindergarten through sixth grade shall be assigned to attend the Acmetonia Elementary School.

15. Recommend the Board approve the renewal of insurance policies for the 2018-2019 school year through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>(+/-)</b>
	<b>Brickstreet</b>	<b>UPMC</b>	
Workers Compensation Premium	\$57,700	\$49,512	-14.19%
	<b>CM Regent</b>	<b>CM Regent</b>	
Property Premium	\$28,286	\$28,892	2%
	<b>CM Regent</b>	<b>RPS</b>	
Boiler Premium	\$3,987	\$3,783	-5.12%
	<b>CM Regent</b>	<b>CM Regent</b>	
General Liability Premium	\$5,602	\$5,573	-1%
Business Auto Premium	\$6,140	\$6,265	2%
Umbrella Premium	\$5,376	\$5,348	-1%
School Leaders E & O Premium	\$10,479	\$10,788	3%
	<b>BCS Insurance</b>	<b>BCS Insurance</b>	
Cyber Liability Premium	\$4,898	\$5,348	9%
Total Non-WC Premium	\$64,768	\$65,991	2%
Total Premium	\$122,468	\$123,977	1%

16. Recommend the Board approve the renewal of the Group Life Insurance, AD&D, and LTD policies for the 2018-2019 school year as proposed through CM Regent Solutions.

2018-2019

Basic \$0.09

AD&D \$0.02

LTD \$0.19

17. Recommend the Board approve the renewal of the Sports and Student Accident Insurance – Alive Risk underwritten by AXIS Insurance Company as follows:

2018-2019

Athletic Plan AAA – Primary \$6,154

Student Plan – School Time \$ 22

Student Plan – 24-Hour Coverage \$ 88

18. Recommend the Board approve the Tax Collector Bond Quote for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2022.

		<b>Jerich Agency</b>
Debbie Sigmund	Springdale Borough	\$5,807
Kathryn Winwood	Springdale Township	\$3,210
James DiPalma	Harmar Township	\$8,197
Louise Parkhill	Cheswick Borough	\$3,667
		<b>\$20,881</b>

19. Recommend the Board approve the Agreement with Wesley Services for ESY Services for student #260006 effective July 9, 2018 through August 2, 2018. The cost of tuition is \$2,900.
20. Recommend the Board approve the Agreement with Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP for the audit of the financial statements for the years ending June 30, 2018, 2019, and 2020. The fee schedule is as listed below:

<u>Year ended June 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2018	\$15,850
2019	\$16,325
2020	\$16,825

21. Recommend the Board approve the Agreement with River Pediatric Therapies effective August 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 at a cost of \$59 per hour for occupational therapy services and \$61 per hour for physical therapy services.
22. Recommend the Board approve the Agreement with River Pediatric Therapies to provide Occupational Therapy services to ESY students at a cost of \$60 per hour effective July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018.
23. Recommend the Board approve the Agreement with New Story for ESY Services for student #230183, student #260298, and student #220173. The program runs from July 2, 2018 through August 13, 2018 at a cost of \$326 per day per student.
24. Recommend the Board approve Change Order #'s 28, 33, 35, 37, 41, and 43 as it relates to the Acmetonia Construction Project. Final cost for these Change Orders is \$110,422.25.
  - Change Order #28: Vern's Electric/Intertech
    - Upgrade phone system to VOIP requested by Owner – recommend approval of proposed CO
    - Cost: \$32,383.86
  - Change Order #33: Vern's Electric
    - Add power to revised wheel chair lift at the stage configuration
    - Cost: \$2,101.52
  - Change Order #35: Vern's Electric
    - Relocation of existing under slab – kitchen circuit – Assume 250 MCM – 200 AMP in conduit run overhead from kitchen to existing gear – Outage and 12-hour shifts
    - Cost: \$60,111.61
  - Change Order #37: Vern's Electric
    - RFI #47 – Install new conduits for proper size of wire. Add conduits not shown for new circuits
    - Cost: \$15,892.27
  - Change Order #41: North East Interior Systems
    - Delete on mail box unit in Waiting Room D106
    - Credit: \$1,050.00
  - Change Order \$43: Vern's Electric
    - Relocate the control panels and outlets from the elevator pit from the final elevator shop drawings
    - Cost: \$982.99

Ms. Moretti asked for the total amount of the change orders, to date, in the update. Mr. Graczyk stated that an amount would be included.

25. Recommend the Board approve the Agreement with Intertech for the upgrade of phone system to VOIP at the Springdale Jr-Sr High School in the amount of \$55,778.00.
26. Recommend the Board approve the Computer Centerline (CCL) 2018-2019 Twelve-Month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue outsourcing technology staff at a total cost of \$80,160.
27. Recommend the Board approve the 2018-2019 annual Student Assistance Program/School Based Mental Health Outpatient Services, with Wesley Family Services, effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

#### EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY:

1. Recommend the Board approve the adoption of the following textbooks:
  - A. HMD Physics 2017  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Cost: \$4,875.09
  - B. HMD Modern Chemistry 2017  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Cost: \$6,826.25
  - C. HMH Biology 2017  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Cost: \$12,266.16

Mr. Puskar asked for the committee to set a date to meet.

#### PERSONNEL:

1. Recommend the Board approve Resolution #2018-7: The Board of School Directors concurs in the recommendation of the Superintendent for the curtailment and alteration of the industrial arts/technology education program by the elimination of one teaching position effective June 30, 2018, to conform to standards of organization and due to a substantial decline in pupil enrollments. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with Section 1124(2) of the Public School Code of the curtailment of the industrial arts/technology education program. The Board further approves the furlough of one employee in a position requiring industrial arts/technology education certification, determined in accordance with Section 1125.1 of the Public School Code, on the grounds of substantial decrease in pupil enrollment within the District and the curtailment and alteration of the industrial arts/technology education program effective June 30, 2018.
2. Recommend the Board approve Resolution #2018-8: The Board of School Directors concurs in the recommendation of the Superintendent for the curtailment and alteration of the elementary education program by the elimination of one teaching position effective June 30, 2018, to conform to standards of organization and due to a substantial decline in pupil enrollments and the closure of Colfax Upper Elementary School. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with Section 1124(2) of the Public School Code of the curtailment of the elementary education program. The Board further approves the furlough of one employee in a position requiring elementary education certification, determined in accordance with Section 1125.1 of the Public School Code, on the grounds of substantial decrease in pupil enrollment within the District, the closure of Colfax Upper Elementary School and the curtailment and alteration of the elementary education program effective June 30, 2018.
3. Recommend the Board approve the elimination of one principal position and the furlough of one employee in a position requiring principal certification, determined in accordance with Section 1125.1 of the Public School Code, effective June 30, 2018, due to a substantial decline in pupil enrollments and the closure of Colfax Upper Elementary School.

4. Recommend the Board accept, with regret, the retirement of Professional Employee Ms. Kathleen McQuade, Social Studies Teacher, Springdale Jr-Sr High School, effective June 11, 2018. Mr. Graczyk thanked Ms. McQuade for her many years of service with the District.
5. Recommend the Board accept, with regret, the retirement Classified Employee Mr. Joseph Leiberton, Custodian, effective September 1, 2018. Mr. Graczyk thanked Mr. Leiberton for his many years of service with the District.  
Mr. Puskar asked if the retirees could be invited to a Board meeting for recognition.
6. Recommend the Board approve the employment of the Extended Day-to-day Substitute Teacher Mr. Nicholas Etzel, effective May 21, 2018 – June 11, 2018. Compensation will be \$150 per day plus individual benefits. Mr. Etzel is replacing an employee who is on medical leave.
7. Recommend the Board accept, with regret, the resignation of Classified Employee Ms. Ashley Kostick, Paraprofessional, effective June 4, 2018.
8. Recommend the Board accept, with regret, the resignation of Substitute Custodial Employee Mr. Richard Fuller, effective: May 31, 2018.
9. Recommend the Board approve the employment of Ms. Tracy Acheson as Custodial Summer Help with the compensation of \$9.25/hour, effective June 19, 2018.
10. Recommend the Board approve the employment of Athletic Personnel Ms. Krysten Whelan as Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer Coach, with compensation of \$4,831.00, effective July 1, 2018.
11. Recommend the Board approve the FMLA request of Employee #791 beginning June 4, 2018 (not to exceed 60 work days).
12. Recommend the Board approve the employment of the following Extended School Year (ESY) Professional Staff:
  - A. Ms. McCall Emerick, Teacher, Compensation: \$36 per hour
  - B. Mr. Curtis Poremski, Teacher, Compensation: \$36 per hour
  - C. Ms. Stacey Burns, Teacher, Compensation: \$26 per hour
  - D. Ms. Kandi Conner, Nurse, Compensation: \$36 per hour
  - E. Ms. Kellee Kovach, Speech Therapist, Compensation: \$26 per hour
13. Recommend the Board approve the employment of the following Extended School Year (ESY) Classified Staff:
  - A. Ms. Abbey Conrad, Bus Aide, Compensation: \$10.30 per hour
  - B. Ms. Ellen Burns, Paraprofessional, Compensation: \$12.40 per hour
  - C. Ms. Krysten Whelan, Paraprofessional, Compensation: \$12.40 per hour
  - D. Mr. Bill Emerick, Paraprofessional, Compensation: \$13.73 per hour
  - E. Mr. Nick Etzel, Paraprofessional, Compensation: \$12.40 per hour

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Discussion was held on additional funding in the 2018-2019 school year budget for School Police Officer/Security Firm costs. Mr. Graczyk stated that the District would look for an additional School Police Officer and include security to fill in when needed.

#### ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES:

Recommend the Board approve the annual Girls' Soccer Team pre-season trip to Edinboro University on August 16-18, 2018.

#### POLICY REVIEW:

Ms. Moretti stated that the policy concerning Board committees needs to be updated to reflect the change in combining the Education and Technology Committees.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

The Board recognized Mr. Rick Toney who commented on tax increases.

The Board recognized Mr. David Buchman who asked about costs for professional development and travel of Board Members. He referenced past discussions of the Board and asked about development of procedures. He encouraged the Board to refrain from sending members to conferences without procedures in place.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Puskar made a motion seconded by Mrs. Renaldi to adjourn the meeting, 10:32 p.m. Voice vote carried the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Zastawniak  
Public Relations Director