AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 18, 2018

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and contracts. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Karen Birdsall, Kim Cassidy, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Sharon Hixenbaugh, Corey McConn, Alex Paris

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Laura Shola, Business Manager
Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS Principal
Zachary Zebrasky, Elementary Principal
Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor - Absent

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the March/April Students of the Month:
   Shaylyn Zuver – 6th Grade Student
   Westley Burchianti – 6th Grade Student
   Alexis Minch – 6th Grade Student
   Gage Skariot – 6th Grade Student
   Sarah Dzurko – Senior
   Cameron Lawrence - Senior

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items - None

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ***ATTACHMENT "A"***

Board Members were furnished copies of the February 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and March 2018 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the February 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and March 2018 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ***ATTACHMENT "B"***

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the February, March and April 2018 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February, March and April 2018 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS ***ATTACHMENT "C"***

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT ***ATTACHMENT "D"***

5. BOARD INSURANCE REPORT ***No Revisions***

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

a. Varsity Golf Program – Cooperative Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Cooperative Agreement between the Avella Area School District and the Burgettstown Area School District for eligible students to participate in Burgettstown's Varsity Golf Program, per Attachment Athletic "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. James Gatewood, Head 7th/8th Grade Football Coach

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve James Gatewood as the Head 7th/8th Grade Football Coach for the 2018-19 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Dana Gatewood, Assistant 7th/8th Softball Coach

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Dana Gatewood as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Softball Coach for the 2017-18 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE - Continued

d. JT Mylan, Weight Room Coordinator
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve JT Mylan as a Weight Room Coordinator for the 2017-18 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. Wild Things Stadium – Facilities Lease Agreement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Facilities Lease Agreement for the Wild Things Stadium between the Avella High School Baseball Team and Washington County Family Entertainment, per Attachment Athletics "B" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

f. Joshua Chambers, Assistant Varsity Softball Coach
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Joshua Chambers as the Assistant Varsity Softball Coach for the 2017-18 school year, pending the receipt of the physical and mandatory Child Abuse reporting.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Use of School Facilities
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify the following Use of School Facilities:

NAME:	Cross Creek Board of Elections
PURPOSE:	Voting
PLACE:	JSHS Building
DATE:	March 13, 2018

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. General Construction Work for the Addition to Avella JSHS
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to award the General Construction Work for the Addition to Avella JSHS to Swede Construction Group, in the amount of $155,800.00, per McLean Architects' letter dated April 9, 2018 as Attachment B&G "A". Contract amount of $155,800.00 to be paid from Capital Projects Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Mr. Gagich said "nay". Motion carried 8-1.

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

c. Mechanical Construction Work for the Addition to Avella JSHS
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to award the Mechanical Construction Work for the Addition to Avella JSHS to East West Manufacturing, in the amount of $35,500.00, per McLean Architects' letter dated April 9, 2018 as Attachment B&G "A". Contract amount of $35,500.00 to be paid from Capital Projects Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Mr. Gagich said "nay". Motion carried 8-1.

d. Electrical Construction Work for the Addition to Avella JSHS
Motion tabled.

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. 2017–18 School Calendar
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to ratify the following revisions to the 2017-18 School Calendar, per Attachment Curriculum "A".
March 21, 2018 – Snow Day
April 4, 2018 – Makeup Snow Day for 3/21/18

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Student Discipline
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to approve the Waiver of Informal Hearing and Agreement between the Avella Area School District and C.D. and T.K., and direct and authorize the Administration to implement it.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported a grant for the Physical Education Department was applied for to purchase equipment for an air rifle program.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Scheduled Finance Committee Meetings:
April 18, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
May 16, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
June 6, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
June 20, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Barb Houpt, Cafeteria Worker – Memorandum of Understanding
Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Release between the Avella Area School District and Avella Area Education Support Professionals Agreement regarding Barb Houpt, Cafeteria Employee, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Additional Assistant Band Director Position
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve an additional Assistant Band Director position for the 2018-19 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. MOU – Additional Assistant Band Director Position
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Education Association regarding the elimination of the Dance Line Sponsor position for the 2018-19 school year, and compensation of said position to be paid to the additional Assistant Band Director position, per Attachment Negotiations "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. 2018-19 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the following to the JSHS Extra-Curriculum Activities for the 2018-19 school year, per AEA Contract:

- Nicholas Deutsch – Band Director
- Bethany Songer – Assistant Band Director
- Ryan Kinzler – Assistant Band Director (Per MOU)
- Jesse Rhoades - Marching Band Drum Line Instructor
- Kristina Piskuric – Color Guard Instructor
- Summer Miller - Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor
- Charity Porbin - Assistant Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor
- Nicholas Deutsch - Choral Director
- Bethany Songer – Choral Director
- Lynn Clarchick - Play Producer
- Debora Descutner – Play Director
- Nicholas Deutsch – Senior Class Sponsor
- Renee Worst – Junior Class Sponsor
- Joelle Cooper – Sophomore Class Sponsor
- Bethany Songer – Freshman Class Sponsor
- Laura Lazzarotti – 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor
- Carrie Struth – Student Council Sponsor
- Lynn Akins – National Honor Society Sponsor

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. 2018-19 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities - Continued

- Joelle Cooper – Newspaper Sponsor
- Natalie Frank – Yearbook Sponsor
- Kristen Jakiel – SADD Sponsor
- Jessica Miller – Art Club Sponsor
- Evelyn Breitigan – Community Service Sponsor
- Evelyn Breitigan – Science Club
- Susan Kubacka – Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach
- Amy Rush – Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Kellington Protection Services, LLC – Terminate Service Agreement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to authorize the Administration to terminate the Service Agreement with Kellington Protection Services, LLC, effective 7 days from certified mail/return receipt requested notification.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. RHS Safety Consulting, LLC - Service Agreements
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Service Agreements between the Avella Area School District and RHS Safety Consulting, LLC, per Attachment Personnel "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

d. Jodie Cowden, Cafeteria Employee – Unpaid Leave
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve Jodie Cowden's request for unpaid leave, effective March 14 – April 27, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. 2017-18 School Volunteer List
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve Lindsay Benzenoefer to the School Volunteer List for the 2017-18 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

f. Extended School Year Program Teachers
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the following Extended School Year Program Teachers, effective summer 2018, per AEA Contract.
Colleen Jastrzebski - Elementary
Kara Ruffalo – JSHS
Dana Gatewood – Sub

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

g. Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve Linda Gagliani, Jennifer Markle and Amy Rush as Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective summer 2018.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

h. Anthony Luskoski, Security Personnel - Agreement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Anthony Luskoski for security services, per Attachment Personnel "B" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

i. John Vith, Security Personnel - Agreement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and John Vith for security services, per Attachment Personnel "C" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

j. Linda Gilmore, Cafeteria Worker – Medical Leave of Absence
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve Linda Gilmore's request for a medical leave of absence, effective April 4, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

7. POLICIES

a. PSBA Policies
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies, effective April 18, 2018. (Frist reading held 2/21/18)
- **Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response #819**
- **Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotations #610**

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. First Reading - Attachment Policies "A"
- **#808 Food Service Policy with Attachment**

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled May 3, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary