

**AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 17, 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, October 17, 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: Susan Key, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the October Students of the Month:
Joshua Lanch – 6th Grade Student
Sydney Allen – 6th Grade Student
Jenna Craig– Senior
Josh Myers - 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 September 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the September 2018 Regular 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 September and October 2018 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the September and October 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** **ATTACHMENT "E"**

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

- a. **Robert Laick, Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' BB Coach - Resignation**
Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Robert Laick as the Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, effective end of 2017-18 season.

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. **Frank Papson, Ass't 7th/8th Grade Boys' BB Coach - Resignation**
Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Frank Papson as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, effective end of 2017-18 season.

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. **Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach - Posting**
Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to ratify the posting (advertisement if necessary) of a Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball 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.

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

- a. **Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the status of the addition to the JSHS building.**
- b. **Purchase of UTV**
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to authorize the Administration to purchase a new UTV.

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. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. **Ms. Cunningham, Board President, reported the Western Area Career & Technology Center is hosting a "Bring Your Parent to School Day" to watch students in the classroom setting. This program will also help parents to gain a better understanding of what the students do to make them more employable.**
- b. **Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the District is still waiting for the State's decision regarding the Waiver Application for missed days of school.**
- c. **McGuffey School District - Tuition Student**
Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Blake Lindley to attend the McGuffey School District's Agricultural Mechanization Program of Study for the 2018-2019 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "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. **Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement regarding Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program, per Attachment Curriculum "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.

- e. **Tri-M Music Honor Society**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Bethany Songer, Music Teacher's request, to start a Tri-M Music Honor Society at the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Curriculum "C". Students must receive a grade of B or higher in core subjects and A in music class.

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

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

f. Bethany Songer - Tri-M Music Honor Society Advisor

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Bethany Songer, Music Teacher, as the Advisor for the Tri-M Music Honor Society at the Avella Area School District.

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.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. McLean Architects –Application and Certification for Payment

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Application and Certification for Payment to Swede Construction in the amount of \$37,098.43, per Attachment Finance "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. McLean Architects - Invoice

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the McLean Architects' invoice in the amount of \$592.75 for Project #MA 1720-5, per Attachment Finance "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.

c. Resolution – IU #1 Health Insurance Consortium Trust

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Resolution regarding subscribing School Districts of the Intermediate Unit 1 to enter into a Trust Agreement to authorize the Consortium to purchase health benefits for respective personnel to contain costs, per Attachment Finance "C".

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.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Education Association regarding the stipend for Christine Rice, Part-Time Vocational Agricultural Teacher, per Attachment Negotiations "A" to Revised Agenda, contingent upon a resolution to the satisfaction of the Administration with regard to additional hours.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. 2018-19 School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2018-19 school year:

Dianne Carnahan
Scott Frank
Elissa Gilmer
Amy Heckman
Cinnamon Kramer
Holly Tropeck

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. Substitute Support Staff – Hourly Wage Increase

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve increasing the hourly wage for Substitute Cafeteria Workers, Secretaries and Aides to \$9.00 per hour, effective immediately.

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. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the adoptions/revisions of the following policies, effective immediately (first reading was held 9/26/18):

#246 – School Wellness
#808 – Food Service
#917 – Family Engagement
#918 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement

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. Rescind PSBA Policy 808.1 – Student Cafeteria

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to rescind Policy #808.1 – Student Cafeteria, effective immediately.

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. A first reading was held of Policy #251 – Homeless Students (Attachment Policies "A")

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled November 1, 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 Ms. Hixenbaugh, seconded by Ms. Cassidy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary