

**AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

December 6, 2017

The Reorganization Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Karen Birdsall, 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

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions - None

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items - None

B. REORGANIZATION

1. NOMINATIONS FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

Moved by Mr. Paris to nominate Karen Birdsall as Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization.

No other nominations were made for Temporary President.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to close the nominations for Temporary President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Birdsall takes the chair as Temporary President.

Mrs. Birdsall, Temporary President, administered the Oath of Office to Leslie Cunningham, Melissa Dryer, Sharon Hixenbaugh and Corey McConn.

B. REORGANIZATION

2. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Paris, to nominate Ms. Cunningham as Board President.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to nominate Mr. Jeffrey Devenney as Board President.

No other nominations were made for Board President.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to close the nominations for Board President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Roll call by voice vote for Board President:

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh and Mr. Paris voted for Ms. Cunningham by voice vote. Ms. Birdsall, Mr. Devenney, and Mr. McConn voted for Mr. Devenney by voice vote. Majority vote for Ms. Cunningham as Board President, motion carried 5-3.

Ms. Leslie Cunningham takes over the chair as Board President.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Moved by Mr. Paris to nominate Mr. Jeffrey Devenney as Board Vice-President.

Mr. Devenney declined the nomination for Board Vice-President.

Moved by Mr. Mr. Gagich to nominate Mr. Corey McConn as Board Vice-President.

Mr. McConn declined the nomination for Board Vice-President.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. McConn, to nominate Karen Birdsall as Board Vice-President.

No other nominations were made for Board Vice-President.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. McConn, to close the nominations for Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Karen Birdsall as Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. REORGANIZATION

4. Appointment of Hopewell Township Board Member – 2 Year Term

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Kim Cassidy to the Hopewell Township Board Member 2 year term position.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Mr. Gagich and Ms. Hixenbaugh said “nay”. Motion carried 6-2.

5. Board Treasurer

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Corey McConn as Board Treasurer, effective December 6, 2017-June 30, 2018, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at \$50,000.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

6. District Solicitor

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Barbara Graham, Law Offices of Peacock, Keller & Ecker, LLP, to continue as the District’s Solicitor for the 2018 year, per attached proposal letter dated November 17, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

7. Board Meetings

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a tentative list of the 2018 meeting dates with meeting times beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are regular meetings. The committee meetings will be non-voting and meet as needed and advertised. (Attachment)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

8. Facsimile Signatures

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve permission for application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to use facsimile signatures for the following bank accounts:

Cafeteria Fund Checks:	President and Secretary
General Fund Checks:	President, Treasurer and Secretary
Payroll Fund Checks:	Treasurer and Secretary

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

9. Authorization for Payments

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Officers of the Board to be authorized to draw orders for payrolls and for payments of bonds, interest, utilities and other pertinent bills as they come due.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

10. Board Committees

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Board Committee List for the 2018 year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

December 6, 2017

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, December 6, 2017. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., following the Reorganization Meeting. 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, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Sharon Hixenbaugh, Corey McConn, Alex Paris
Absent: Kim Cassidy

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

OTHERS: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions - None

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 November 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the November 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2017 General Fund. (An additional Accounts Payable List was added to the Revised Agenda.)

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2017 General Fund and the additional Accounts Payable List added to the Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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

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

5. BOARD INSURANCE REPORT **ATTACHMENT "E"**

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – No Report

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Discussions were held of the following:

- Status of Vo-Ag Building
- Status of LED Lighting

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported that Chevron & EQT awarded the Aquaponics Consortium Grant, in the amount of \$70,000, to be shared between Avella School District and neighboring school districts.**

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Ms. Regan McGlennon, - California University of PA

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Ms. Regan McGlennon, California University of PA student, to complete her Clinical Field Experience program with Mr. Nikolopoulos, Guidance Counselor, on or about January 22, 2018, pending receipt of required clearances.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

b. 2017-18 Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Jenna Antantis to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2017-18 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

c. 2017-18 Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Jean Lloyd to the Volunteer List for the 2017-18 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

7. POLICIES

a. A discussion was held regarding the cafeteria staff wearing anti-slip shoes being added to the Dress Code Policy.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled January 4, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. The Board requested Mr. Wargo, Network Administration, to provide a technology summary report at the January 2018 meeting.

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary