

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 16, 2019

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, January 16, 2019. 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, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Sharon Hixenbaugh, Corey McConn
Absent: Kim Cassidy, 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

1. The following students were recognized as the January Students of the Month:
Alexandra Cilia – Senior
Luke Richards - Senior
Emma Johnson – 6th Grade Student
Dillan Pfeifer – 6th Grade Student
2. Board Members were recognized for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students, and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

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 December 2018 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the December 2018 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

2. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **ATTACHMENT "B"**
Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the December 2018 and January 2019 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2018 and January 2019 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

3. **FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS** **ATTACHMENT "C"**
4. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT** **ATTACHMENT "D"**
5. **BOARD INSURANCE REPORT** **ATTACHMENT "E"**

B. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Ms. Kim Cassidy, Hopewell Township Board Member - Resignation**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to accept the resignation of Ms. Kim Cassidy from the Avella Area School Board, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

- b. **A discussion was held regarding the Hopewell Township Board position vacancy. The Board agreed to advertise the vacant position on the District website with a deadline date to apply of February 6, 2019.**

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- a. **Melinda Latynski, Head Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify Melinda Latynski as the Head Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor for the 2018-19 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- b. Kristina Piskuric, Assistant Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify Kristina Piskuric as the Assistant Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor for the 2018-19 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

- c. Jason Fogg, Athletic Director**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Jason Fogg as the Athletic Director for the 2019-20 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

- d. 2019-2020 Fall Sport Coaches**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the following Fall Sport Coaches for the 2019-20 school year:

Cross Country

Laura Lazzarotti, Head Coach
Paula Davies, Assistant Coach

7th/8th Grade Football

James Gatewood, Head Coach
Brad Rankin, Assistant Coach

Tennis

Natalie Frank, Head Coach
Deanna Georgetti, Assistant Coach

Volleyball

Joelle Cooper, Head Coach
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

- e. 2019-2020 Varsity Football Coaches**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the following Fall Sport Coaches for the 2019-20 school year:

Varsity Football

Ryan Cecchini, Head Coach
Zachary Zebrasky, Assistant Coach
JT Mylan, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Ms. Hixenbaugh said "nay". Motion carried 6-1.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- f. The Board tabled the hiring of the 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coaches until the February Regular Board Meeting.**

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Use of School Facilities

Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the following Use of School Facilities:

NAME: Jason Slider/Mercy Medical Center
PURPOSE: Tactical Medical Class
PLACE: Elementary School
DATE: March 23-24, 2019

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

- b. A discussion was held regarding Hickory Telephone Company's interest in the District's radio tower.**

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board President, reviewed the items discussed at the Western Area Career & Technology Center meeting.**

- b. Mr. Cyril Walther, Superintendent, reported the Waiver Application for missed school days was approved for the JSHS building. The State has not made a decision to date regarding the Elementary School.**

c. River School Therapies

Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Revised Proposal for Provision of Special Education Therapy Services (Social Workers) between Avella Area School District and the River School Therapies for the 2018-19 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Adoption of Resolution – Act 1

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the adoption of the Resolution, pursuant to Section 311(d)(1), indicating that the District will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

b. AIU – Joint Purchasing Agreement

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Joint Purchasing Agreement between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Finance “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Tri-M Music Honor Society - Student Activity Fund

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Tri-M Music Honor Society to establish a Student Activity Account.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Settlement Agreement and Release

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release to resolve a disputed due process claim involving a specific student, contingent upon execution of the same by parents and their attorney, per Attachment Negotiations “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Susan Temple, Custodian

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Susan Temple as a full time custodian, effective December 11, 2018, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for Geraldine Coffield’s position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Tonia Miller, Custodian

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Tonia Miller as a full time custodian, effective December 28, 2018, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for John Pirillo’s position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Cole Closser, Custodian

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Cole Closser as a full time custodian, effective start date pending upon receipt of clearances, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for Pam Danneker’s position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

d. Marcia Jaworoski, Part-Time (5 Hour) Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Marcia Jaworoski as a part-time cafeteria worker, 5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective January 3, 2019, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for Susan Temple's position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

e. Eugenia Mundorff, Part-Time (4.5 Hour) Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Eugenia Mundorff as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4.5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective December 11, 2018, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for Tonia Miller's position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

f. Joanne Barth, Part-Time (4 Hour) Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Joanne Barth as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective January 17, 2019, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for Marcia Jaworoski's position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

g. Jamie Christopher, Part-Time (4 Hour) Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Jamie Christopher as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective start date pending upon receipt of clearances, per PSEA/NEA Contract. (Replacement for Jodi Cowden moving into Eugenia Mundorff's position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

h. 2018-19 School Volunteer List

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

James Best
Marcie Campbell
Haley Danna
Kelley DeFilippis
Donald Dean Dryer
Alicia Dutton
Larry Halverson
Sandra Halverson
Cathleen Harding
Craig Kimberland
Lesli Maltory
Donna Minor
Kelly Mull

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

h. 2018-19 School Volunteer List – Continued

Rebecca Narus
Christine Rice
Connie Jean Rush
Stephanie Staples
Ivan Ullom, III

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

i. 2018-2019 Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the following to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2018-19 school year:

Michelle Atkinson
Alice Carroll
Virginia Lilley

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

j. 2018-2019 Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve David Nixon to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2018-19 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

k. Clara Zatta, JSHS Teacher – Sabbatical Leave

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Clara Zatta, JSHS Teacher’s request for a Sabbatical Leave, effective January 17, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

l. Katelyn Willyerd, Vo-Ag Teacher – Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Katelyn Willyerd, Vo-Ag Teacher, effective January 18, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

m. Vo-Ag Teacher – Post/Advertise

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a VoAg Teacher.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. POLICIES

a. PSBA – Principles for Governance and Leadership

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adopt PSBA's Principles for Governance and Leadership for Board Members, per Attachment Policies "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Mr. Gagich said "nay". Motion carried 6-1.

b. Safe2Say Something Procedures

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Safe2Say Something Procedures recommended by PSBA, per Attachment Policies "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled February 7, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

b. Emergency Operations Plan

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the Emergency Operations Plan, effective immediately, per Attachment Safety "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. A discussion was held regarding quotes received for a new telephone system.

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List – 2018-2019 School Year

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Revised GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2018-19 school year, per Attachment Transportation "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

b. Jake Schneider, Inc. - Contract for School Pupils

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Contract for School Pupils between the Avella Area School District and Jake Schneider, Inc. for the 2018-19 school year, per Attachment Transportation "B" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- c. Jake Schneider, Inc.'s Bus/Van Driver List – 2018-2019 School Year**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jake Schneider, Inc.'s Bus/Van Driver List for the 2018-19 school year, per Attachment Transportation "C" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary