

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 13, 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, February 13, 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: 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 February Students of the Month:
Ella Lengauer – Senior
Owen English - Senior
Julia Nardozi – 6th Grade Student
Baily Bauduin – 6th Grade Student
2. Congratulations to Jessica Miller, Art Teacher, and students Josh Butcher, Paige Fino, Aja Miller, Shayla Miller, Elijah Porbin, and Julia West for receiving Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards exhibited at California University of PA. Gold Key Award Winners (Aja Miller and Elijah Porbin) are currently being judged nationally in New York City.

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items - None

Leslie Thames, Hopewell Township Board Member

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to appoint Leslie Thames to the Hopewell Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Kim Cassidy, effective 2/13/19 – 12/4/19.

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

Oath of Office was administered to Leslie Thames.

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **ATTACHMENT "A"**
Board Members were furnished copies of the January 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the January 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Accounts Payable for the January and February 2019 General Fund.

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

3. **FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS** **ATTACHMENT "C"**
4. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT** **ATTACHMENT "D"**
5. **BOARD INSURANCE REPORT** **No Updates**

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- a. **7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coaches**
Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the following Fall Sport Coaches for the 2019-2020 school year:

7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball
Gilbert Cutruzzula, Head Coach
Mike Drazich, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn and Ms. Thames said "aye". Ms. Dryer abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

- b. **Cooperative Agreement – Tennis Team**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the Cooperative Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Burgettstown Area School District for the purpose of enabling eligible students who are attending Burgettstown Area School District to participate in the Avella Area School District's Tennis Program, effective 2019-2020 through 2022-2023 school years, per Attachment Athletic "A" to Revised Agenda.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. District Radio Tower

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to authorize Hickory Telephone Company to remove the radio tower located behind the high school building.

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

b. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported Dave McLean, District Architect, reviewed the drawings of the JSHS gym and did not find any structural damage regarding the beams and air condition system on his visit.

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Ms. Cunningham, Board President reviewed the items discussed at the WACTC meeting. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the Western Area Career & Technology Center is finding ways to increase their adult education programs. The welding program is expanding in the 2019-2020 school year.

b. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the District is still waiting for the State's response regarding the waiver application filed for missed school days.

c. 2018-2019 School Calendar

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the following revisions to the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2018-2019 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A" to Revised Agenda.

January 30, 2019	No School
January 31, 2019	In-Service Day moved from 2/15/19
February 1, 2019	No School
February 11, 2019	No School
February 15, 2019	Makeup day for 1/31/19
February 18, 2019	Makeup day for 1/30/19
April 26, 2019	Makeup day for 2/1/19
April 25, 2019	Makeup day for 2/11/19

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

d. 2019-2020 School Calendar

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

e. MOU – Blueprints' Early Learning Program

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and Blueprints' Early Learning Programs for the purpose of coordinating mutually beneficial activities, per Attachment Curriculum "C".

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

f. Professional Development – Math Department

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Professional Development Math Support Package from the Intermediate Unit 1, per Attachment Curriculum "D" to Revised Agenda.

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

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. McLean Architects –Application and Certification for Payment

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Application and Certification for Payment to East West Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc., in the amount of \$3,730.00, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

b. McLean Architects –Application and Certification for Payment

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Application and Certification for Payment to East West Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc., in the amount of \$12,420.00, per Attachment Finance "B".

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

c. McLean Architects –Application and Certification for Payment

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Application and Certification for Payment to Swede Construction Corp., in the amount of \$7,790.00, per Attachment Finance "C".

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

d. McLean Architects –Application and Certification for Payment

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Application and Certification for Payment to Westmoreland Electric, in the amount of \$4,580.00, per Attachment Finance "D".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

e. Resolution – Intermediate Unit I

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the 2019-2020 Intermediate Unit I General Operational Budget. Section 914-A(6)(1) Act 102 of 1970, requires that the Intermediate Unit Budget be approved by at least a majority of the school districts comprising the Intermediate Unit. Attachment Finance “E” to Revised Agenda.

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

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. A Negotiations Committee Meeting is scheduled February 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. John J. Lucas, Custodian - Retirement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of John J. Lucas, Custodian, on or about March 31, 2019.

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

b. Full Time Custodian – Posting

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to post (advertise if necessary) for a full time custodian, due to the retirement of John J. Lucas.

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

c. 2018-2019 School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the 2018-2019 School Volunteer List:

Renae Bell
John Latynski
Marissa Peterson

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

d. Extended School Year Program Teacher - Posting

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a JSHS/Elementary Extended School Year Program Teacher, effective Summer 2019.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- e. Extended School Year Program Special Education Aide - Posting**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for an Extended School Year Program Special Education Aide, effective Summer 2019.

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

- f. Amber Barker, Long Term Substitute Teacher**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Amber Barker as a Long Term Substitute Science Teacher for Clara Zatta's classroom.

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

- g. Sunnie Liggett, Long Term Substitute Teacher**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Sunnie Liggett as a Long Term Substitute Vo-Ag Teacher.

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

7. POLICIES

- a. PSBA Contract for Professional Services**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve the Contract for Professional Services between the Avella Area School District and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, per Attachment Policies "A". (District's last Comprehensive Review was in 2005)

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled March 7, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.**
- b. Mr. Cyril Walther, Superintendent, reported safety items purchased for the buildings from the School Safety & Security Program Grant.**

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Transportation Contract Addendum

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Addendum to the GG&C Transportation Contract, per Attachment Transportation "A".

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McConn called an Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. regarding personnel with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary