

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 20, 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, March 20, 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 (via telephone), James Gagich, Sharon Hixenbaugh, Corey McConn, Alex Paris, Leslie Thames

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 March Students of the Month:
Ella Lengauer – Senior (February Student of the Month)
Julianne Latynski – Senior
Tyler Mundorff - Senior
Mariah Stritzinger – 6th Grade Student
Tyler Jacobs – 6th Grade Student
2. Justin Lowe, WACTC student, competed in the American Welding Society Weld Off at Pittsburgh Technical College, earning welding certifications for SMAW 7018 in vertical and overhead positions on bevel plate with backing. Mr. Lowe did not place in the competition; however, the fact he passed an x-ray test for the two plates is commendable. Normally the High School students do not pass both of these.
3. Elijah Porbin, Junior Art Student, earned a national art award and was awarded the silver medal for his photograph "Reflections".

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 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames 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 and March 2019 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2019 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames 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 & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. 2019-20 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following to the JSHS Extra-Curriculum Activities for the 2019-20 school year, per AEA Contract:

- Nicholas Deutsch – Band Director
- Bethany Songer – Assistant Band Director
- Jesse Rhoades - Marching Band Drum 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
- Joelle Cooper – Newspaper Sponsor
- Natalie Frank – Yearbook Sponsor
- Kristen Jakiel – SADD Sponsor

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. 2019-20 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities - Continued

- 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
- JT Mylan – Weight Room Coordinator
- Zachary Zebrasky – Weight Room Coordinator Substitute

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

b. Kristina Piskuric, Color Guard Instructor - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation of Kristina Piskuric as the Color Guard Instructor, effective immediately.

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

c. Posting - Color Guard Instructor

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Color Guard Instructor for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Use of School Facilities

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following Use of School Facilities:

NAME: AEC
PURPOSE: Elementary Picnic Day
PLACE: Football Field, JSHS Exterior
DATE: May 23, 2019

NAME: Avella Athletics Youth Football
PURPOSE: Football Practices
PLACE: Football Field
DATE: 2019-2020 Season

NAME: Avella Athletics Youth Football
PURPOSE: Football Games – 2 Games/Night
PLACE: Football Field
DATE: 2019-2020 Season

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Use of School Facilities - Continued

NAME: Knights of Columbus Council #3440
PURPOSE: Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship
PLACE: JSHS Gym
DATE: January 18, 2020

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

b. Greenhouse

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the purchase of two rolls of new plastic for the District's Greenhouse.

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

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

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

b. WACTC – Amended Articles of Agreement and Resolution

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve Western Area Career & Technology Center's Articles of Agreement as Amended and Resolution, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

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

c. Centerville Clinics, Inc. – Letter of Agreement

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Centerville Clinics, Inc., per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

d. 2018-2019 School Calendar

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the following revisions to the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2018-2019 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "C".

February 20, 2019 Makeup day for 1/30/19
April 24, 2019 Makeup day for 2/20/19

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

e. Avella Area School District Equity Plan

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Current Implementation Status of the Equity Plan for the 2018-19 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "D".

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

f. Special Education Plan Report

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Avella Area School District's Special Education Plan Report, effective 7/1/2019-6/30/2022, per Attachment Curriculum "E".

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

g. JSHS Play – "Cocktails with Mimi"

March 22, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m.

March 23, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.

March 23, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Resolution – Earned Income Tax

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Resolution to support retaining the County Wide System for Earned Income Tax Collection as provided under Act 32 of 2008, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

b. Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled:

➤ April 9, 2019 @ 6:15 p.m.

➤ April 30, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

➤ May 15, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

➤ June 5, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

➤ June 19, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Additional Assistant Band Director Position

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve an additional Assistant Band Director position for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

b. MOU – Additional Assistant Band Director Position

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, 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 2019-2020 school year, and compensation of said position to be paid to the additional Assistant Band Director position, per Attachment Negotiations “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn and Ms. Thames said “nay”. Motion carried 5-4.

c. Ryan Kinzler – Assistant Band Director

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Ryan Kinzler as the Assistant Band Director for the 2019-2020 school year, per MOU.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh and Ms. Thames said “nay”. Motion carried 6-3.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. 2018-2019 Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve Amber Davis to the Volunteer List for the 2018-19 school year.

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

b. 2018-2019 Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to approve Loretta Whyte and Mary Kimberland to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2018-19 school year.

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

7. POLICIES

a. PSBA – Child Abuse Policy #806

Moved by Ms. Birdsall, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Policy #806 - Child Abuse Policy, updated with current state requirements, effective March 20, 2019, per Policies Attachment “A”.

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

b. A first reading was held of PSBA’s Section 000 - Local Board Procedures – Attachment Policies “B”. (First phase of District’s Comprehensive Review by PSBA)

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled April 4, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary