

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 17, 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, April 17, 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, Alex Paris, Leslie Thames

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

1. The following students were recognized as the April Students of the Month:
Tyler Jacobs – 6th Grade Student (March Student of the Month)
Meredith Bongiorno – 6th Grade Student
Jason Stough – 6th Grade Student
Leigha Cooke – Senior
Noah Taylor - 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 March 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the March 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 March and April 2019 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the March and April 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. Dance Team - Competition

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Dance Team to attend a competition in Wildwood, New Jersey, from May 1-5, 2019, per Attachment Athletic "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. Cheryl Rush, Color Guard Instructor

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Cheryl Rush as the 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. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, will schedule a Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting for a walkthrough of the JSHS and Elementary School buildings.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. **Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board President, reported the Western Area Career and Technology Center's NHS Induction is May 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. and graduation is May 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

b. **A Curriculum Committee Meeting is scheduled May 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.**

c. **Merakey Behavioral Health**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Letter of Collaborative Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Merakey Behavioral Health (formerly NHS Human Services) for the 2019-2020 school year, 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.

d. **Washington Communities Human Services, Inc.**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Student Assistance Program (SAP) Services between the Avella Area School District and Washington Communities Human Services, Inc., 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, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. **Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled the following dates:**

- 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 – No Report

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. **Intermediate Unit 1 – Emergency Substitute Program**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Commitment Form for the Emergency Substitute Program coordinated by the Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Personnel "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. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

b. Extended School Year Program Teachers

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following Extended School Year Program Teachers, effective summer 2019, per AEA Contract.

Colleen Jastrzebski - Elementary

Cheryl Rush – JSHS

Dana Gatewood – 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.

c. Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Linda Gagliani and Barbara Humensky as Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective summer 2019.

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. Elimination of Full Time Custodian Position

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to eliminate a full time custodian position (currently vacant), 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.

e. Create Part-Time Custodian Position

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to create a part-time custodian position, and to post (advertise if necessary) the position.

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 Comprehensive Review – Section 000 Policies

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the adoption/revisions to the first phase of PSBA's Comprehensive Review, Section 000 Policies. (First reading was held March 20, 2019.)

000 Board Policy//Procedure/Administrative Regulations

001 Name and Classification

002 Authority and Powers

003 Functions

004 Membership

005 Organization

006 Meetings

006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications

007 Policy Manual Access

011 Principles for Governance and Leadership

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. POLICIES

a. PSBA Comprehensive Review – Section 000 Policies - Continued

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.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled May 2, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. The telephone system quotes will be reviewed at the May Regular Board Meeting.

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Birdsall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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