

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

August 7, 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, August 7, 2019. Ms. Karen Birdsall, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 (via speaker phone), Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, Sharon Hixenbaugh, Corey McConn
Absent: James Gagich, 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 - 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 July 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the July 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the Accounts Payable for the July and August 2019 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. **Bethany Songer, Assistant Band Director**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Bethany Songer as Assistant Band Director, effective August 5, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- b. **Alexander Light, Assistant Band Director**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Alexander Light to the position of Assistant Band Director for the 2019-2020 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

2. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

- a. A discussion was held regarding the status of the building and grounds projects.
- b. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported a meeting was held regarding the event dedicating a section of Route 50 to honor Lieutenant Colonel Juanita Warman.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. **Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board President, announced the Western Area Career & Technology Center will meet on August 21, 2019.**

- b. **Western Area Career & Technology Center Students**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the 2019-2020 Western Area Career & Technology Center list of students, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- c. **Washington DC Field Trip**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the 8th Grade Class to travel to Washington DC from May 13-15, 2020 for an educational field trip, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- d. **Teach Simply Educational Consulting, L.L.C.**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Teach Simply Educational Consulting, LLC, for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- e. **KeySolution Staffing, LLC**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Staffing, LLC, to provide psychology services for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "D".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- f. **Tuition Student**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Blake Lindley to attend the McGuffey School District's Agricultural Mechanization Program of Study for the 2019-2020 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- g. **Center for Community Resources**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Student Assistance Program Agreement between the Avella Area School District and the Center for Community Resources for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "E" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- h. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the District received the Washington Financial Charitable Foundation Grant in the amount of \$16,500.**
- i. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported our District has been selected to participate in the Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program and a grant has been approved to be received within 2 years in the amount of \$80,000.**

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. Insurance Renewal**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following renewal policy through Campbell Insurance Associates:
 - Student Accident from US Fire Insurance Co., effective 8/14/19 in the amount of \$4770.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

- b. 7th Grade - Student Activity Fund**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Class of 2025 (7th Grade) to establish a Student Activity Account.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a. Zackery Franks, JSHS Mathematics Teacher**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve hiring Zackery Franks to the position of JSHS Mathematics Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective first day of the 2019-2020 school year, August 20, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

- b. Bethany Songer, Elementary Music Teacher**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to accept the resignation of Bethany Songer as Elementary Music Teacher for the 2019-2020 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

- c. Elementary Music Teacher – Posting/Advertising**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to ratify the posting/advertisement for an Elementary Music Teacher.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

d. Alexander Light, Elementary Music Teacher

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve hiring Alexander Light to the position of Elementary Music Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective first day of the 2019-2020 school year, August 20, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

e. Jamie Christopher, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to accept the resignation of Jamie Christopher as a part-time Cafeteria Worker.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

f. Part-Time Cafeteria Worker - Posting/Advertising

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the posting/advertisement for a 4-hour part-time cafeteria worker, due to the resignation of Jamie Christopher.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

g. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Personnel "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

h. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Personnel "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

i. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the updated School Volunteer List for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment "C" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

j. STAT Staff Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Staffing Agreement between the Avella Area School District and STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc., for the 2019-2020 school year, pending mutually agreed contract with both parties.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

k. Permanent Teacher Contract

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to award the following Permanent Teacher Contract:

Briana DeNardo, a Professional Employee Contract, following 3 years of satisfactory service with the District, effective August 25, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

l. David Watts, School Police Officer

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to accept the resignation of David Watts, School Police Officer, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

m. School Police Officer – Advertising

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve an advertisement for a School Police Officer.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

7. POLICIES

a. Student Handbooks

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Elementary Center and JSHS Student Handbooks for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Policies "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

b. Teachers' Handbook

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Teachers' Handbook for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Policies "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. **A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled September 5, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.**

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Transportation "A" to Revised Agenda. (GG&C is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Contract for School Pupils between the Avella Area School District and Jake Schneider, Inc. for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Transportation "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. Jake Schneider's Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Jake Schneider's Van Driver List for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Transportation "C" to Revised Agenda. (Jake Schneider is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

d. Parent Transportation Contract

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Parent Transportation Agreement between Mrs. Joan McEachern and the Avella Area School District to transport student to and from Avella Area School District for the 2019-2020 school year, per Attachment Transportation "D".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Hixenbaugh, and Mr. McConn, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

RECESS: The Board of Directors recessed the Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 7:45 p.m. to reconvene on Tuesday, August 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

RECONVENED: The Reconvened Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Tuesday, August 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.. Ms. Karen Birdsall, Board Vice-President, called the 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 (via speaker phone), Melissa Dryer, Corey McConn, Leslie Thames, Alex Paris
Absent: Jeffrey Devenney, James Gagich, Sharon Hixenbaugh

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

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

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- a. Deanna Georgetti, Assistant Tennis Coach - Resignation**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Deanna Georgetti as the Assistant Tennis Coach, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

2. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. Mr. Walther informed the Board that hogweed was not located on the nature trail after an incident was investigated.**
- b. A discussion was held regarding flexible instruction days. The Board was not in favor of proceeding with the filing.**

3. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. Lindsy Kopko, School Police Officer**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to hire Lindsy Kopko to the position of School Police Officer, effective August 22, 2019, or the date approved by the Common Pleas Court, whichever is earlier, pending receipt of mutually agreed upon and signed one year employment contract and all necessary clearances for the 2019-2020 school year. (Salary consideration will be \$38,000 - \$42,000)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

A. NEW BUSINESS

4. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Bethany Songer, 9th Grade Class Sponsor - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the resignation of Bethany Songer as the 9th Grade Class Sponsor, effective end of the 2018-2019 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

b. 9th Grade Class Sponsor – Posting/Advertising

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a posting/advertisement for a 9th Grade Class Sponsor.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. Linda Gilmore, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the retirement of Linda Gilmore, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

d. Part-Time Cafeteria Worker - Posting/Advertising

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to ratify the posting/advertisement for a 4-hour part-time cafeteria worker, due to the retirement of Linda Gilmore.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

e. Loretta Whyte, Part-Time (4 Hour) Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Loretta Whyte as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 21, 2019, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

f. Michelle Atkinson, Part-Time (4 Hour) Cafeteria Worker

Motion to approve Michelle Atkinson as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 21, 2019, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

g. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Kim Bianchi to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2019-2020 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

A. NEW BUSINESS

4. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

h. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Marvin Dunklin to the School Volunteer List for the 2019-2020 school year, pending receipt of all clearances.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary