

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**December 2, 2020**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board President, called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Leslie Thames, Scott Willyerd

Absent: Emanuel Paris

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

**OTHERS:** Rachel Lozosky, 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

**B. REORGANIZATION**

**1. NOMINATIONS FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to nominate Leslie Cunningham as Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization.

No other nominations were made for Temporary President.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. McConn, to close the nominations and appoint Ms. Cunningham as Temporary President.

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

Ms. Cunningham takes the chair as Temporary President.

**B. REORGANIZATION**

**2. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to nominate Mr. Corey McConn as Board President.

No other nominations were made for Board President.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to close the nominations and appoint Mr. Corey McConn as Board President.

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

Mr. Corey McConn takes over the chair as Board President.

**3. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT**

Moved by Ms. Thames, seconded by Mr. McConn, to nominate Leslie Cunningham as Board Vice-President.

No other nominations were made for Board Vice-President.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to close the nominations and appoint Leslie Cunningham as Board Vice-President.

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

**4. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD TREASURER**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to nominate Jeffrey Devenney as Board Treasurer.

No other nominations were made for Board Treasurer.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to close the nominations and appoint Jeffrey Devenney as Board Treasurer.

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

**5. DISTRICT SOLICITOR**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve Barbara Graham, Law Offices of Peacock Keller, LLP, to continue as the District's Solicitor for the 2021 year, per attached proposal letter dated November 23, 2020. (Attachment "A")

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

**B. REORGANIZATION**

**6. BOARD MEETINGS**

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve a tentative list of the 2021 meeting dates with meeting times beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are regular meetings. The committee meetings will be non-voting and meet as needed and advertised. (Attachment "B")

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

**7. FACSIMILE SIGNATURES**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve permission for application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to use facsimile signatures for the following bank accounts:

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cafeteria Fund Checks: | President and Secretary            |
| General Fund Checks:   | President, Treasurer and Secretary |
| Payroll Fund Checks:   | Treasurer and Secretary            |

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

**8. AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENTS**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Officers of the Board to be authorized to draw orders for payrolls and for payments of bonds, interest, utilities and other pertinent bills as they come due.

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

**9. BOARD COMMITTEES**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Board Committee List for the 2020 year, per Attachment "C".

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

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz  
Board Secretary

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**December 2, 2020**

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, December 2, 2020. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., following the Reorganization Meeting. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Leslie Thames, Scott Willyerd

Absent: Emanuel Paris

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

**OTHERS:** Rachel Lozosky, 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 November 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the November 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

**2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **ATTACHMENT "B"**

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2020 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2020 General Fund.

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

**3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS** **ATTACHMENT "C"**

**4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT** **ATTACHMENT "D"**

## **B. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. A discussion was held regarding the Hopewell and Independence Township Board Member vacancies.**

**b. Melissa Dryer, Hopewell Township Board Member - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Thames, to accept the resignation of Melissa Dryer, Avella Area School District Hopewell Township Board Member, effective December 20, 2020.

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

**c. Melissa Dryer, Independence Township Board Member**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Melissa Dryer to the vacant Independence Township Board Member position, effective December 21, 2020.

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

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**a. An Athletic Committee meeting was held December 2, 2020.**

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE – No Report**

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

- a. **A Communications Committee meeting is scheduled January 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

**4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

- a. **Western Area Career & Technology Center Update – No Report**
- b. **Student Learning**  
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to authorize the Administration to monitor the community spread of Covid-19 and based on the data, authorize the administration to determine the educational model for student learning.

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

**5. FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report**

**6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

- a. **A Negotiations Committee meeting is scheduled December 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

**7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

- a. **Erika Minch - Tutor Position**  
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve Erika Minch as a Tutor for an elementary student, effective immediately.

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

- b. **Jeffrey Zollars, Spanish Teacher - Retirement**  
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the retirement of Jeffrey Zollars, Spanish Teacher, effective January 4, 2021.

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

**8. POLICIES – No Report**

**9. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

- a. **A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled January 8, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**

**10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report**

**11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report**

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz  
Board Secretary