

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 20, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 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: Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, Corey McConn, Emanuel Paris-via phone, Leslie Thames, Scott Willyerd
Absent: James Gagich

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent - Absent
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. Board Members were recognized for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

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 December 2020 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the December 2020 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, 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 December 2020 and January 2021 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2020 and January 2021 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, 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. Janet Miller, Hopewell Township Board Member

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to appoint Janet Miller to the vacant Hopewell Township Board Member position, effective January 20, 2021 – December 2021.

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

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – No Report

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Meeting of the Whole is scheduled February 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update – No Report

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Adoption of Resolution – Act 1

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the adoption of the Resolution, pursuant to Section 311(d)(1), indicating that the District will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Avella Area Education Association Contract

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Avella Area Education Association and Avella Area School District for the years beginning September 1, 2020 and ending August 31, 2024, per Attachment Negotiations “A” to Revised Agenda.

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

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2020-2021 school year:
Joshua Knotts
Faith Law

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

b. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Brianna Jenkins to the School Volunteer List for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

c. Susan Majestic – Family Medical Leave

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Susan Majestic's request for a Family Medical Leave, effective January 29, 2021.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. POLICIES

a. PSBA Principles for Governance and Leadership

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adopt the PSBA Principals for Governance and Leadership, per Attachment Policies "A".

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

b. PSBA Policies

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies recommended by PSBA, per Attachment Policies "B":

PSBA News Network - Volume VII

103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

218.3 – Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

252 – Dating Violence

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

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled February 4, 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 7:22 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary