

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 21, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:27 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, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Janet Miller, Emanuel Paris, Leslie Thames, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Jeffrey Devenney

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 April Students of the Month:
Robert West - Senior
Blayke Mayfield – 6th Grade Student

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 2021 Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Thames, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the March 2021 Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2021 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2021 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. 2021-2022 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the following to the JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities for the 2021-2022 school year, per AEA Contract:

- Nicholas Deutsch – Band Director
- Alexander Light – Assistant Band Director
- Jesse Rhoades – Assistant Band Director (Drum Line)
- Cheryl Rush – Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor
- Kelley Defilippis – Assistant Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor
- Nicholas Deutsch - Choral Director
- Alexander Light – Choral Director
- Lynn Clarchick - Musical Producer/Play Producer
- Debora Descutner – Musical Producer/Play Producer
- Nicholas Deutsch – Senior Class Sponsor
- Renee Worst – Junior Class Sponsor
- Joelle Cooper – Sophomore Class Sponsor
- Evelyn Breitigan – Freshman Class Sponsor
- Clara Zatta – 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
- Jessica Miller – Art Club Sponsor
- Evelyn Breitigan – Community Service Sponsor

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. 2021-2022 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities – Cont'd

- Evelyn Breitigan – Science Club
- Susan Kubacka – Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach
- Amy Rush – Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach
- JT Mylan – Weight Room Coordinator
- Kara Ruffalo – Vo-Ag Instructor

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

b. Junior Varsity Baseball Coach - Posting

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve a posting for a Junior Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year, due to Mr. Zebrasky's resignation.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Resolution

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Resolution of the Avella Area School District, in direct collaboration with Cross Creek Township, regarding a waterline extension project, per Attachment Building & Grounds “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Mr. Gagich said “nay”. Motion carried 7-1.

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Ms. Cunningham, Board Vice-President, reported the Western Area Career & Technology Center is closed until April 26, 2021, due to COVID; students are learning remote.

b. Merakey Behavioral Health

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Letter of Collaborative Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Merakey Behavioral Health (formerly NHS Human Services) for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

c. Rebecca Ocker, Burgettstown Tuition Student

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Rebecca Ocker to enroll in the Avella Area School District's vocational agricultural course of study as a tuition student for the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

d. Rylie Ross, Burgettstown Tuition Student

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Rylie Ross to enroll in the Avella Area School District's vocational agricultural course of study as a tuition student for the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Finance Committee Meetings:

April 21, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

May 19, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

June 23, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

b. 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements – per email attachment

c. Budget Transfers to the 2020-2021 Budget

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the budget transfers to the 2020-2021 budget, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Elementary Extended School Year Program Teacher

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the Elementary Extended School Year Program Teacher position, effective summer 2021, per AEA Contract.

Colleen Benard/Brieana DeNardo – Administration will determine which days each teacher will work

Dana Gatewood – Substitute Teacher

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

b. Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following as Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective summer 2021:

Linda Gagliani

Barbara Humensky

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

c. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2020-2021 school year:
Mary Joyce Mankey

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

d. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Diane Margaria and Kevin Painter to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required employment documentation.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

e. Samantha Jacobs, Full Time JSHS Special Education Teacher

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Samantha Jacobs to the position of full time JSHS Special Education Teacher, per AEA Contract, effective August 23, 2021, first day of the 2021-2022 school year. (Dave Niekum's position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

f. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Shari Dami to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required employment documentation.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

g. Susan Temple, Custodian, rescinded her retirement date of June 30, 2021.

8. POLICIES – No Report

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled May 6, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McConn, Board President, called an Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. regarding personnel and contracts with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary