

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 19, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Mr. Corey McConn, Board 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: Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Janet Miller, Leslie Thames, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Emanuel Paris

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 May Students of the Month:
Chelsea Bertovich - Senior
Katie Minch – 6th Grade Student
2. Recognition to Aja Miller as a 2021 National Technical Honor Society Inductee.
3. Recognition to Blaze Allen for being a 3 year National Technical Honor Society Member.

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 April 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the April 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames 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 April and May 2021 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the April and May 2021 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames 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. **Zachery Franks - Junior Varsity Baseball Coach**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Zachery Franks as the Junior Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year, per AEA Contract.

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

- b. **Cheryl Rush – Assistant Band Director (Color Guard)**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Cheryl Rush to the position of Assistant Band Director (Color Guard) for the 2021-2022 school year, per AEA Contract.

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

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

- a. **A discussion was held regarding the District's eagle mascot. The Board was in agreement for the original eagle to be used as the main emblem and versions of the eagle for fundraisers, etc.**

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. **Ms. Cunningham, Board Vice-President, reported the Western Area Career & Technology Center students will have drive-through graduation ceremonies this year. The enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is currently 438 students.**

- b. **Safe & Drug Free School – Memorandum of Understanding**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pennsylvania State Police Department and the Avella Area School District, pursuant to Act 26 of 1995, Safe & Drug Free School, Section 1317-2. (Due every two years) Attachment Curriculum “A”

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

- c. **PA Pre-K Counts**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Lease Agreement and Meal Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Blueprints Early Learning Head Start and Pre-K Counts, effective 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “B”.

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

- d. **Washington Communities Human Services, Inc.**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, 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 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “C”.

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

- e. **My Options for College & Career Success/ACT**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Authorization Form for My Options for College & Career Success/ACT for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “D”.

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

- f. **Outside In**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Outside In for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “E” to Revised Agenda.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

g. Calendar Dates:

WACTC Graduation Drive-Through Ceremonies

5/18 @ 6:00 p.m. - Auto Mech, HVAC, Machine Shop, Masonry, Welding

5/19 @ 6:00 p.m. - ARE, Carpentry, Culinary, Health Ass't, Networking

5/20 @ 6:00 p.m. - CRT, Cosmetology, Electrical, Emergency Protect Services

5/19 @ 6:00 p.m. - National Honor Society Ceremony

5/23 @ 7:00 p.m. - Baccalaureate

6/2 @ 7:00 p.m. - Commencement (Makeup Days - 6/3 & 6/4)

6/4 – Last Day of School for Underclassmen

6/23 @ 7:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting (4th Wednesday of June)

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Finance Committee Meetings:

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

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

b. Western Area Career & Technology Center

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the 2021-2022 Western Area Career & Technology Center's proposed budget totaling \$5,986,454.00, per letter dated May 5, 2021 from Dennis McCarthy, Ph.D., Director of Vocational Education, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

c. Business Manager – Renewal Bond

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the renewal bond of Laura Shola, Business Manager, setting bond at \$100,000, to begin July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

d. Board Treasurer

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Jeffrey Devenney as Board Treasurer for one year beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at \$50,000.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

e. Board Secretary – Renewal Bond

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the renewal bond of Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, setting bond at \$50,000, to begin July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

f. Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the insurance proposal between Avella Area School District and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, effective July 1, 2021.

- Commercial Package and Umbrella in the amount of \$32,108
- Worker’s Compensation in the amount of \$27,264
- Cyber Liability in the amount of \$4,435
- Educators & EPL in the amount of \$5,005
- Business Auto in the amount of \$2,862

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

g. 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$11,906,539.00, for the fiscal year 2021-2022 and set the millage at 11.5630 mills, a .4233 mill increase. Attachment Finance “B” to Revised Agenda.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to appoint Carrie Graff as a School Principal, effective June 21, 2021, at an annual salary of \$85,000 for the 2021-2022 school year. (Salary will be prorated June 21 – June 30, 2021.) The Principal’s assignment shall be the Elementary School. The terms and conditions of her employment shall be pursuant to the Administrative Compensation Plan.

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

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Intermediate Unit 1 – Emergency Substitute Program

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Commitment Form for the Emergency Substitute Program coordinated by the Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Personnel “A”.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

b. Heather Poirier, Food Service Director

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Food Service Director Contract between Heather Poirier, Food Service Director and the Avella Area School District for a term of five (5) years, commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026, per Attachment Personnel "B".

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

c. Full Time Special Education Teacher Position

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to create a full time Special Education Teacher position, effective the first day of the 2021-2022 school year, and to authorize the administration to post the position, and if necessary to advertise.

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

d. Full Time JSHS Math Teacher Position

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Devenney, to eliminate the full time JSHS Math Teacher position, effective last day of the 2020-2021 school year.

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

e. Half Time JSHS Math Teacher Position

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Devenney, to create a half time JSHS Math Teacher position, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

f. Erika Minch – Half Time Math Teacher/Half Time Special Ed Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Devenney, to voluntary transfer Erika Minch into the half time JSHS Math Teacher and half time Special Education Teacher position, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. POLICIES

a. PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement between the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Avella Area School District, effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, per Attachment Policies “A”.

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

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled June 3, 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 7:29 p.m. regarding personnel with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary