

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

August 25, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 – via conference call, Emanuel Paris, Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Laura Shola, Business Manager
Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSBS Principal
Carrie Graff, 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 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the July 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **ATTACHMENT "B"**
Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the July and August 2021 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the July and August 2021 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

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

- a. **Football Volunteers**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following as volunteers for the football team for the 2021-2022 school year.
Charles Rush
Robert Johnson

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

- a. **A discussion was held regarding placing a concrete pad in the dumpster area.**

3. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

4. **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

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

- b. **Special Education Services Agreement**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Special Education Services Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Forth Cherry School District for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Nicole Brown-Deer – Maternity Leave

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Nicole Brown-Deer's maternity leave, effective August 23, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Natalie Frank, English Teacher - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Natalie Frank, English Teacher, effective August 17, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. English Teacher - Posting

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a full time English Teacher.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

d. Natalie Frank, Yearbook Sponsor - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Natalie Frank as Yearbook Sponsor, effective August 17, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. Yearbook Sponsor - Posting

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Yearbook Sponsor for the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

f. Cheryl Rush, Winter Guard/Dance Line Instruction - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Cheryl Rush as the Winter Guard/ Dance Line Instructor for the 2021-2022 school year, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

g. Winter Guard – Dance Line Instruction Posting

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Winter Guard/Dance Line Instructor for the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

h. Stacy Dalesio, Cafeteria Worker - Retirement

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the retirement of Stacy Dalesio, Cafeteria Worker, effective August 13, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

i. Jodi Cowden, Cafeteria Worker - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Jodi Cowden, Cafeteria Worker, effective August 13, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

j. Loretta Whyte, Part-Time Elementary Aide

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Loretta Whyte to the position of Elementary Aide, 5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 23, 2021, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

k. Part-Time Cafeteria Workers - Posting

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for 3 part-time cafeteria workers. (Positions of S. Dalesio, J. Cowden, L. Whyte)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

l. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2021-2022 school year:

Nadia Bongiorno
Penny Bongiorno
LuAnn Craig
Matt Rado
Michelle Rankin
Melanie Beth Scott
Kristin Stephenson

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

m. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2021-2022 school year:
David Niekum
Janice Riggle

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

n. Amy Rush, Aide – FMLA

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Amy Rush's intermittent FMLA leave, effective August 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

8. POLICIES

a. Teachers' Handbook

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Teachers' Handbook for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Policies "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Student Handbooks

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Elementary Center and JSHS Student Handbooks for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Policies "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled September 2, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Committee of the Whole Meeting Update

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held August 11, 2021 to review the lessons learned from remote learning during the last school year, and ways to improve it if we ever need to do it again.

B. NEW BUSINESS

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Contract for School Pupils between the Avella Area School District and Jake Schneider, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Transportation "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

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, Mr. Paris, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary