AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

June 23, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:19 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 (via conference call), Janet Miller, Leslie Thames, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Jeffrey Devenney, Emanuel Paris

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

OTHERS: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

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 May 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the May 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Accounts Payable for the May and June 2021 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, 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

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. Athletic - Inventory Control

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jason Fogg, Athletic Director's request to discard old uniforms listed in Attachment Athletic "A".

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

b. Clinton Varner, Assistant Football Coach

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Clinton Varner as an Assistant Football Coach for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of clearances and required employment documentation.

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

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. List of Summer Projects – Attachment B&G "A"

b. A Buildings & Grounds Committee walkthrough of the Elementary and JSHS buildings is tentatively scheduled for July 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Communications Committee Meeting is scheduled July 14, 2021 at 12:00.

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Ms. Cunningham, Board Vice-President, reported agenda items addressed at the Western Area Career & Technology Center meeting.

b. Teaching Assignments
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the tentative teaching assignments for the JSHS and Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A" to Revised Agenda.

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

c. Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

d. Educational Services Agreement
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the Educational Services Agreement between the Intermediate Unit 1 and Avella Area School District for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "C".

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

e. KeySolution Staffing, LLC – Special Education Consulting
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Staffing, LLC, to provide special education consulting for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "D".

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

f. KeySolution Staffing, LLC – Psychology Services
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Staffing, LLC, to provide psychology services for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "E".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

g. Steel City Therapy, LLC
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the Contract between Steel City Therapy, LLC and Avella Area School District, to provide Occupational Therapy services, effective September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022, per Attachment Curriculum "F".

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

h. Curriculum - Inventory Control
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve Evy Breitigan, Science Teacher's request to discard outdated items listed in Attachment Curriculum "G".

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

i. AIU Services Agreement and Special Education Addendum
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the AIU Services Agreement and Special Education Addendum for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "H" to Revised Agenda.

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. 2021-2022 General Fund Budget
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the General Fund Budget totaling $11,945,719.00, be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2021-2022, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, with millage set at 11.5630 mills (.4233 mill increase) on real estate, $5.00 per capita tax under Section 679; $5.00 per capita tax, and one-half of one percent (1/2%) on all earned income, under Act 511. Attachment Finance "A" to Revised Agenda.

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

b. Homestead and Farmstead Resolution
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Finance "B".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

c. Budget Transfers to the 2020-2021 Budget
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the budget transfers to the 2020-2021 budget, per Attachment Finance "C" to Revised Agenda.

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

d. GR Flooring Services Quote
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the quote from GR Flooring Services to install new LVT flooring in the Elementary Center office and classrooms 223 and 224, for a total cost of $20,674. This proposal was the lowest of three vendors and will be paid for with federal COVID stimulus money (ESSER II).

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

e. Summary of Federal COVID Stimulus Grants 2021-2024 – Attachment Finance "D"

f. Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to authorize the Administration to apply for admission to the Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium (ACSHIC).

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Contracted Medical/Dental Personnel List
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Contracted Medical/Dental Personnel List for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Personnel "A".

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

b. Brian Smitsky, Facilities Manager
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Contract of Employment of Brian Smitsky, Facilities Manager, effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024, per Attachment Personnel "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Ms. Thames and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Mr. Gagich abstained. Motion carried 6-0-1.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

c. Amendment to Agreement – Network Administrator
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Amendment to the Network Administrator's employment contract, per Attachment Personnel "C".

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

d. Dawn Brownlee, HR Supervisor - Retirement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept Dawn Brownlee, HR Supervisor's request for retirement, effective July 31, 2023 (2 year notice).

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

e. Regina Perkins, Custodian - Retirement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept Regina Perkins, Custodian's request for retirement, effective June 3, 2022.

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

f. Anita Kolesar, Aide - Retirement
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept Anita Kolesar, Elementary Aide's request for retirement, effective end of the 2020-2021 school year.

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

g. 7 Hour Elementary Aide Position
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to eliminate the 7 hour Elementary Aide position, effective last day of the 2020-2021 school year.

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

h. 5 Hour Elementary Aide Position
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to create a 5 hour Elementary Aide position, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

i. 5 Hour Elementary Aide Position - Posting
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a 5 hour Elementary Aide position, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

j. Renee Worst, Junior Class Sponsor - Resignation
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept the resignation of Renee Worst as Junior Class Sponsor, effective immediately.

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

k. Junior Class Sponsor - Posting
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Junior Class Sponsor for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

l. Administration Raises
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Administrative personnel raises as per contracts, effective July 1, 2021, listed on Attachment Personnel "D". Amounts have been budgeted and Performance Evaluations completed**.**

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

m. Non-Union Staff Raises
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the non-union personnel raises, effective July 1, 2021, as per Attachment Personnel "E". Amounts have been budgeted and Performance Evaluations completed**.**

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

n. Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve hiring Meghan Cottle to the position of Elementary Guidance Counselor, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year, August 23, 2021.

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

o. Adrianna Bielby, Elementary Special Education Teacher
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve hiring Adrianna Bielby to the position of Elementary Special Education Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year, August 23, 2021.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

p. Amy Joyce, Elementary Special Education Teacher
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve hiring Amy Joyce to the position of Elementary Special Education Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective first day of the 2021-2022 school year, August 23, 2021.

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

q. Family & Consumer Science Teacher
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve a posting, and if necessary advertisement, for a Family & Consumer Science Teacher position, with additional certifications preferred.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, 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 July 8, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

b. Health & Safety Plan
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Health & Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, per email attachment to Board from Mr. Walther, Superintendent.

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

c. Emergency Instruction Time Template
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Emergency Instruction Time Template, Section 520.1, for the 2021-2022 school year, per email attachment to Board from Mr. Walther, Superintendent.

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

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Ms. Cunningham, Board Vice-President, called an Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. regarding personnel and to review the School Safety and Security Board Report, with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary