

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 15, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Emanuel Paris
Absent: Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Laura Shola, Business Manager
Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS 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

1. Karen Hodgdon, 81 Nickolay Road, Avella, PA, requested to speak regarding the number of students attending school under the mask exemption rule.

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES **ATTACHMENT "A"**

Board Members were furnished copies of the August 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the August and September 2021 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the August and September 2021 General Fund.

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

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

a. Leslie Thames, Hopewell Township - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the resignation of Leslie Thames, Avella Area School District Hopewell Township Board Member, effective September 15, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Mr. Devenney said "nay". Motion carried 6-1.

b. The board rescheduled the October 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting to October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. Chelsea Craig, Junior Class Sponsor

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Chelsea Craig as the Junior Class Sponsor for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Caldwell Concrete Construction

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the proposal from Caldwell Concrete Construction for the concrete pad and sidewalk in the amount of \$11,200.00, to be paid for from the Capital Projects Fund (lowest of three quotes received). Attachment B&G "A"

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Report

b. Curriculum - Inventory Control

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the JSHS School's request to discard outdated items listed in Attachment Curriculum "A".

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

c. Center for Community Resources

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Student Assistance Program Agreement between the Avella Area School District and the Center for Community Resources for the 2021-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Direct Energy

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the rate extension for natural gas with Direct Energy for the term of September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2025, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

b. Resolution

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Resolution authorizing the Superintendent and Business Manager to execute an extension for the current agreement for electric accounts for a term of 36 or 48 months starting December 2022, per Attachment Finance "B".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Substitute Approval

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to authorize the Administration to approve additional individuals to serve as substitute employees for the District, at such time as the Administration has received all appropriate and required documents (certifications, as applicable, TB test results, clearances, etc.) for the potential substitute employee, with said administrative approval to be subject to ratification by the Board of School Directors at the next available public meeting, and with the caveat that the Board shall be provided with the name(s) of such additional substitute employee(s) by email, prior to the commencement of services for the District.

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

b. Volunteer Approval

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to authorize the Administration to approve additional individuals to serve as volunteers in the District, at such time as the Administration has received all appropriate and required documents (clearances, etc.) for the potential volunteer, with said administrative approval to be subject to ratification by the Board of School Directors at the next available public meeting, and with the caveat that the Board shall be provided with the name(s) of such additional volunteer(s) by email, prior to the commencement of services for the District.

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

c. Tonya Yuhas, Full Time Aide

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Tonya Yuhas’ hours to increase from 5 to 7 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 26, 2021, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

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

d. Barbara Humensky, Part-Time Aide

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Barbara Humensky’s hours to increase from 4 to 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 and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Shari Dami, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Shari Dami to the position of Cafeteria Worker, 5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective September 13, 2021, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

f. Natalie Hancher, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Natalie Hancher to the position of Cafeteria Worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective September 16, 2021, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

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

g. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents:

Amie Buel
Jack Buel
Amanda Gailey
Megan Hammond
Terry Jaworowski
Ashley Lowe
Christopher Scott

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

h. Kara Ruffalo, FMLA

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Kara Ruffalo's request for intermittent FMLA leave, effective August – December 2021.

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

i. Substitute Employee Compensation Rates

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Substitute Employee compensation rates effective September 16, 2021, per Attachment Personnel "A" to Revised Agenda.

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

j. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents:

Sarah Maidment
Travis Smith

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. POLICIES

a. PSBA Policies

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies recommended by PSBA, per Attachment Policies "A".

PSBA News Network - Volume II

816 District Social Media

PSBA News Network - Volume III

146.1 Trauma-Informed Approach

218.1 Weapons

218.2 Terroristic Threats

236.1 Threat Assessment

247 Hazing

249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

252 Dating Violence

805 Emergency Preparedness and Response

805.2 School Security Personnel

PSBA News Network - Volume IV

006 BOG-01 Publish, Post & Notify – Board Meetings/Agendas

006 Meetings

903 Public Participation in Board Meetings

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

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled October 7, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Bus Driver Approval

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to authorize the Administration to approve additional individuals to serve as bus drivers for the District, upon the request of any of the District's approved transportation contractors, at such time as the Administration has received all appropriate and required documents (CDL license, clearances, etc.) for the potential driver, with said administrative approval to be subject to ratification by the Board of School Directors at the next available public meeting, and with the caveat that the Board shall be provided with the name(s) of such additional driver(s) by email, prior to the commencement of services for the District.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

b. GG&C Bus/Van Drivers

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List:

Judith Puckett – Van Driver

Sandra Dames – Charter Driver

Mary Iams – Charter Driver

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

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary