AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 14, 2021

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Thursday, October 14, 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 potential litigation. 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, Scott Willyerd-via conference call
Absent: Emanuel Paris

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

1. The following students were recognized as the October Students of the Month:
Alton Chase – Senior
Isaiah Stokes - 6th Grade Student

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting

1. Karen Hodgdon requested to speak about the mask mandate and vaccines.

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the September 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller 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 September and October 2021 General Fund.

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

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

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

Hopewell Township Board Member

a. The Board interviewed Suzanne Colilla and Robert Dubich for the vacant Hopewell Township Board Member position.

b. Suzanne Colilla, Hopewell Township Board Member

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to appoint Suzanne Colilla to the Hopewell Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Leslie Thames, effective October 14, 2021 to December 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer and Ms. Miller said "nay". Motion failed 4-3.

c. Robert Dubich, Hopewell Township Board Member

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Miller, to appoint Robert Dubich to the Hopewell Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Leslie Thames, effective October 14, 2021 to December 2023.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Gagich and Mr. Willyerd said "nay". Motion failed 4-3.

B. NEW BUSINESS

Hopewell Township Board Member - Continued

d. Motion to Reconsider - Hopewell Township Board Member
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. McConn, to reconsider the motion to approve Suzanne Colilla to the Hopewell Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Leslie Thames, effective October 14, 2021 to December 2023.

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

e. Suzanne Colilla, Hopewell Township Board Member
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to appoint Suzanne Colilla to the Hopewell Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Leslie Thames, effective October 14, 2021 to December 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Mr. Dryer and Ms. Miller said "nay". Motion carried 5-2.

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. Lauren Markish - Yearbook Sponsor
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Lauren Markish 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. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

b. Novacare Rehabilitation – Athletic Training Services
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Second Amendment to Athletic Training Services Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Novacare Rehabilitation, per Attachment Athletic "A".

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

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Board Letter
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve a letter from the board relative to tuition reimbursement of Cyber School.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Report

b. Southwood Psychiatric Hospital- Agreement
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

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

c. Merakey Behavioral Health
Moved by Mr. Devenney, 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), per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

d. Homecoming Events

Oct 13	**@ 7:00 p.m.**	**Homecoming Parade followed by Bonfire**
Oct 15	**@ 6:30 p.m.**	**Pregame**
	@ 7:00 p.m.	**Kickoff**
	@ Halftime	**Crowning**
Oct 16	**@ 7-10 p.m.**	**Homecoming Dance @ Heaven Sent Farms**

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Office of Constable–John Vith, Public Safety Personnel - Agreement
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Office of Constable John Vith for Peacekeeping and Directed Patrol Services, per Attachment Personnel "A".

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

b. School Volunteer List
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents:
Melissa Best
Ashley Caltumo
Brenda Griffith
Cara Henke
Tami Samol
Beth Strope

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
b. School Volunteer List - Continued

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

c. Lauren Markish, JSHS English Teacher
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve hiring Lauren Markish to the position of JSHS English Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective October 12, 2021.

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

8. POLICIES – No Report

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled November 4, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Bus/Van Drivers
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List:
Tina Ealy – Van Driver
Sherry Zuver – Van Driver

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. McConn called an Executive Session at 7:58 p.m. regarding personnel with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary