

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 19, 2022

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 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: Suzanne Colilla, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Janet Miller, Emanuel Paris, 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

1. The January students of the month will be recognized at the February meeting.
Paige Fino – Senior
Hannah Amaismeir - 6th Grade Student
2. Board Members were recognized for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items

1. Karen Hodgdon, 81 Nickolay Road, Avella, PA, thanked the Board for allowing her granddaughter, Elementary School cyber student, to participate in the Elementary Chorus Concert.

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

- 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **ATTACHMENT "A"**
Board Members were furnished copies of the December 2021 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris 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 December 2021 and January 2022 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2021 and January 2022 General Fund.

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

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

The Avella Area School Board added the following motions to the Regular Board Meeting Agenda of January 19, 2022, regarding the District's Health & Safety Plan.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve an additional motion to tonight's agenda in light of recent information received from the PA Department of Education and the PA Department of Health, concerning voluntary testing of students for COVID 19 by District personnel, and the difficulty that delaying until the next board meeting would create for the District and its students, as follows:

Motion to authorize and direct submission of an appropriate attestation to the PA Department of Health and/or PA Department of Education, which will give the District the option of "testing to stay" – a voluntary program for testing students for COVID 19, if the administration is able to develop a workable solution for implementation of the program.

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

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to authorize and direct submission of an appropriate attestation to the PA Department of Health and/or PA Department of Education, which will give the District the option of "testing to stay" – a voluntary program for testing students for COVID 19, if the administration is able to develop a workable solution for implementation of the program.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- a. **An Athletic Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**
- b. **Novacare Rehabilitation – Athletic Training Services**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Third Amendment to the Athletic Training Services Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Novacare Rehabilitation, per Attachment Athletic "A".

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

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. **Ms. Cunningham, Board Vice-President, reported the following updates regarding the Western Area Career & Technology Center:**
 - **Masks are mandated**
 - **Protective services technology program is being phased out**
 - **WACTC applied for a supplement equipment grant**
 - **Currently there are 447 students attending and 44 are from the Avella Area School District.**

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of School Directors for the Avella Area School District, hereby set the amount of bonds of the newly elected tax collectors for four years (2022-2025), West Middletown Borough for two years (2022-2023), and be set in the amount of thirty (30%) percent of the estimated amount of collections as follows:

Cross Creek Township	Rachel W. Welsh, Tax Collector	
Assessed Value		\$104,284,490
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$ 954,707
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$ 286,412
Hopewell Township	Beverly Paul, Tax Collector	
Assessed Value		\$ 82,278,020
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$ 766,863
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$ 230,059
Independence Township	Thomas Simons, Tax Collector	
Assessed Value		\$ 94,754,530
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$ 844,903
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$ 262,880

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. RESOLUTION - Continued

West Middletown Borough	Beverly Paul, Tax Collector	
Assessed Value		\$ 6,754,200
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$ 53,000
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$ 15,900

This Resolution approved by the Board of School Directors for the Avella Area School District at its Regular Monthly Meeting on January 19, 2022.

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

b. ePlus Technology

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the purchase of a new firewall from ePlus Technology, at a net cost to the district of \$2,021.07, after the E-Rate program rebate (\$6,736.89 pre-discount cost). The purchase is being applied and paid for through the E-Rate 2022-2023 funding year. Attachment Finance "A"

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

c. CDW-G

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the purchase of wireless access points from CDW-G, at a net cost to the district of \$12,340.20, after the E-Rate program rebate (\$41,134.00 pre-discount cost). The purchase is being applied and paid for through the E-Rate 2022-2023 funding year. Attachment Finance "B"

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. AEA - Tuition Students

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to ratify the following students to be enrolled as tuition students in the Avella Area School District for the 2021-2022 school year.

Beauden Deer - Kindergarten
Isabelle Crum – Kindergarten

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. School Volunteer List

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

Sondra Carmichael
McKena Cowden
Melissa Dryer
Kelley Fogg

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

b. Lori Lochran, JSHS Social Studies Teacher - Retirement

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the retirement of Lori Lochran, JSHS Social Studies Teacher, effective January 13, 2023.

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

8. POLICIES

a. PSBA Policies – PNN Volume VI, December 2021

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the recommended adoption/revisions to the PSBA – PNN Volume VI, December 2021 policies, per Policies "A":

610 – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
611 – Purchases Budgeted
626 – Procurement Procedure Attachment

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

b. PSBA Principles for Governance and Leadership

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adopt the PSBA Principals for Governance and Leadership, per Attachment Policies "B".

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

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled February 3, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

b. Responseology Consulting & Safety Solutions, LLC

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the proposal with Responseology Consulting & Safety Solutions, LLC, to conduct the safety audit for the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Safety "A".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents:
Shane Kubacki – Sub Driver

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McConn called an Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. regarding contracts and negotiations with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary