AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 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, October 19, 2022. 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: Suzanne Colilla, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Janet Miller
Absent: Leslie Cunningham, 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 following students were recognized as the October Students of the Month:
Sierra Dayak – Senior
Peyton Campbell - 6th Grade Student

2. PSBA recognized and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to James Gagich, School Director, for his 16 years of school board service.

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 September 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the September 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the September and October 2022 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Accounts Payable for the September and October 2022 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. Robert Dittrich – Assistant 7th/8th Grade Junior Varsity Softball Coach

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively accept the resignation of Robert Dittrich as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Junior Varsity Softball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

b. Chelsea Craig – Assistant 7th/8th Grade Junior Varsity Softball Coach

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve Chelsea Craig as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Junior Varsity Softball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. Winter Guard – Dance Line Instructors

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following Winter Guard – Dance Line Instructors for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of required clearances and employment documents.
Julianne Rush – Head Winter Guard – Dance Line Instructor
Cheryl Rush – Assistant Winter Guard – Dance Line Instructor

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

d. Jr High Wrestling Coaches
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following Jr High Wrestling Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of required clearances and employment documents.
Travis Ware Head Jr High Wrestling Coach
Charles Rush Assistant Jr High Wrestling Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Mr. Gagich voted "nay". Motion carried 5-1.

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the open house for Western Area Career & Technology Center is scheduled October 20, 2022.

b. A discussion was held regarding Range Resources/FFA Agreement.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Resolution – Act 57 of 2022
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Resolution to comply with Act 57 of 2022, authorizing the waiver of additional charges for the late payment of real estate taxes in certain circumstances, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Keith Shephard, School Police Officer – Amended Contract
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve amending Section 7, Paragraph D, of the Employment Contract between Keith Shephard, School Police Officer, and the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Personnel "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

b. Chelsea Foster, Licensed Professional Counselor
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve Chelsea Foster as a Licensed Professional Counselor, effective October 19, 2022, per Attachment Personnel "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

c. Sherry Adams, Part-Time Custodian - Resignation
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation of Sherry Adams as a part-time Custodian, 5 hours per day/12 month employee, effective November 10, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

d. Posting - Part-Time Custodian
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time Custodian, 5 hours per day/12 month employee.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

e. Bonita Browne, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve Bonita Browne as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective October 17, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

f. Kellie Gordon, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker - Resignation
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation of Kellie Gordon as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective October 14, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

g. Posting - Part-Time Cafeteria Worker
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

h. School Volunteer List
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Gagich, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2022-2023 school year:
Pamela Brown
Brittany Comport
Amber Davis
Joyce Downey
Adam Gailey
Mandy Gailey
Christen Hamm
Jessica Kearns
Kathryn Klug

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

h. School Volunteer List - Continued

Bernadette O'Brien
Lana Ramsey
Judith Rubel
Kearstin Rubel
Laurel Rush
Romney Schubenski
Renee Warholak

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

i. Permanent Teacher Contracts

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to award the following Permanent Teacher Contracts:

Zachery Franks, a Professional Employee Contract, following 3 years of satisfactory service with the District, effective August 20, 2022.

Alexander Light, a Professional Employee Contract, following 3 years of satisfactory service with the District, effective August 20, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

j. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the following to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2022-2023 school year:
Kelli Gordon
Nancy Stefkovich

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

k. Amy Rush, Aide – Temporary Leave of Absence

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve Amy Rush's request for a temporary leave of absence, effective October 18, 2022, and to return tentatively January 17, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

8. POLICY COMMITTEE – No Report

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

10. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

11. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Ms. Miller said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary