

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

June 22, 2022

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board Vice-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, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney via conference call, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn via conference call, Janet Miller, Emanuel Paris via conference call
Absent: Scott Willyerd

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

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. **Congratulations to Paige Fino for placing 3rd in the National Competition of Triumphs in Entrepreneurship Competition. Congratulations to Katelyn Frank, Melanie Dubich, Marissa Latynski and Leanza Craig for earning Honorable Mention in the State Competition.**

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items

1. **Chris Brewer, Bond Counsel of Dinsmore & Shohl, addressed the bond resolution that will be voted on during the board meeting.**
2. **Karen Hodgdon, 81 Nickolay Road, Avella, PA, thanked the teachers and staff for their dedication and excellence in educating and caring for her granddaughter and all of the students in the District.**

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the May 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the May and June 2022 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Accounts Payable for the May and June 2022 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. Cheerleading Program

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the cheerleading program to include grades 7-12, effective the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

b. Volunteer Cheerleading Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Leslie Decker Yevins as a volunteer to the cheerleading program for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

c. Gilbert Cutruzzula, Head 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to accept the resignation of Gilbert Cutruzzula, Head 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, effective end of the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

d. Head 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach - Posting

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Head 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. The Building & Grounds Committee held their walkthrough of the buildings on June 8, 2022.

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported Mary Adams, Principal of the Western Area Career & Technology Center, is retiring and interviews will be held in the near future.

b. Washington Communities Human Services, Inc.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Services between the Avella Area School District and Washington Communities Human Services, Inc., for the 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

c. Teaching Assignments

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the tentative teaching assignments for the JSHS and Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

d. River School Therapies

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Provision of Special Education Therapy Services (Social Workers) between the Avella Area School District and River School Therapies for the 2022-2024 school years, per Attachment Curriculum "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

e. PA Pre-K Counts

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Lease Agreement and Meal Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Blueprints Early Learning Head Start and Pre-K Counts, effective 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "D".

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

e. PA Pre-K Counts - Continued

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

f. Curriculum – Inventory Control

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Elementary School and JSHS’s request to discard the outdated textbooks listed on Attachment Curriculum “E”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

g. Western Area Career & Technology Center Students

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Western Area Career & Technology Center list of students for the 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “F”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

h. Student Discipline

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to readmit Student BR to the regular education program of the Avella Area School District, pending receipt of all required documents.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the 2022-2023 Western Area Career & Technology Center’s proposed budget totaling \$5,822,873.00, per letter dated May 25, 2022 from Dennis McCarthy, Ph.D., Director of Vocational Education, per Attachment Finance “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

b. 2022-2023 General Fund Budget

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the General Fund Budget totaling \$12,242,426.00, be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2022-2023, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, with millage set at 12.0602 mills (.4972 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 “B” to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

c. Homestead and Farmstead Resolution

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Finance "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

d. Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals for 2022

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the proposal by Peacock Keller, LLP and the criteria set therein for the District initiated real estate tax assessment appeals for 2022, per Attachment Finance "D".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Ms. Dryer said "nay". Motion carried 7-1.

e. Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Participation Agreement and associated appendices with the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium, per Attachment Finance "E".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Ms. Dryer said "nay". Motion carried 7-1.

f. Resolution for the 2022 General Obligations Fed Taxable Bond Issue

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the not to exceed Resolution for the 2022 General Obligation Federally Taxable Bond Issue, as prepared by bond counsel, per Attachment Finance "F".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

g. Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the insurance proposal between Avella Area School District and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, effective July 1, 2022.

- Commercial Package and Umbrella in the amount of \$35,274
- Worker's Compensation in the amount of \$25,326
- Cyber Liability in the amount of \$6,722
- Educators & EPL in the amount of \$5,105
- Business Auto in the amount of \$2,218

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Act 93 Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to renew the Administrator's Compensation and Supervision Plan (In Compliance with Act 93), effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Act 93 Agreement - Continued

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Alex Nikolopoulos, JSHS Guidance Counselor

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to accept the resignation of Alex Nikolopoulos, JSHS Guidance Counselor, effective the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

b. JSHS Guidance Counselor - Posting/Advertisement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a JSHS Guidance Counselor.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

c. Samantha Adams, JSHS Guidance Counselor

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve hiring Samantha Adams to the position of JSHS Guidance Counselor, full time temporary professional employee, per AEA Contract, effective the first day of the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

d. Spanish Teacher - Posting/Advertisement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Spanish Teacher.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

e. Christina Musser, Spanish Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve hiring Christina Musser to the position of Spanish Teacher, full time temporary professional employee, per AEA Contract, effective the first day of the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

f. Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher - Posting/Advertisement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time Elementary Art Teacher.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

g. MacKenzie Garry, Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve hiring MacKenzie Garry to the position of part-time Elementary Art Teacher, part-time temporary professional employee, per AEA Contract, effective the first day of the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

h. Part-Time Custodian - Posting/Advertisement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time Custodian, 5 hours per day/12 month employee.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

i. Sherry Adams, Part-Time Custodian

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Sherry Adams as a part-time Custodian, 5 hours per day/12 month employee, per PSEA/NEA Contract, effective June 23, 2022. (Replacement for Alice Carroll)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

j. Full Time Custodian Position

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve eliminating one (1) full time custodian position. (Regina Perkins' position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

k. Karen Coyne, Substitute School Nurse

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify Karen Coyne as a Substitute School Nurse, effective May 20, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

l. Intermediate Unit 1 – Emergency Substitute Program

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the Commitment Form for the Emergency Substitute Program coordinated by the Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Personnel "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

m. Contracted Medical/Dental Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Contracted Medical/Dental Personnel List for the 2022-2023 school year, per Attachment Personnel "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

n. Administration Raises

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Administrative personnel raises as per contracts, effective July 1, 2022, listed on Attachment Personnel "C". Amounts have been budgeted and Performance Evaluations completed.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

o. Non-Union Staff Raises

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the non-union personnel raises, effective July 1, 2022, as per Attachment Personnel "D". Amounts have been budgeted and Performance Evaluations completed.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

8. POLICIES

9. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled July 7, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary