

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 18, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, January 18, 2023. 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. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Suzanne Colilla, Leslie Cunningham per conference call, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Emanuel Paris, Scott Willyerd

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

OTHERS: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the January Students of the Month:
Bryn Riley – Senior
Quinn Willyerd - 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.
3. PSSA Presentation

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 December 2022 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the December 2022 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

ATTACHMENT "B"

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the December 2022 and January 2023 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2022 and January 2023 General Fund.

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

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS

ATTACHMENT "C"

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ATTACHMENT "D"

B. NEW BUSINESS

Hopewell Township Board Member

a. **The Board interviewed Phoebe Armstrong and Michael Hixenbaugh for the vacant Hopewell Township Board Member position.**

b. **Phoebe Armstrong, Hopewell Township Board Member**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to appoint Phoebe Armstrong to the Hopewell Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Janet Miller, effective January 18, 2023 to December 6, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer and Mr. Gagich said "nay". Motion carried 5-3.

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. **Kathy Margaria – Ass't 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach**

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Kathy Margaria to the position of Assistant 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

b. Laura Lazzarotti – Head Varsity Softball Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Laura Lazzarotti to the position of Head Varsity Softball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

c. Amber Ripley – Ass’t Varsity Softball Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Amber Ripley to the position of Assistant Varsity Softball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Report

b. Comprehensive Planning Committee

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve:

The Board of School Directors appoints the following to serve on the Comprehensive Planning Committee:

Parents/Local Business Representatives/Community Representatives

Cyril Walther – Superintendent
Sheryl Wright-Brown - HS Principal
Carrie Graff - Elementary Principal
Dr. Anne Rose – Special Education
Greg Wargo – Tech Ed Specialist
Corey McConn – School Board Representative
Jim Gagich – School Board Representative
Jeff Devenney – School Board Representative
Emanuel Paris – Business Representative
Evelyn Breitigan - HS Teacher
Lynn Akins - HS Teacher
Clara Zatta - JH Teacher
Becky Fox - Elementary Teacher
Missy Dryer – HS Parent
Erika Minch – JH Parent
Amber Ripley – Elementary Parent
Leigh Stets – Community Representative
Cyril Walther – Student Representative

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Tax Assessment Appeal

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to authorize Peacock Keller, LLP, to enter their appearance and intervene in the tax assessment appeal Osvaldo Alvarado and Connie Alvarado v. Washington County Board of Assessment Appeals, et al., at Washington County Court of Common Pleas No. 2022-8148. (Finance “A”)

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

b. A Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled February 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Kevin Painter – Part-Time JSHS Social Studies Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve hiring Kevin Painter to the position of long term substitute teacher for the part-time JSHS Social Studies Teacher position, effective January 5, 2023.

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

b. Clara Zatta – Family Medical Leave

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Clara Zatta's request for Family Medical Leave, effective January 5, 2023.

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

c. Sarah Maidment – Part-Time JSHS Science Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve hiring Sarah Maidment to the position of long term substitute teacher for Clara Zatta's position during her Family Medical Leave.

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

d. Melody Singer – Human Resource Manager

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve hiring Melody Singer to the position of full time Human Resource Manager, effective April 18, 2023, with an annual salary of \$40,000, prorated for the working period April 18th through June 30, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Mr. Paris abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

e. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2022-2023 school year:

Shelby Dupain
Kelley Fogg
Cara Henke
James Smith
Dawn Williams-Mount

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

f. Amy Rush, Full Time Aide - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Amy Rush, Aide (7 hours per day/180 days per year), effective January 27, 2023.

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

g. Posting – Full Time Aide

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for an Aide, 7 hours day/180 days per year, per PSEA/NEA Contract.

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

h. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Amy Rush to the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

i. PSBA Policies

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies recommended by PSBA, per Attachment Personnel & Policy Attachment “B”.

PSBA News Network

000 Local Board Procedures – Principles for Governance & Leadership
610 Finances – Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled February 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary