AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 15, 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, February 15, 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: Phoebe Armstrong, Suzanne Colilla, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Scott Willyerd
Absent – Emanuel Paris

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

OTHERS: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor - Absent

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the February Students of the Month:
Shelby Loar – Senior
Eden Jeffers - 6th Grade Student

2. Katie Dryer is recognized and congratulated for being only the fourth woman in Avella's basketball history to reach the 1,000-point milestone, and also as the O-R Athlete of the Week.

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting – None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items

1. The following parents requested to speak regarding the golf program:
Dana Davis, 29 Morningside Driver, Avella PA
Brian Jeffers, 223 Atlasburg Road, Avella, PA

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the January 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the January 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, 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 January and February 2023 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the January and February 2023 General Fund.

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

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. Jason Fogg, Athletic Director

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Jason Fogg as the Athletic Director for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

b. James Morris, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of James Morris, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, effective immediately.

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

c. Terry Jacobs, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Terry Jacobs as the Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of the required employment documentation.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

d. McKena Cowden, Assistant 7th/8th Grade Volleyball Coach
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve McKena Cowden as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Volleyball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of the required employment documentation.

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

e. A discussion was held regarding the golf program returning to our District. Corey McConn, Board President, requested an MOU be added to March agenda to post and advertise for golf coaches.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Devenney, WACTC Representative, reported that all positions are filled at the Western Area Career & Technology Center and the programs are moving in a positive direction.

b. School Calendar 2023-2024
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

c. The Meadows Psychiatric Center
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and The Meadows Psychiatric Center for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

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

d. Therapy Dogs International - Children Reading to Dogs Program
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Therapy Dogs International (TDI) Children Reading to Dogs - Tail Waggin' Tutors Program, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

e. Affiliation Agreement – Duquesne University
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Affiliation Agreement between Duquesne University and the Avella Area School District and LEA's, effective January 20, 2023 – July 31, 2028, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation.
Elizabeth Belfiore – Bus Driver
Gerald Bukowski – Van Driver
Nicholas Deutsch – Substitute Bus Driver
James Iams – Substitute Bus Driver
Harry Kelley – Bus Driver
George Weaver – Van Driver

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Resolution – Intermediate Unit I
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the 2023-2024 Intermediate Unit I General Operational Budget. Section 914-A(6)(1) Act 102 of 1970, requires that the Intermediate Unit Budget be approved by at least a majority of the school districts comprising the Intermediate Unit. Attachment Finance "A".

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

b. Washington County Tax Collection Committee
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Resolution of the Washington County Tax Collection Board of Delegates Amending the Bylaws to Authorize Voting of Delegates by Proxy Provided to the Executive Committee, per Attachment Finance "B".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

c. Preliminary Budget 2023-2024
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the preliminary budget in the amount of $12,555,094.00, for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and set the millage at 13.0742 mills, a 1.014 mill increase. Attachment Finance "C"

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

d. Act 1 – Referendum Exception
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve that the Administration be authorized and directed to timely apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a referendum exception, in accordance with Act 1 for increases in special education expenditures.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Amy Rush, Full Time Aide – Rescission of Resignation
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the rescission by Amy Rush of her resignation, as approved at the January 18, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors.

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

b. Amy Rush, Aide – Leave Without Pay
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Amy Rush's request for leave without pay, effective January 30, 2023 to the end of 2022-2023 school year.

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

c. Lori Ragan – Family Medical Leave
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Lori Ragan, Elementary School Secretary's request for an intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective January 26, 2023.

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

d. Samantha Adams – Maternity Leave
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Samantha Adams, JSHS Guidance Counselor's request for Maternity Leave starting April 3, 2023 until May 30, 2023.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

e. Meghan Cottle – Family Medical Leave
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor's request for an intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective February 13, 2023.

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

f. School Volunteer List
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2022-2023 school year:
Nadia Bongiorni
McKena Cowden
Michael Hixenbaugh
Brittany Lancaster
Kristi Rea
Samantha Shore

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

g. PSBA Policies
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies, per Attachment Personnel & Policy Attachment "A".
201 Pupils – Admission of Students

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled March 2, 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 7:39 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary