

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, 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: Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Sharon Hixenbaugh via conference call, Corey McConn, Summer Miller, Emanuel Paris via conference call, Leslie Thames

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

OTHERS: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions- None

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 April 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the April 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

2. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **ATTACHMENT "B"**
Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the April and May 2020 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the April and May 2020 General Fund.

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

3. **FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS** **ATTACHMENT "C"**
4. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT** **ATTACHMENT "D"**

B. NEW BUSINESS

Sharon Hixenbaugh, Hopewell Township - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to regretfully accept the resignation of Sharon Hixenbaugh, Avella Area School District Hopewell Township Board Member, effective June 1, 2020.

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

1. **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – No Report**
2. **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**
 - a. **The Board reviewed a letter from the Washington County Elections Office. The Board agreed for Cross Creek Township to no longer use the Avella Area School District as a voting location.**
 - b. **A Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting is scheduled June 10, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**
3. **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**
 - a. **Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Update**
 - b. **Mr. Cyril Walther, Superintendent, reported the Comprehensive Plan is due on August 31, 2020, and will include guidelines for the pandemic plan.**

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- c. A discussion was held regarding the District's COVID-19 plan.**
- d. The Graduation Ceremony will be held May 26, 2020, with a rain date of May 27, 2020.**
- e. Washington Communities Human Services, Inc.**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Student Assistance Program (SAP) Services between the Avella Area School District and Washington Communities Human Services, Inc., for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

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

- f. Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

- g. PA Pre-K Counts**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, 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 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "C" to Revised Agenda.

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

- h. River School Therapies**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Provision of Special Education Therapy Services (Social Workers) between Avella Area School District and River School Therapies for the 2020-2022 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "D" to Revised Agenda.

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

- i. My College Options**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Authorization Form for My College Options for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "E" to Revised Agenda.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the 2020-2021 Western Area Career & Technology Center's proposed budget totaling \$6,057,109.00, per letter dated May 13, 2020 from Dennis McCarthy, Ph.D., Director of Vocational Education, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

b. Business Manager – Renewal Bond

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the renewal bond of Laura Shola, Business Manager, setting bond at \$100,000, to begin July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

c. Board Treasurer – Renewal Bond

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to appoint Corey McConn as Board Treasurer for one year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at \$50,000.

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

d. Board Secretary – Renewal Bond

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the renewal bond of Debra Bentz, Board Secretary setting bond at \$50,000, to begin July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

e. Resolution – Bond Refunding Opportunity

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Resolution for the Bond Refunding Issue, per Attachment Finance "B", confirming the appointment of the financial and legal professionals to assist the District with the refunding opportunity for the 2015 general obligation bond.

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

f. Budget Transfers to the 2019-2020 Budget

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the budget transfers to the 2019-2020 budget, per Attachment Finance "C" to Revised Agenda.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

g. 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$11,289,662.00, for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and set the millage at 11.1397 mills, a .3662 mill increase. Attachment Finance "D" to Revised Agenda.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Hixenbaugh, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames said "aye". Ms. Cunningham said "nay". Motion carried 8-1.

h. Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled June 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and June 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Intermediate Unit 1 – Emergency Substitute Program

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the Commitment Form for the Emergency Substitute Program coordinated by the Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Personnel "A".

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

7. POLICIES – No Report

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting scheduled June 4, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. A discussion was held regarding regional internet access with the District's townships.

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Interim Agreement Regarding Contracted School Transportation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Interim Agreement Regarding Contracted School Transportation between the Avella Area School District and GG&C Bus Company, per Attachment Transportation "A".

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

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Hixenbaugh, seconded by Mr. McConn, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary