

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 18, 2020

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, March 18, 2020. Ms. Leslie Thames, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 via telephone, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Summer Miller, Emanuel Paris, Leslie Thames
Absent: Sharon Hixenbaugh

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

1. Elijah Porbin, Senior Art Student, placed 4 times on the national level being awarded a Gold Medal, American Visions Medal and 2 Silver Medals.

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 February 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

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

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2020 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, Mr. Paris and Ms. Thames 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. 2020-21 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following to the JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities for the 2020-2021 school year, per AEA Contract:
 - Nicholas Deutsch – Band Director
 - Alexander Light – Assistant Band Director
 - Jesse Rhoades - Marching Band Drum Line Instructor
 - Nicholas Deutsch - Choral Director
 - Alexander Light – Choral Director
 - Lynn Clarchick - Play Producer
 - Debora Descutner – Play Director
 - Nicholas Deutsch – Senior Class Sponsor
 - Renee Worst – Junior Class Sponsor
 - Joelle Cooper – Sophomore Class Sponsor
 - Evelyn Breitigan – Freshman Class Sponsor
 - Clara Zatta – 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor
 - Carrie Struth – Student Council Sponsor
 - Lynn Akins – National Honor Society Sponsor
 - Joelle Cooper – Newspaper Sponsor
 - Natalie Frank – Yearbook Sponsor
 - Kristen Jakiel – SADD Sponsor
 - Jessica Miller – Art Club Sponsor
 - Evelyn Breitigan – Community Service Sponsor
 - Evelyn Breitigan – Science Club
 - Susan Kubacka – Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach
 - Amy Rush – Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach
 - JT Mylan – Weight Room Coordinator
 - Zachary Zebrasky – Weight Room Coordinator Substitute

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

a. 2020-21 School Year - JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities - Continued

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

b. Zachary Zebrasky, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Zachary Zebrasky as the Junior Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2019-2020 school year, due to the resignation of Ryan Kinzler.

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

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported there were issues with body sprays masking the vape detectors. An update has been made to correct the problem.

b. A Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting is scheduled April 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

a. Ms. Dryer, Board Member, reported an adult nursing program was discussed at the Western Area Career & Technology Center meeting.

b. Shaylyn Zuver, Burgettstown Tuition Student

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Shaylyn Zuver to enroll in the Avella Area School District's vocational agricultural course of study as a tuition student for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

c. Comprehensive Planning Committee

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve:

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

Parents/Local Business Representatives/Community Representatives

Missy Dryer – HS Parent

Erika Minch – JH Parent

Amber Ripley – Elementary Parent

Evelyn Breitigan - HS Teacher

Lynn Akins - HS Teacher

Clara Zatta - JH Teacher

Becky Fox - Elementary Teacher

Matthew Erickson - Special Education Director

Lori Terensky - Business Representative

Leigh Stets – Community Representative

Alayna Walther – Student Representative

Jim Gagich - School Board Representative

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

c. Comprehensive Planning Committee - Continued

Sharon Hixenbaugh- School Board Representative
Corey McConn – School Board Representative
Greg Wargo – Tech Ed Specialist
Zack Zebrasky - Elementary Principal
Sheryl Wright-Brown - HS Principal
Cyril Walther – Superintendent

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

d. Center for Community Resources

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and the Center for Community Resources, per Attachment Curriculum “A”.

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

e. Band Performance – New York City

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Band to travel to New York City from May 7-9, 2021, per Attachment Curriculum “B”.

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

f. A discussion was held regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic Plan for the District.

g. Due to the school closing from the Coronavirus, the NHS Induction Ceremony and School Play are postponed.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled April 2 and 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. Office of Constable–John Vith, Public Safety Personnel - Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to ratify the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Office of Constable John Vith for Peacekeeping and Directed Patrol Services, , per Attachment Personnel “A”.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

b. Darren Shaffer - Homebound Instructor

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve Darren Shaffer as a Homebound Instructor for a Senior Student.

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

7. POLICIES

a. PSBA – Safe2Say

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the revisions to PSBA's Safe2Say Policy, per Attachment Policies "A".

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled April 2, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

RECESS: The Board of Directors recessed the Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 8:02 p.m. to reconvene on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

The Board did not reconvene the meeting on April 1, 2020 due to COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary