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

# BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 15, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District, via Zoom, on Wednesday, April 15, 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, Sharon Hixenbaugh, Corey McConn, Summer Miller, Emanuel Paris, Leslie Thames
Absent: James Gagich

**ADMINISTRATION**: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Laura Shola, Business Manager
Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS 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 March 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Thames, to approve the March 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2020 General Fund.

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

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.

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

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – No Report**

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. The Board requested a list of summer projects to be provided to the Buildings & Grounds Committee.**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Report**

**b. 2019-2020 School Calendar**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the following revisions to the 2019-2020 School Calendar:

- March 16-23, 2020 - No school due to COVID-19
- March 24, 2020 - Distance Learning begins for students due to COVID-19
- April 8, 9, 13, 14, 2020 - Instructional Makeup Days

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.

**c. Merakey Behavioral Health**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Letter of Collaborative Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Merakey Behavioral Health (formerly NHS Human Services) for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

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.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**d. Student Discipline**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and EC and GC, and direct and authorize the Administration to implement it.

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.

**e. Arc Human Services, Inc.**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Addendum to the Contractor Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Arc Human Services, Inc., effective 4/14/20 through 6/30/20, per Attachment Curriculum "B" to Revised Agenda.

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.

**f. Mr. Walther reported the Comprehensive Plan filing date has been extended and the Committee will meet via Zoom.**

**g. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the school play is cancelled due to COVID-19.**

**h. A discussion was held regarding the District's COVID-19 plan.**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Alma, Inc.**
Moved by Ms. Hixenbaugh, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Cost Proposal with Alma, Inc., and to authorize the Administration to proceed forward with signing a contract, per Attachment Finance "A" to Revised Agenda.

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.

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Trudy Roney Photography, LLC**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Trudy Roney Photography, LLC, effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023, per Attachment Personnel "A".

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.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**b. Extended School Year Program Teachers**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the following Extended School Year Program Teachers, effective summer 2020, per AEA Contract:
Colleen Jastrzebski
Dana Gatewood

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.

**c. Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve the following as Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective summer 2020:
Linda Gagliani
Barbara Humensky
Jennifer Markle – Substitute Aide

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.

**7. POLICIES**

**a. PSBA Policies – PNN Volume II April 2020**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following adoption/revisions to the PSBA – PNN Volume II April 2020 policies:
006.1 - Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications
335 – Family and Medical Leave Act Attachments
626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance Policy (No revisions to attachments)

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.

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled May 7, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**a. E-Rate**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the purchase of network switches from CDW-G, at a cost to the district of $14,296.92, after E-Rate funding. The purchase is being made and applied for through the E-Rate 2020-21 funding year. Attachment Technology "A"

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.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**b. Inventory Control**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to approve Greg Wargo, Network Administrator's request to recycle/dispose of outdated items, per Attachment Technology "B"

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.

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**a. GG&C Contract**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to authorize the Administration to renegotiate the current transportation contract with GG&C Bus Company, Inc. for the 2019-2020 school year as per Act 13 of 2020.

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.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**
With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Hixenbaugh, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 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,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary