

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

August 17, 2020

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Monday, August 17, 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. Laura Shola, Business Manager, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Summer Miller, Emanuel Paris, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Leslie Thames

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

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, 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

1. Marcia Jaworowski, 396 Cooke Road, Avella, PA, asked questions regarding the reopening of the school year.
2. Amy Rush, 3940 Jefferson Avenue, Washington, PA, asked if students can wear face shields.

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the July 2020 Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, 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 July and August 2020 General Fund.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller, 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

1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- a. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, reported the District is waiting on the PIAA's ruling regarding fall sports.

2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- a. Western Area Career & Technology Center's meeting is scheduled Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

- b. **Western Area Career & Technology Center Students**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the 2020-2021 Western Area Career & Technology Center list of students, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

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

- c. **Resolution – Emergency Instructional Time**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a Resolution supporting emergency instructional time, per Attachment Curriculum "B".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

d. School Calendar

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following revisions to the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Curriculum "C".

August 21, 2020 – Clerical Day from 8/24/20
August 24, 2020 – Act 80 Day from 5/14/21
August 26, 2020 – Act 80 Day from 1/15/21
August 27, 2020 – In-Service Day from 2/12/21
August 28, 2020 – In-Service day from 3/12/21
August 31, 2020 – Students' first day
1/15/21, 2/12/21, 3/12/21 – Instructional Days

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

e. Tuition Student

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Blake Lindley to attend the McGuffey School District's Agricultural Mechanization Program of Study for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

f. Cierra Dadisman, Burgettstown Tuition Student

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Cierra Dadisman, 10th Grade Burgettstown student, 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 Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

g. Comprehensive Plan

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Avella Area School District's Comprehensive Plan, effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Ms. Miller and Mr. Paris said "aye". Mr. Gagich and Mr. Willyerd said "nay". Motion carried 6-2.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Insurance Renewal

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the following renewal policies through Campbell Insurance Associates:

- Student Accident from US Fire Insurance Co., effective 8/1/20 in the amount of \$4,518.00.
- Volunteer Accident from PSBA Insurance Trust, effective 8/1/20 in the amount of \$650

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE

b. 7th Grade - Student Activity Fund

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the Class of 2026 (7th Grade) to establish a Student Activity Account.

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

c. A discussion was held regarding a letter received from the Avella Public Library. The Board agreed not to make a donation without District representation on the Public Library Board.

5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Negotiations Committee meeting is scheduled September 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

a. STAT Staff Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Staffing Agreement between the Avella Area School District and STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc., for the 2020-2021 school year, per attachment Personnel "A".

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

b. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Personnel "B".

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

c. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Personnel "C".

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

d. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2020-2021 school year:

Terry Jaworowski
Joan McEachern
Thomas McEachern
Ed Powers
Tina Powers
Edward Stough
Lori Terensky

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

d. School Volunteer List - Continued

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

e. Joelle Cooper, JSHS Math Teacher – Maternity Leave

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Joelle Cooper, JSHS Math Teacher's request for maternity leave, effective August 24, 2020 – December 23, 2020.

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

f. Jodie Cowden, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jodie Cowden's request for a temporary leave of absence, effective August 31, 2020, and not to exceed one (1) year.

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

g. Jeffrey Zollars, Spanish Teacher

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jeffrey Zollars' request for FMLA Leave, beginning September 8, 2020.

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

7. POLICIES

a. Teachers' Handbook

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Teachers' Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year, including the revised language for masks, per Attachment Policies "A".

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

b. Student Handbooks

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Elementary Center and JSHS Student Handbooks for the 2020-2021 school year, including the revised language for masks, per Attachment Policies "B" to Revised Agenda.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. POLICIES

c. PSBA Policies

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies recommended by PSBA:

PSBA News Network - Volume III

- 146.1 Trauma Informed Approach
- 832 Educational Equity

PSBA News Network - Volume IV

- 103 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- 104 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
- 247 Hazing
- 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying
- 252 Dating Violence
- 317.1 Educator Misconduct
- 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. A Safety Committee Meeting scheduled is September 3, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.**

9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- a. A discussion was held regarding the location of internet access points for student use, if necessary.**

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Jake Schneider, Inc. - Contract for School Pupils

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Contract for School Pupils between the Avella Area School District and Jake Schneider, Inc. for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Transportation "A".

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

b. Jake Schneider's Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve Jake Schneider's Van Driver List for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Transportation "B" to Agenda. (Jake Schneider is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

c. GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Willyerd, to approve GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Transportation "C" to Revised Agenda. (GG&C is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

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

d. Parent Transportation Contract

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Willyerd, to approve the Parent Transportation Agreement between Mrs. Joan McEachern and the Avella Area School District to transport student to and from Avella Area School District for the 2020-2021 school year, per Attachment Transportation "D".

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

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary