

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**March 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, March 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  
Absent – Emanuel Paris, Scott Willyerd

**ADMINISTRATION:** Cyril Walther, Superintendent  
Laura Shola, Business Manager  
Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSBS Principal  
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**

**Request to Speak at the Board Meeting – None**

**Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items**

## GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **ATTACHMENT "A"**  
Board Members were furnished copies of the February 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the February 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

2. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **ATTACHMENT "B"**  
Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for February and March 2023 General Fund.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

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

## B. NEW BUSINESS

1. **ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – No Report**
2. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**
3. **CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**
  - a. **Mr. Devenney, WACTC Representative, reported the April 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting will be held at the Western Area Career & Technology Center.**

- b. **School Calendar 2023-2024 - Revision**  
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following revision to the School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year due to the steer show at West Alexander Fair:
    - Sept 6, 2023 - Open House (originally scheduled Sept 7, 2023)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

- c. **IU1 – Math Curriculum Package**  
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Math Curriculum Package between the Avella Area School District and the Intermediate Unit 1, effective August 2023 through June 2024, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**d. Inventory Control**

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Mr. Saunders, Business Education Teacher's request, to dispose of the outdated accounting books from 2005.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report**

**5. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Finance Committee Meetings:**

**April 12, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**May 4, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**May 17, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**June 21, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

**7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**a. Substitute Support Staff Rate for District Employees**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to retroactively approve the substitute support staff rate for District employees to \$14.05, effective February 16, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**b. Bonita Browne, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker - Resignation**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Bonita Browne, part-time cafeteria worker, effective March 1, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**c. Posting - Part-Time Cafeteria Worker**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**d. Southwest Training Services, Inc.**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Worksite Agreement for the Summer Youth Program between Southwest Training Services, Inc. and the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**e. 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, pending receipt of required clearances:

Lisa Jacobs

Bob Morris

Mary Jo Morris

Susan Townsend

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**f. PSBA Policies**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies, per the recommendations of PSBA. Attachment Personnel & Policy Attachment "B".

Volume III

236.1 Threat Assessments

805 Emergency Preparedness and Response

805.2 School Security Personnel

Volume IV

200 Enrollment of Students

202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students

204 Attendance

217 Graduation

221 Dress & Grooming

233 Suspension & Expulsion

251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care

810 Transportation

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**g. Government Entity Claims Against JUUL Labs, Inc.**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Government Entity Settlement Agreement between the Avella Area School District and JUUL Labs, Inc., per Attachment Personnel & Policy Attachment "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**h. Laura Shola, Business Manager - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to regretfully accept the resignation of Laura Shola, Business Manager, effective date to be determined.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**i. Business Manager - Advertisement**

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve an advertisement for a Business Manager.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**j. Substitute Teacher List**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Raymond Lombardi to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2022-2023 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled April 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. McConn said "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz  
Board Secretary