

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

June 21, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Ms. Leslie Cunningham, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding the Safety Report, personnel and contracts. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Suzanne Colilla, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Emanuel Paris, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Phoebe Armstrong

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Carrie Graff, 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 May 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the May 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, 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 May and June 2023 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the May and June 2023 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, 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 & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

- a. **Jordan Chappel, Assistant Band Director**
Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jordan Chappel as an Assistant Band Director for the 2023-2024 school year, per AEA Contract, pending receipt of all employment documentation.

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

2. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

3. **CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

- a. **Mr. Devenney reported the student enrollment has increased for the Western Area Career & Technology Center for the 2023-2024 school year.**
- b. **A discussion was held regarding Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor, bringing her therapy dog to school. Mr. McConn, Board President, requested a motion for approval to be placed on the August 9, 2028 agenda.**

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

c. Teaching Assignments

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the tentative teaching assignments for the JSHS and Elementary Schools for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

d. Western Area Career & Technology Center Students

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Western Area Career & Technology Center list of students for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

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

e. Flexible Instruction Days Application

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify authorization for the Superintendent to apply for the Flexible Instruction Days for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

f. Special Education Services Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Special Education Services Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Forth Cherry School District for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Mr. McConn reported the facilities walkthrough was held June 12 2023, with future projects including the tennis courts and driveway.

b. Class of 2023 – Cafeteria Mural Extension

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Chris Galiyas to complete the mural extension in the JSHS cafeteria, per Attachment Facilities "A". The project will be paid for by the Class of 2023.

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Mr. McConn, Board President, requested the Grants Oversight Committee discussion be tabled until the August meeting.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

b. John Deere – Purchase Order

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the proposed Purchase Order with John Deere for a John Deere 5075E Tractor and John Deere 520M Loader and accessories, and authorize the Business Manager to execute the Agreement and related documents, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

c. Equipment – Municibid

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to authorize the Administration to utilize Municibid auction for the Case IH C60 tractor and Case 580 CK backhoe, after the John Deere purchase is complete.

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

d. Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the insurance proposal between Avella Area School District and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, effective July 1, 2023.

- Commercial Package and Umbrella in the amount of \$39,226
- Worker’s Compensation in the amount of \$24,833
- Cyber Liability in the amount of 7,465
- Educators & EPL in the amount of \$5,255
- Business Auto in the amount of \$2,246
- Equipment Breakdown \$3,213

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

e. Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals for 2023

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the proposal by Peacock Keller, LLP and the criteria set therein for the District initiated real estate tax assessment appeals for 2023, per Attachment Finance “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Ms. Dryer said “nay”. Motion carried 7-1.

f. 2023-2024 General Fund Budget

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the General Fund Budget totaling \$12,577,352.00, be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2023-2024, beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, with millage set at 13.0742 mills (1.014 mill increase) on real estate, \$5.00 per capita tax under Section 679; \$5.00 per capita tax, and one-half of one percent (1/2%) on all earned income, under Act 511. Attachment Finance “C” to Revised Agenda.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

g. Homestead and Farmstead Resolution

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Finance "D".

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Dana Gatewood, Special Education Teacher for Elementary Emotional Support Classroom

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to appoint Dana Gatewood as the Special Education Teacher for the Elementary Emotional Support Classroom, per AEA Contract, effective 2023-2024 school year.

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

b. Elementary First Grade Teacher Posting

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to ratify a posting for an Elementary First Grade Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. (Dana Gatewood's position)

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

c. Title I Reading Specialist - Posting

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to post (advertise if necessary) for a Reading Specialist Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year (due to Lauren Baker's transfer to the First Grade Teacher position).

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

d. Adrianna Bielby, Elem Learning Support Teacher - Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Adrianna Bielby, Elementary Learning Support Teacher, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

e. Special Education Teacher - Posting

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to post (advertise if necessary) for a Special Education Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year (Adrianna Bielby's position).

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

f. Lauren Markish, English Teacher - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Lauren Markish, English Teacher, effective end of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

g. English Teacher - Posting

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to post (advertise if necessary) for an English Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

h. Lauren Markish, Yearbook Sponsor - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Lauren Markish as Yearbook Sponsor, effective upon completion of the 2022-2023 yearbook.

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

i. Yearbook Sponsor - Posting

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to post (advertise if necessary) for a Yearbook Sponsor for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

j. Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher - Posting

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to post (advertise if necessary) for a part-time Elementary Art Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year (position was held by Kevin Painter for 2022-2023).

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

k. Part-Time Social Studies Teacher - Posting

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to post (advertise if necessary) for a part-time Social Studies Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year (position was held by Kevin Painter for 2022-2023).

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

l. Lauren O'Brien - Full Time School Nurse

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to appoint Lauren O'Brien as the School Nurse, full time temporary professional employee, per AEA Contract, effective August 21, 2023, the first day of the 2023-2024 school year.

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

m. James Kosarik, Part-Time Custodian

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve James Kosarik as a part-time custodian, 5 hours per day/12 month employee. effective June 27, 2023.

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

n. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify John Caltumo to the School Volunteer List for the 2022-2023 school year:

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

o. Administration Raises

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Administrative personnel raises as per contracts, effective July 1, 2023, listed on Attachment Personnel & Policy "A". Amounts have been budgeted and Performance Evaluations completed.

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

p. Non-Union Staff Raises

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the non-union personnel raises, effective July 1, 2023, as per Attachment Personnel & Policy "B". Amounts have been budgeted and Performance Evaluations completed.

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

q. Contracted Medical/Dental Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Contracted Medical/Dental Personnel List for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "C".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

r. Chelsea Foster Counseling, LLC

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to renew the contract of Chelsea Foster Counseling, LLC for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "D".

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

s. Greg Wargo, Network Administrator

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to renew the Contract of Employment of Greg Wargo, Network Administrator, effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2028, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "E".

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

t. Dawn Brownlee, Human Resource Manager – Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve an Agreement with Dawn Brownlee, Human Resource Manager, to continue her services on an as needed basis, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "F".

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

u. Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to appoint Heather Zalar as a School Principal, effective date to be determined, at an annual salary of \$88,500.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. The Principal's assignment shall be the JSHS School. The terms and conditions of her employment shall be pursuant to the Administrative Compensation Plan.

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

v. IDEA Policies and Procedures

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. McConn, to ratify the Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds form and Coordinated Early Intervention Services form from the Intermediate Unit 1 for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel and Policy "G".

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled July 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Cunningham called an Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. regarding personnel with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary