

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 17, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 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: Phoebe Armstrong, Suzanne Colilla, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, James Gagich, Corey McConn, Emanuel Paris
Absent: Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
Laura Shola, 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

1. The following students were recognized as the May Students of the Month:
Troy Cooke – Senior
Jaelyn Papa – 6th Grade
2. Scott Grant, Case|Sabatini, District Auditors, presented the Auditor's Report for the 2021-2022 year.

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 April 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the April 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the April and May 2023 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn and Mr. Paris 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. **2023-2024 Athletic Coaches**
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following athletic coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

FALL SPORTS

Cross Country

Laura Lazzarotti, Head Coach
Zachery Franks, Assistant Coach

Football - 7th/8th Grade

James Gatewood, Head Coach
Brad Rankin, Assistant Coach

Football - Varsity

Ryan Cecchini, Head Coach
Clinton Varner, Assistant Coach
JT Mylan, Assistant Coach

Softball – 7th/8th Grade Junior Varsity

Jamie Scears – Head Coach
Kasey Scears – Assistant Coach

Tennis

Kevin Painter - Head Coach
Dan Davidson - Assistant Coach

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 2023-2024 Athletic Coaches - Continued

Volleyball

Vacant - Head Coach

Vacant - Assistant Coach

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball – Boys' Varsity

Michael Macik – Head Coach

Kevin Painter – Assistant Coach

Basketball – Girls' Varsity

Mike Drazich – Head Coach

Kathleen Margaria – Assistant Coach

Basketball – 7th/8th Grade Boys

Kevin Painter – Head Coach

Michael Macik – Assistant Coach

Rifle

Nikki Knopp – Head Rifle Coach

Branden Kosey – Assistant Coach

Volleyball – 7th/8th Grade Girls

Dana Gatewood – Head Coach

McKena Cowden – Assistant Coach

Wrestling – Junior Varsity

Travis Ware – Head Coach

Vacant – Assistant Coach

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball - Varsity

Jason Fogg, Head Coach

Terry Jacobs, Assistant Coach

Baseball – Junior Varsity

Zachery Franks, Head Coach

Basketball – 7th/8th Grade Girls

Kevin Painter, Head Coach

Kathleen Margaria, Assistant Coach

Softball - Varsity

Laura Lazzarotti, Head Coach

Amber Ripley, Assistant Coach

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

b. Lynn Clarchick, Musical Producer/Play Producer - Resignation

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Lynn Clarchick as Musical Producer/Play Producer, effective immediately.

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

c. Debora Descutner, Musical Producer/Play Producer - Resignation

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Debora Descutner as Musical Producer/Play Producer, effective immediately.

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

d. Musical Producers/Play Producers - Postings

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for two (2) Musical Producers/Play Producers.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Communications Committee Meeting will be schedule in June.

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, announced the Western Area Career & Technology Center Certificate Ceremony will be held May 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

b. Calendar Dates:

5/18 @ 6:00 p.m. WACTC Certificate Ceremony
Chartiers-Houston Auditorium

5/21 @ 7:00 p.m. Baccalaureate, Grove Presbyterian Church
6/2 @ 7:00 p.m. Commencement

c. PA Pre-K Counts

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Lease Agreement and Meal Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Blueprints Early Learning Head Start and Pre-K Counts, effective 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

d. Center for Community Resources

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the SAP Agreement between the Avella Area School District and the Center for Community Resources for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

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

e. A Technology Committee Meeting will be scheduled in June.

f. Added Motion - Elementary Support Classroom

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to add the following motion to the Regular Board Meeting Agenda of May 17, 2023. This motion is requested for inclusion at this time due to personnel shortages and end of the year activities. The Administration did not have sufficient opportunity to discuss the implications of this motion prior to this evening:

Elementary Support Classroom

Motion to create an Elementary Emotional Support Classroom for the school year 2023-2024, and to create an Emotional Support Teacher position for the school year 2023-2024, and to post, and if necessary, advertise for a Special Education Teacher.

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

g. Elementary Support Classroom

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to create an Elementary Emotional Support Classroom for the school year 2023-2024, and to create an Emotional Support Teacher position for the school year 2023-2024, and to post, and if necessary, advertise for a Special Education Teacher.

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

h. Added Motion – Vocational Agriculture Students' Trip to Ireland

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to add the following motion to the Regular Board Meeting Agenda of May 17, 2023. This motion is requested for inclusion at this time because the Administration did not receive the request for this trip until May 17, 2023, and if approved, those involved would need to begin fundraising activities as soon as possible:

Vocational Agriculture Students' Trip to Ireland

Motion to approve the Vocational Agriculture students to travel to Ireland through EF Education Tours from April 20 – May 3, 2025, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

i. Vocational Agriculture Students' Trip to Ireland

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Vocational Agriculture students to travel to Ireland through EF Education Tours from April 20 – May 3, 2025, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. A Building & Grounds Committee walkthrough of the buildings will be scheduled in June.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

**a. Finance Committee Meetings:
June 21, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

b. Business Manager – Bond

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the bond of John Galvin, Business Manager, setting bond at \$100,000, to begin July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

c. Board Treasurer

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to appoint Jeffrey Devenney as Board Treasurer for one year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at \$50,000.

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

d. Board Secretary – Renewal Bond

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the renewal bond of Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, setting bond at \$50,000, to begin July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

e. IU 1 Educational Service Agreement

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the IU 1 Educational Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Intermediate Unit 1, effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

f. Fencing Unlimited

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the proposal from Fencing Unlimited for the purchase and installation of security bollards at the building entrances, to be paid for with Act 55 Safety Grant funds (lowest proposal received).

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

g. A-Plus Window Tint

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the proposal of \$13,380.00 from A-Plus Window Tint for window security film, to be paid for with Act 55 Safety Grant funds (lowest proposal received).

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

h. 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$12,543,623.00, for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and set the millage at 13.0742 mills, a 1.014 mill increase. Attachment Finance "B" to Revised Agenda.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Memorandum of Understanding – Golf Coaches

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Area Education Association, PSEA/NEA, regarding golf coaches, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

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

b. Golf Coaches – Posting

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a posting, advertisement if necessary, for a Head Golf Coach and Assistant Golf Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of required clearances:

Renee Bailey
Seth Bostic
Hanna Groom
Leann Minton
Katelyn Paulina

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

b. PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement between the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Avella Area School District, effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “A”.

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

c. Rescind Motion – Jamie O'Donnell, Business Manager Position

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve rescinding the following motion board approved April 19, 2023

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to appoint Jamie O'Donnell as the Business Manager of the Avella Area School District, effective date to be determined, at an annual salary of \$100,000.00. This appointment shall be contingent upon the parties' execution of a mutually acceptable agreement.

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

d. John Galvin, Business Manager Position

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to appoint John Galvin as the Business Manager of the Avella Area School District, effective date to be determined, at an annual salary of \$90,000. This appointment shall be contingent upon the parties' execution of a mutually acceptable agreement.

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

e. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Alyssa Gobleck and Cinnamon Kramer 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, Mr. McConn and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

f. Emergency Substitute Program – IU I

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Commitment Form for the Emergency Substitute Program coordinated by the Intermediate Unit I for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “B”.

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

g. Jennifer Markle, Cafeteria Worker – Medical Leave

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Jennifer Markle, Cafeteria Worker’s medical leave, effective May 17, 2023 to August 18, 2023.

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

h. Added Motion – JSBS Principal Position/Advertisement of Position

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to add the following motion to the Regular Board Meeting Agenda of May 17, 2023. This motion was not able to be included on the published agenda because the resignation at issue was not received by the Superintendent until the morning of May 17, 2023.

JSBS Principal Resignation/Advertisement of Position

Motion to accept the resignation of Sheryl Wright- Brown, effective immediately, and to authorize the Administration to advertise the position of JSBS Principal.

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

i. JSBS Principal Position/Advertisement of Position

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Sheryl Wright- Brown, effective immediately, and to authorize the Administration to advertise the position of JSBS Principal.

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled June 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

b. The District Safety Drill is scheduled May 22, 2023.

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

c. Safe & Drug Free School – Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pennsylvania State Police Department and the Avella Area School District, pursuant to Act 26 of 1995, Safe & Drug Free School, Section 1317-2. (Due every two years) Attachment Safety "A"

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

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary