

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

August 9, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, August 9, 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 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, Corey McConn, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Phoebe Armstrong, James Gagich, Emanuel Paris

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager – Per conference call
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal
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. PSBA presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jeffrey Devenney, School Director, for his 16 years of school board service.**

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 June 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the June, July and August 2023 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. **ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

- a. **Athletic Event/Sport Passes**
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following Athletic Event/Sport Passes rates (prices have not been increased since 2019)

Adult Prices

Volleyball - \$3 to \$5

Girls' Basketball - \$4 to \$5

Boys' Basketball \$4 to \$5

Student Prices \$1 to \$2

Football is currently \$5 for adults and \$2 for students

Sport Passes

Football - \$15 to \$20

Volleyball - \$18 to \$20

Winter Sports \$18 to \$20

Students \$8 to \$10

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

b. Golf Coaches

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following Golf Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

Pete Dellovade, Head Coach
Larry Lis, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. Volleyball Coaches

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following Volleyball Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

Matt Zalar, Head Coach
McKena Cowden, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

d. Kevin Painter – Coaching Resignations

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept Kevin Painter's resignation for the following coaching positions:

Head Tennis Coach
Head 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

e. Posting – Tennis Coach

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to retroactively approve the posting for a Head Tennis Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

f. Posting – Coaching Positions

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the posting (advertisement if necessary) for the following coaching positions:

Head 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

g. Tennis Coaches

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following Tennis Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

Dan Davidson, Head Coach
Amy Joyce, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. **A Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled September 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to review surveys.**

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- a. **Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Update**
- b. **Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor - Therapy Dog**
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor's therapy dog to visit the Elementary School on a schedule approved by the Elementary Principal.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- c. **Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission**
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- d. **RWS – Education Partner Agreement**
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Education Partner Agreement with Real World Scholars (RWS) and the Avella Area School District, effective 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- e. **Vision to Learn**
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and Vision to Learn, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

- f. **Inventory Control**
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve discarding the outdated textbooks listed on Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

g. KeySolution Staffing, LLC – Behavior Therapy Services

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Staffing, LLC, to provide behavior therapy services for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “E”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

h. KeySolution Staffing, LLC – Psychology Services

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Staffing, LLC, to provide psychology services for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “F”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

i. Keystone Educational Consulting Group – Special Ed Consulting

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Keystone Educational Consulting Group, to provide special education consulting for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “G”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

j. School Calendar 2023-2024 - Revision

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following revisions to the School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year:
August 21 – In-Service Day
August 23 – Clerical Day

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C’s Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve GG&C’s Bus/Van Driver List for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation “A”. (GG&C is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "B". (Jake Schneider is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. 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 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

d. Mr. McConn, Board President, reported Cross Creek Township paid their engineering firm to complete the application for the LSA money. A press conference may be held at the school in coming months to announce the project.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Discussion Item: Grants Oversight Committee – Tabled

b. Education Plus, LLS - Federal E-Rate Program

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve contracting with Education Plus, LLS, to assist with the Federal E-Rate Program for funding year 2024, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. Insurance Renewal

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

- Student Accident from US Fire Insurance Co., effective 8/1/23 in the amount of \$4,410
- Volunteer Accident from PSBA Insurance Trust, effective 8/1/23 in the amount of \$600

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

d. 7th Grade - Student Activity Fund

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Class of 2029 (7th Grade) to establish a Student Activity Account.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

e. Board of Assessment Appeals

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to authorize the law firm of Peacock Keller, LLP to file tax assessment appeals for the 2024 tax year to the Board of Assessment Appeals, Washington County, for the following tax parcel identification numbers: 3700160000001800 and 3500110103000300

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Ms. Dryer said “nay”. Motion carried 5-1.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. AEA - Tuition Students

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following students to be enrolled as tuition students in the Avella Area School District for the 2023-2024 school year.

Isabelle Crum – Grade 2

Jeffrey Crum – Grade 1

Beauden Deer – Grade 2

Caleb Fedak – Grade 3

Ryan Fogg – Grade 3

Ashlyn Ripley McDougan – Grade 7

Alexis Minch – Grade 12

Kaitlyn Minch – Grade 9

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

c. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the School Volunteer List for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “C”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

d. Sarah Hill, Elementary Reading Specialist

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Sarah Hill to the position of Elementary Reading Specialist, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective August 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

e. Emily Jezowicz, Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Emily Jezowicz to the position of Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, effective August 21, 2023, upon receipt of required documents..

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

f. Jenna Craig, Long Term Substitute PT Elementary Art Teacher

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Jenna Craig to the position of Long Term Substitute PT Elementary Art Teacher, effective August 21, 2023, upon receipt of required documents.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

g. Jamey Pryber, English Teacher

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Jamey Pryber to the position of English Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective August 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

h. Jamey Pryber, Yearbook Sponsor

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Jamey Pryber to the position of Yearbook Sponsor, effective August 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

i. Part-Time Social Studies Teacher – Motion tabled until September 20, 2023 board meeting.

j. Permanent Teacher Contract

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to award the following Permanent Teacher Contract:

Samantha Jacobs, a Professional Employee Contract, following 3 years of satisfactory service with the District, effective September 29, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

k. Keith Shephard, School Police Officer

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the employment agreement between Keith Shephard, School Police Officer, and the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "D".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

l. Amanda Conley, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve Amanda Conley as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 23, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

m. Heather Scott, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve Heather Scott as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 23, 2023, pending receipt of required employment documentation.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

n. Teachers' Handbook

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Teachers' Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "E".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

o. Student Handbooks

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Elementary Center and JSHS Student Handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "F".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

p. PSBA Policies

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

Volume I

137 Home Education Programs

137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students

137.2 Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students

137.3 Participation in Career & Tech Education Programs by Home Education Students

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

p. PSBA Policies - Continued

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

q. A discussion was held regarding staff members being nominated and recognized every nine weeks.

r. Student Specific Aide - Posting

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to authorize the Superintendent to post (advertise if necessary) for a Student Specific Aid, if necessary.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled September 7, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

b. Burgettstown Area School District – Emergency Operations Plan

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the updated Interdistrict Emergency Support Agreement with Burgettstown Area School District, per Attachment Safety "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

c. Health & Safety Plan

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Health & Safety Plan for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Safety "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary