AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 20, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:25 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, Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
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. A warm welcome to our newest team member Gus (Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor's therapy dog)

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 August 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ***ATTACHMENT "B"***

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the August and September 2023 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Accounts Payable for the August and September 2023 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS ***ATTACHMENT "C"***

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT ***ATTACHMENT "D"***

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coaches

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:
Brandon Miller – Head 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach
Mike Macik – Assistant 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. The Board requested athletic seasonal updates from the Athletic Director.

c. A discussion was held regarding partnering with Fort Cherry for a girls' wrestling team.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled September 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to review the surveys.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Jeff Devenney, Board Member, reported the Western Area Career & Technology Center's open house is scheduled September 21, 2023. Also, the enrollment has doubled in the cosmetology program.

b. Title I Program Schoolwide Plan
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Title I Program Schoolwide Plan for the 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, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Title I Handbook
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Title I Handbook 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, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

d. Title I Reading – Parent/Student/School Compact
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Title I Reading – Parent/Student/School Compact for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. Outside In
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Outside In for students requiring drug and alcohol treatment or rehabilitation services, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

f. Homecoming Events

Oct 12	@ 6:30 p.m.	Homecoming Parade followed by Bonfire
Oct 13	@ 6:30 p.m.	Pregame including Alumni Marching Band
	@ 7:00 p.m.	Kickoff
	@ Halftime	Crowning
	@ After Game	Halftime show including Alumni Marching Band
Oct 14	@ 7-10 p.m.	Homecoming Dance

g. The Steering Committee held a meeting on September 14, 2023. The Comprehensive Plan will be approved at the October 18, 2023 board meeting.

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Waste Management Service Agreement
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Service Agreement with Waste Management effective September 11, 2023, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation:
Linda Cumer – Van Driver
Letosha Lindley – Van Driver

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on October 12, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. for the waterline project.

d. A discussion was held regarding a possible easement.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Mr. McConn, Board President, recommended the Finance Committee should oversee grants.

b. John Galvin, Business Manager–Wash Co Tax Collection Committee
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve John Galvin, Business Manager, as the Avella Area School District's delegate for the Washington County Tax Collection Committee, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. ACCESS Services Agreement – IU 1 – Based Staff
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the ACCESS Services Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Intermediate Unit 1, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. JUUL E-Cigarette Litigation – Settlement Agreement
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Settlement Agreement with the final Defendants in the Juul e-cigarette litigation, per email Attachments from Frantz Law Group - Negotiations "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Jamey Pryber, English Teacher
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve Jamey Pryber as a professional employee, effective August 21, 2023. (Documentation has been received from Baldwin-Whitehall School District)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Connor Ridge, Part-Time Social Studies Teacher
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve Connor Ridge to the position of Part-Time Social Studies Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective August 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Jenna Craig, Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve Jenna Craig to the position of part-time Elementary Art Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective September 1, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

d. Emily Jezowicz, Elementary Special Education Teacher
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Emily Jezowicz to the position of Elementary Special Education Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract (waiting to receive effective date from the certificate issued from the Commonwealth of PA)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. Jennifer Markle, Cafeteria Worker – Medical Leave
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Jennifer Markle, Cafeteria Worker's medical leave, effective September 5, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

f. Bonita Browne, Cafeteria Worker – Resignation
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Bonita Browne, Cafeteria Worker, effective August 21, 2023. (Union waived posting of position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

g. Lisa Mayer, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve Lisa Mayer as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective August 23, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

h. Heather Scott, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker - Resignation
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Heather Scott, part-time cafeteria worker, effective September 11, 2023. (Union waived posting of position)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

i. School Volunteer List
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the updated School Volunteer List for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

j. MW Photography - Contract
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve a contract between MW Photography and the Avella Area School District, effective September 20, 2023 to June 30, 2025, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

k. Added Motion – Special Education Teacher
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to add the following motion to tonight's agenda. This motion is being added at this time due to recent information that suggests a need for this position may exist in the near future:

Motion to create a full time Special Education Teacher position, and to post (advertise if necessary).

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

I. Special Education Teacher
Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to create a full time Special Education Teacher position, and to post (advertise if necessary).

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting is scheduled October 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Mr. Willyerd said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary