AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 18, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 – via phone conference
Absent: 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. The following students were recognized as the October Students of the Month:
Annemarie Kisner – Senior
Riley Hammond - 6th Grade Student

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 September 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the September 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 September and October 2023 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the September and October 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 – No Report

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A round table meeting is scheduled November 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. with the board, administration and teachers.

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Devenney, Board Member, reported the enrollment has increased at the Western Area Career & Technology Center, and the administration is reviewing options for additional courses.

b. Southwood Psychiatric Hospital- Agreement

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital 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 and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

c. The Bradley Center- Agreement
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between The Bradley Center and the Avella Area School District 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.

d. Arc Human Services, Inc. - Independent Contractor Agreement
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement between Arc Human Services, Inc. and the Avella Area School District 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 and Mr. Paris said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

e. Comprehensive Plan
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Avella Area School District's Comprehensive Plan, effective 2023-2026, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

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.

f. Induction Plan
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Avella Area School District's Induction Plan, effective 2023-2026, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "E".

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. Professional Development Plan
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Avella Area School District's Professional Development Plan, effective 2023-2026, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "F".

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. PA Youth Survey
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Avella Area School District to administer the PA Youth Survey to students in 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grades, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "G".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of requirement documentation.
Jordan Ike – Substitute Bus Driver
Alvin Kizer – Substitute Bus Driver
Alec Weber – Substitute Bus Driver

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.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Avella Parent Teacher Group – Student Activity Fund
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Parent Teacher Group to establish a Student Activity Account.

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. 2021-2022 Financial Statement Revision
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the 2021-2022 financial statement revision, per Attachment Finance "A". This revision is to satisfy the Maintenance of Fiscal Effort Other Expenditures and Exceptions Worksheet as required under IDEA-B (34 CFR 300.203) from the Department of Education Bureau of Special Education.

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. A discussion was held regarding the USDA school lunch program.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Holl Photography - Contract
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement between Holl Photography and the Avella Area School District, effective October 10, 2023 to June 30, 2025, 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.

b. School Volunteer List
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the updated School Volunteer List 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.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

c. Faythe Mazza, Part-Time Cafeteria Worker
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to retroactively approve Faythe Mazza as a part-time cafeteria worker, 4 hours per day/180 days per year, effective October 16, 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.

d. Alexander Light, Elementary Music Teacher Resignation
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to accept the resignation of Alexander Light as Elementary Music Teacher and Assistant Band Director, effective date TBD. (Posting has been waived)

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. Madeline Vaill, Elementary Music Teacher
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve hiring Madeline Vaill to the position of Elementary Music Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step1, per AEA Contract, effective date upon release from current District.

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.

f. Madeline Vaill, Assistant Band Director
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve hiring Madeline Vaill to the position of Assistant Band Director, per AEA Contract, effective date upon release from current District.

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. Bruce Kidd, Maintenance Employee – Retirement
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve Bruce Kidd, Maintenance employee's request to change his retirement date from March 1, 2024 to April 15, 2024, with retirement benefits remaining unaffected.

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 November 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary