

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

November 15, 2023

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held at the Avella Area School District on Wednesday, November 15, 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: Suzanne Colilla, Jeffrey Devenney, Melissa Dryer, Corey McConn, Emanuel Paris, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Phoebe Armstrong, Leslie Cunningham James Gagich

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal
Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the November Students of the Month:
Laurel Bongiorno – Senior
Jocelyn Briggs - 6th Grade Student
2. The Circle of Excellence Awards were presented to:
Susan Kubacka – Junior Senior High School
Dana Gatewood – Elementary School
3. Mr. McConn, Board President, recognized and thanked Leslie Cunningham and Jeff Devenney for their 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 October 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the October 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris 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 October and November 2023 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Accounts Payable for the October and November 2023 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Dryer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris 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. **STEM Club Sponsors**
Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Joelle Cooper and Zachery Franks as the STEM Club Sponsors for the 2023-2024 school year (stipend will be split).

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

2. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

3. **CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

- a. **Mr. Devenney, Board Member, reported the Western Area Career & Technology Center has an opening for a welding instructor.**

- b. **Inventory Control**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Devenney to approve Jesse Saunders, Business Education teacher's request to discard outdated video equipment from 15 years ago.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of required documentation.
Kimberly Sanders – Van Driver

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Status update of Newly Hired Teachers

- Alexander Light, Elem Music Teacher’s last day is 11/22/23
- Madeline Vaill, Elem Music Teacher’s first day is 12/4/23
- Emily Jezowicz, Elem Spec Ed Teacher’s effective certification date is 9/1/23

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

b. School Volunteer List

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

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

c. Cafeteria Staff

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following increased hours for the cafeteria staff, effective November 16, 2023:

Diana Dorsey	5 hours to 5.5 hours
Genia Mundorff	4.5 hours to 5.5 hours
Katie Doak	4 hours to 5.5 hours
Shari Dami	5 hours to 5.5 hours
Marianne Boris	4 hours to 5 hours

(Jennifer Markle, Amanda Conley, Lisa Mayer and Faythe Mazza will remain at 4 hours.)

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

d. Cheryl Rush, Elementary Special Education Teacher

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Cheryl Rush to the position of Elementary Special Education Teacher, professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective date upon release from current district.

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

e. PSBA Policies

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following recommended PSBA policies, per Attachment Personnel & Policy Attachment "A".

006 – Meetings

216.1 Supplemental Discipline Records

251 – Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care

815 – Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers & Network Resources

819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention & Response

830 – Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification

830.1 Data Governance – Storage/Security

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

f. First Reading of Policy 217.1 Early Graduation - Attachment Personnel & Policy Attachment "B".

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McConn, Board President, called an Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. regarding personnel with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary