

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 17, 2024

The Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. 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. Corey McConn, Board President, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Phoebe Armstrong, Suzanne Colilla, James Gagich, Terry Jacobs, Corey McConn, Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Melissa Dryer

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

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the January students of the month:
Cyril Walther – Senior
Aiden Debnar - 6th Grade Student
2. Board Members were recognized for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.
3. The Circle of Excellence Awards were presented to:
Evy Breitigan – Junior Senior High School
Leigh Stets – Elementary School

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 December 2023 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the December 2023 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

2. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** **ATTACHMENT "B"**
Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the December 2023 and January 2024 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2023 and January 2024 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd 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. **7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coaches**
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following 7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of employment documentation:
Bernadette O'Brien – Head Coach
Renee Warholak – Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

- b. **Jamie Pryber – Musical Producer/Play Producer**
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Jamie Pryber as the Musical Producer/Play Producer for the 2023-2024 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

- c. **Virginia Beach, VA – Band Students and Cheerleaders**
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the band students and cheerleaders to travel to Virginia Beach, VA from May 1 - 4, 2025 through Choice Music Tours, per Attachment Athletics & Activities "A". Students are responsible for all costs.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

d. Wildwood, NJ – Winter Guard Students

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Winter Guard students to travel to Wildwood, NJ from May 1 - 5, 2024 for the 2024 TIA Atlantic Coach Championships, per Attachment Athletics & Activities "B". Students are responsible for all costs.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

e. Donkey Ball Entertainment – Basketball Contract

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Donkey Ball Entertainment Basketball Contract between Donkey Ball Entertainment and the Avella Area School District Band Boosters/Parent Teachers Group on March 14, 2024, per Attachment Athletics & Activities "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Update

b. Inventory Control

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Greg Wargo, Network Administrator and Jesse Saunders, Business Education teacher's requests to discard outdated equipment, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

c. My Options for College & Career Success/ACT

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Authorization Form for My Options for College & Career Success/ACT for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

d. A Technology Committee Meeting is scheduled February 21, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. January, 17, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. - Washington County LSA Board to discuss application

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Preliminary Budget 2024-2025

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the preliminary budget in the amount of \$13,522,292.00, for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and set the millage at 13.9894 mills, a .9152 mill increase. Attachment Finance "A"

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Mr. Gagich said "nay". Motion carried 7-1.

b. Act 1 – Referendum Exception

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve that the Administration be authorized and directed to timely apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a referendum exception, in accordance with Act 1 for increases in special education expenditures.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. January 17, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m. – Negotiations Committee Meeting

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Billy Bertovich, Part-Time Custodian - Retirement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the retirement of Billy Bertovich, part-time weekend custodian, effective June 2, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

b. Part-Time Custodian – Posting/Advertisement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a 16 hour weekend custodian.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

c. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2023-2024 school year:

Jocilyn Dolan

Anastasia Paradise

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

d. Michelle Conner, Social Counselor - Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the resignation of Michelle Conner, Social Counselor's resignation, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. **Safety Committee meeting scheduled February 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary