AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 21, 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, February 21, 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. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

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

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal - Absent
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 February students of the month:
Alexis Minch – Senior
Hannah Elswick - 6th Grade Student

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting

1. The following requested to speak regarding the varsity wrestling program:
Dan Moore, 40 Three Cross Lane, Avella, PA
Kim Mace, 299 Ridge Road, Avella, PA
Abigale Dolanch, 86 Mount Hope Ridge Road, Claysville, PA
Rebecca Dolanch, 86 Mount Hope Ridge Road, Claysville, PA
Chas Rush, 25 Gardner Street, Avella, PA
Dino Simonelli, 46 Crossroads Road, Avella, PA
Kara Ruffalo, 20 Gwen Haley, Burgettstown, PA
Collin Griffith, 391 Maple Road, Burgettstown, PA
Aaron Margaria, 33 Homestead Drive, Avella, PA

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 January 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the January 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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 January and February 2024 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the Accounts Payable for the January and February 2024 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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. John Mylan, Assistant Baseball Coach

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve John Mylan as the Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

b. Inventory Control - Outdated Girls' Basketball Uniforms

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve discarding the outdated girls' basketball uniforms.

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

c. A Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled March 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Ms. Dryer, Board Member, reported the numbers have increased in the Sports Management Program at the Western Area Career & Technology Center. Mr. Walther, Superintendent, also reported there is an opening for a Practical Nurse Instructor.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

b. Crazy Horse Coffee, LLC
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Purchase Agreement with Crazy Horse Coffee, LLC, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A". (A donation has been received to cover the costs)

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

c. School Calendar 2024-2025
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

d. A Technology Committee Meeting is scheduled March 20, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. A discussion was held regarding the LSA Grant for water project.

b. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of all required documentation.
John Damian

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled March 20, April 17, May 1, May 15 and June 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

b. Resolution – Intermediate Unit I
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the 2024-2025 Intermediate Unit I General Operational Budget. Section 914-A(6)(1) Act 102 of 1970, requires that the Intermediate Unit Budget be approved by at least a majority of the school districts comprising the Intermediate Unit. Attachment Finance "A".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

c. Independence Township Tax Collectors - Resignations
Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the following Independence Township Tax Collectors resignations, effective January 15, 2024:

- Thomas Simons, the elected real estate tax collector and local services tax collector
- Karen Simons, the deputy real estate tax collector and local services tax collector

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Negotiations Committee Meetings are scheduled March 12 and March 21, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Amy Hott, Elementary Learning Support Teacher – Maternity Leave
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Amy Hott, Elementary Learning Support Teacher's request for maternity leave, effective on or about April 16, 2024.

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

b. Amie Buel - Part-Time AP/Purchasing Specialist
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to retroactively approve the hiring of Amie Buel as a part-time AP/Purchasing Specialist in the Central Administration Office, $15 per hour, effective February 13, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Ms. Dryer abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

c. Dana Davis – Central Office Manager/Board Secretary
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve hiring Dana Davis to the position of full time Central Office Manager/Board Secretary, effective April 8, 2024, with starting salary of $40,000, prorated for the working period April 8 through June 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Ms. Shore and Mr. Willyerd said "aye". Mr. Paris abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

d. School Volunteer List
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of clearances:
Kendall Rush

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

e. Mrs. Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal/Federal Programs Coordinator, reviewed Policy 918 - Title I Parent and Family Engagement, during a parent meeting held on August 14, 2023.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled March 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. McConn called an Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. regarding contracts with no further voting to occur.

C. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary