

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 20, 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, March 20, 2024. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and contracts. Mr. Paris, Board Vice President, held roll call and the following board members were present:

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

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 March students of the month:
Ryan Shellenberger – Senior
Logan Gamrod - 6th Grade Student
2. The Circle of Excellence Awards were presented to:
Joelle Cooper – Junior Senior High School
Lori Ragan – Elementary School
3. Congratulations to the following wrestlers:
Isaiah Stokes finished 5th place at PA Junior Wrestling State Tournament
Abby Dolanch finished 6th place at PA State Tournament

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 February 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the February 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore 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 February and March 2024 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2024 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore 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. **Varsity Wrestling**
Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to reinstate the Varsity Wrestling Team for the 2024-2025 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris and Ms. Shore said "aye". Ms. Dryer, Mr. Gagich and Mr. Willyerd said "nay". Motion carried 6-3.

- b. **Girls' Varsity Wrestling Team**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to create a Girls' Varsity Wrestling Team for the 2024-2025 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McConn, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said "aye". Mr. Gagich and Mr. Willyerd said "nay". Motion carried 7-2.

- c. **Varsity Wrestling Coaches – Posting**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for the following wrestling coaches for the 2024-2025 school year:
Varsity Wrestling Coach
Girls' Varsity Wrestling Coach

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

2. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Report

b. Guidance Plan, Chapter 339

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Avella Area School District Guidance Plan, Chapter 339, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

c. Occupational Advisory Committee Members

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Vocational Agriculture Occupational Advisory Committee members for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

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

d. Local Advisory Committee Members

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Vocational Agriculture Local Advisory Committee members for the 2023-2024 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

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

e. Washington County Court of Common Pleas - MOU

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Washington County Court of Common Pleas to have a Probation Officer be a team member of the SAP Team, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

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. Judy Magon, Independence Township Tax Collector

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to appoint Judy Magon to serve as the collector of the School District's real estate taxes in Independence Township, effective immediately, for the unexpired term of the elected real estate tax collector, i.e., through December 31, 2025.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

c. Judy Magon, Independence Township Tax Collector

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to appoint Judy Magon to serve as the collector of the School District's local services taxes in Independence Township, effective immediately, for the unexpired term of the elected real estate tax collector, i.e., through December 31, 2025.

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

d. John Roadman, Deputy Tax Collector

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to appoint John Roadman as Deputy Tax Collector to collect real estate and local services taxes in Independence Township in the event of the incapacitation of the Tax Collector.

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

e. AIU – Joint Purchasing Resolution

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Joint Purchasing Resolution between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Avella Area School District for the 2024-2025 school year, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

f. Hickory Telephone Company – Internet Service Contract

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Application for Services between the Avella Area School District and the Hickory Telephone Company for telecommunications services, effective 7/1/24 – 6/30/26, per Attachment Finance "B".

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

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

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. James Gatewood – Assistant Maintenance Employee

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve hiring James Gatewood to the position of full time Assistant Maintenance employee, effective April 15, 2024, with starting salary of \$42,500.00, prorated for the working period April 15, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

b. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of clearances:
Mike Tasz

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

c. Substitute Nurse List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following to the Substitute Nurse List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of clearances:
Ashlie Cecchetti

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

d. Madeline Vaill - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the irrevocable resignation of Madeline Vaill contingent upon and effective as of the date of execution by Ms. Vaill and the Avella Area School District of a mutually acceptable resignation agreement. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent to execute the resignation agreement.

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

e. Elementary Music Teacher - Posting

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for an Elementary Music Teacher.

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

f. IDEA Policies and Procedures

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds form and Coordinated Early Intervention Services form from the Intermediate Unit 1, per Attachment Personnel and Policy "A".

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled April 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bentz
Board Secretary