

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 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, April 17, 2024. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and contracts. Mrs. 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 (via phone), Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore.
Absent: James Gagich and Scott Willyerd

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

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor
Christian Sesek, Peacock & Keller Associate

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students were recognized as the March students of the month:
Kelly Doman - Senior
Anna Cecchini - 6th Grade Student

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting

Kara Ruffalo requested to speak regarding dog training.

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 March 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Colila, seconded Ms. Shore, to approve the March 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

Moved by Ms. Dyer, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2024 General Fund.

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

3. **FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS** **ATTACHMENT "C"**
4. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT** **ATTACHMENT "D"**

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- a. **2024-2025 School Year – JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colila, to approve the following to the JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities for the 2024-2025 school year, per AEA contract.
 - Nicholas Deutsch – Band Director
 - Vacant– Assistant Band Director (Elem Music Teacher)
 - Jesse Rhoades – Assistant Band Director (Drum Line)
 - Cheryl Rush – Assistant Band Director (Color Guard)
 - Jordan Chappel – Assistant Band Director (Other)
 - Julianna Rush – Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor
 - Cheryl Rush – Assistant Winter Guard Dance Line Instructor
 - Nicholas Deutsch - Choral Director
 - Vacant– Choral Director
 - Jamie Pryber - Musical Producer/Play Producer
 - Nicholas Deutsch – Senior Class Sponsor
 - Samantha Jacobs – Junior Class Sponsor
 - Joelle Cooper – Sophomore Class Sponsor
 - Evelyn Breitigan – Freshman Class Sponsor
 - Vacant – 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor
 - Carrie Struth – Student Council Sponsor
 - Lynn Akins – National Honor Society Sponsor
 - Joelle Cooper – Newspaper Sponsor
 - Jamie Pryber – Yearbook Sponsor
 - Erika Minch – SADD Sponsor
 - Jessica Miller – Art Club Sponsor
 - Evelyn Breitigan – Community Service Sponsor
 - Evelyn Breitigan – Science Club

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 2024-2025 School Year – JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities (continued)

- Susan Kubacka – Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach
- Melody Singer – Assistant Varsity Cheerleading Coach
- JT Mylan – Weight Room Coordinator
- Kara Ruffalo – Vo-Ag Instructor
- Joelle Cooper/Zachary Franks - STEM Club

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colila, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

b. 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colila, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a 7th/8th grade Class Sponsor.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colila, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

c. 2024-2025 Varsity Cheerleading Handbook

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colila, to approve the revisions to the Avella Varsity Cheerleading Handbook, effective 2024-2025 school year, per Attachment Athletic “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colila, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center – No Report

b. Bradley Center Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Colila, to approve the Agreement between the Bradley Center and Avella Area School District, effective 2024-2025 school year, per Attachment Curriculum and Technology “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colila, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Avella Area Education Association Contract

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Avella Area Education Association and Avella Area School District for the years beginning September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2029, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

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

b. Superintendent Evaluation Form – Revised

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the revisions to the Superintendent's Evaluation Form, per Attachment Negotiations "B".

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

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Kathy Adams, JSHS Secretary – Retirement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colila, to accept the retirement of Kathy Adams, JSHS Secretary, effective June 30, 2025.

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

b. School Volunteer List

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

Dean Casciola
Renee Bailey
Joseph Elswick

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

c. Substitute School Nurse

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colila, to approve Ashley Lowe as a Substitute School Nurse for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled May 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colila, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Bentz
Board Secretary