

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 15, 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, May 15, 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 athletics, contracts, and a student discipline matter. Mrs. Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

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

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal - Absent
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 April students of the month:
Eric Evans - Senior
Caleb Amaismeier - 6th Grade Student
2. The Circle of Excellence Awards were presented to:
Amy Rush - High School
Tonia Miller - Elementary School
3. The Envirothon Team was acknowledged for winning the Washington County Competition.
Josh Lanch - 1st place, Current Events,
Kamden Jeffers - 1st place, Forestry
Cyril Walther - 1st place, Aquatics
Connor Ruffalo - 2nd place, Wildlife
Blaine Mace - 3rd place, Soil
4. Scott Grant, Case/Sabatini presented the Auditor's Report for the 2022-2023 School Year.

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 April 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Accounts Payable for the April and May 2024 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. 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 Mr. Paris, to approve the following to the JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities for the 2024-2025 school year, per AEA Contract.
- Nick Deutsch - Pep Band
 - Evy Breitigan - 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor
- a. **2024-2025 Athletic Coaches - Athletic Director**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following athletic director/athletic coaches for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Athletic Director
Jason Fogg
- FALL SPORTS
- Cross Country
Laura Lazzarotti, Head Coach
Zachery Franks, Assistant Coach
- Football - 7th/8th Grade
James Gatewood, Head Coach
Brad Rankin, Assistant Coach
- Football - Varsity
Ryan Cecchini, Head Coach
Clinton Varner, Assistant Coach
JT Mylan, Assistant Coach

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 2024-2025 Athletic Coaches-Athletic Director (continued)

Golf - Varsity

Pete Dellovade, Head Coach

Larry Lis - Assistant Coach

Softball - 7th/8th Grade Junior Varsity

Jamie Scaers, Head Coach

Kasey Scaers, Assistant Coach

Tennis

Dan Davidson, Head Coach

Amy Hott, Assistant Coach

Volleyball

Matt Zalar, Head Coach

McKena Cowden, Assistant Coach

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball, Boys' Varsity

Michael Macik, Head Coach

Kevin Painter, Assistant Coach

Basketball - Girls' Varsity

Mike Drazich, Head Coach

Kathleen Margaria, Assistant Coach

Basketball - 7th/8th Grade Boys

Brandon Miller, Head Coach

Michael Macik, Assistant Coach

Rifle

Nikki Knopp, Head Rifle Coach

Branden Kasey, Assistant Coach

Volleyball - 7th/8th Grade Girls

Dana Gatewood, Head Coach

McKena Cowden, Assistant Coach

Wrestling - Varsity Boys

Vacant, Head Coach

Vacant, Assistant Coach

Wrestling - Varsity Girls

Vacant, Head Coach

Vacant, Assistant Coach

Wrestling - Jr. High

Travis Ware, Head Coach

Vacant, Assistant Coach

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 2024-2025 Athletic Coaches-Athletic Director (continued)

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball - Varsity

Jason Fogg, Head Coach

J.T. Mylan, Assistant Coach

Baseball - Junior Varsity

Zachery Franks, Head Coach

Basketball - 7th/8th Grade Girls

Bernadette O'Brien, Head Coach

Renee Warholak, Assistant Coach

Softball

Laura Lazzarotti, Head Coach

Dana Hammond, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Communications Committee Meeting will be scheduled in June.

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

Ms. Dryer, Board Member, reported the Diesel Shop is expanding and a Diesel Technology Program will be added to the curriculum.

b. Calendar Dates:

5/16 @6:00p.m. WACTC Certificate Ceremony
Canon-McMillan Middle School

5/19@ 7:00 p.m. Baccalaureate, St. Michael's Church: St. Isadore
the Farmer Parish

5/31 @ 7:00 p.m. Commencement

6/3 Last Day of School for Underclassmen

c. PA Pre-K Counts

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Lease Agreement and Meal Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Blueprints Early Learning Head Start and Pre-K Counts, effective 2024-2025 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (continued)

d. Center for Community Resources

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the SAP Agreement between the Avella Area School District and the Center for Community Resources for the 2024-2025 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

e. Student Discipline - DM

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Waiver of Informal Hearing and Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Student OM, and direct and authorize the Administration to implement it.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. A Building & Grounds Walkthrough of Buildings has been scheduled for June 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. A Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

b. IU 1 Educational Service Agreement

Moved Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the IU 1 Educational Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Intermediate Unit 1, effective July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Western Area Career & Technology Center

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the 2024-2025 Western Area Career & Technology Center's proposed budget totaling \$6,245,470.00 per letter dated April 25, 2024 from Michael Milanovich, Executive Director of Vocational Education, per Attachment Finance "B".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

d. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$12,983,704.00, for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and set the millage at 13.9632 mills, a 0.889 mill increase. Attachment Finance IIC II.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn said "aye". Mr. Gagich and Ms. Shore said, "nay". Motion carried 5-2.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

e. Health Insurance Consortium Trust-Dental Insurance

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the termination of the Intermediate Unit 1, Health Insurance Consortium Trust (Dental Insurance), effective June 30, 2024 upon conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

f. Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to authorize the Administration to sign Appendix II - Authorized Official Resolution for the Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE - No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. John Galvin, Business Manager- Bond

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the renewal bond of John Galvin, Business Manager, setting bond at \$100,000, to begin July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, according to PA School Code Section 404.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Board Treasurer

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to appoint Tia Shore as Board Treasurer for one year beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at \$50,000.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary- Retirement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation for retirement purposes of Debra Bentz from the position of Board Secretary, effective May 31, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

d. Dana Davis, Board Secretary- June 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr., Gagich, to appoint Dana Davis as Board Secretary to fill the vacancy in the position from June 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE (continued)

e. Dana Davis, Board Secretary - 4 year term

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to appoint Dana Davis as Board Secretary for a term of 4 years beginning July 1, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

f. Dana Davis, Board Secretary - Bond

Moved by Mr. McConn seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the bond of Dana Davis, Board Secretary, setting bond at \$50,000, to begin June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 according to PA School Code Section 404.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

g. Colleen Benard - Family Medical Leave

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve Colleen Benard, Elementary Learning Support Teacher's request for an intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective May 13, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

h. School Volunteer List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2023-2024 school year, pending receipt of clearances:
Courtney Caldwell
Christy Byerly

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

i. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to ratify Stacey Hutchins to the Substitute Support Staff list for the 2023-2024 school year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7 0.

j. Nick Duetsch, JSHS Music Teacher

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve Nick Deutsch, JSHS Music Teacher, to receive an additional \$150 per day for covering the Elementary Music Teacher position during the 2023-2024 school year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

k. Chelsea Foster, LLC - Resignation

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation of Chelsea Foster, School Based Therapist, effective June 4, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE (continued)

I. PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement between the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Avella Area School District, effective July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

m. PSBA Policy 115 - Career and Technical Education

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the revisions to Policy 115 - Career and Technical Education to include language regarding our district students' admissions for vocational agriculture per attachment Personnel & Policy "B".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

n. Nova Care Agreement

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Athletic Training Services Agreement between NovaCare Rehabilitation Systems, Inc. and the Avella Area School District effective, August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "C".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting scheduled June 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Shore, Ms. Dryer, and Mr. McConn. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Davis
Board Secretary