AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 16, 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, October 16, 2024. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to and continued after the meeting regarding personnel matters and policies. Dana Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Phoebe Armstrong, Suzanne Colilla, Beth Dunmore, James Gagich, Terry Jacobs, Emanuel Paris, and Tia Shore.

Absent: Melissa Dryer and Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal – Absent
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal
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 October Students of the Month:
   Meredith Bongiorni – Senior
   Kayson Leech – 6th Grade Student

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 September 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the September 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore said "aye". Mr. Gagich said, "nay". Motion carried 6-1.

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ***ATTACHMENT "B"***

Board Members have been furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the September and October 2024 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Gagich to approve the Accounts Payable for the September and October 2024 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore 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. Rescind Motion – Curtis. J Norman, Assistant 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dunmore to approve rescinding the following motion board approved on September 18, 2024.
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve Curtis J. Norman as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

b. Assistant 7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve Thomas Smith as the Assistant 7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and all required employment documentation.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

c. Wildwood, NJ – Winter Guard Students

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve the Winter Guard students to travel to Wildwood, NJ from April 30 – May 5, 2025 for the 2025 TIA Atlantic Coach Championships, per Attachment Athletics & Activities "A". Students are responsible for all costs.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Round Table Meeting with Teachers is scheduled for November 4, 2024.

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update
Mr. Walther noted that construction has started on the new building that will house the Diesel Technology and Collision Repair Shop. Currently both programs are full so the new facility is greatly needed. Enrollment is currently at 638 students, which is about 60 more than the previous school year and 150 more than two years ago.

b. Western Area Career & Technology Center Shared Services Agreement
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dunmore to approve the Shared Services Agreement for Guidance Counselor Services between the Western Area Career & Technology Center and the Avella Area School District, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE – No Report

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance – Resignation
Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to retroactively accept the resignation of Meghan Cottle, Elementary Guidance Counselor, effective August 13, 2024 (posting was waved by the AEA).

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

b. Marissa Bourg, Elementary Guidance Counselor
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to approve hiring Marissa Bourg to the position of Elementary Guidance Counselor, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, anticipated start date of November 4, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE, continued

c. Gregory Curtain, Reading Specialist Substitute
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore to approve hiring Gregory Curtain to the position of Reading Specialist Substitute for Sarah Hill's position during her parental leave.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

d. Substitute Teacher List
Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and required employment documentation.

- Jameson Murray
- Gregory Curtain

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

e. Christy Byerly, Behavior Specialist Services
Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla to retain Christy Byerly to provide Behavior Specialist Services to the Avella Area School District in accordance with the terms of the Independent Contractor Agreement, effective October 16, 2024 – June 30, 2025, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

f. Part Time Special Education Aide Position
Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Ms. Dunmore to approve Jennifer Markle as a part-time, 4 hour (11am-3pm) Special Education Aide, effective October 21, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

g. Substitute Support Personnel List
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to approve Faythe Mazza to the Substitute Support Personnel List as an Aide for the 2024-2025 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

h. Homebound Instruction (12th Grade Student) Posting
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to approve Darren Shaffer as the Homebound Instructor for a 12th grade student.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE, continued

i. Homebound Instruction (8th Grade Student) Posting
Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve Laura Lazzarotti as the Homebound Instructor for an 8th grade student.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

j. Volunteer List
Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2024-2025 school year:

Dawn Brownlee
Christy Byerly
Courtney Caldwell
Ashley Caltumo
John Caltumo
Christine Couch
Mark Edward Craig
Ashley Cummins
Jordan Debnar
Chelsea Foster
Shea Georgetti
Reyne Georgetti
Katie Leeper
Jared Magon
Marybeth Monseau
Bernadette O'Brien
Alex Ramsey
Lana Ramsey
Heather Scott
Stephanie Staples
Ivan Ullom III
David Vandegraft
Rachel Vandegraft
Valerie Varner
Megan Waddell
Renee Warholak
Hanna Welch

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled October 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary