

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

November 13, 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, November 13, 2024. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 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, Melissa Dryer, Beth Dunmore, James Gagich, Terry Jacobs, Emanuel Paris, and Tia Shore.

Absent: Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal
Dana Davis, 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 November Students of the Month:
Eli Maidment – Senior
Colton Cummins – 6th Grade Student
2. The Circle of Excellence Awards were presented to:
Jason Fogg – Junior-Senior High School
Lisa Conn – Elementary School

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 October 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

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

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

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore to approve the Accounts Payable for the October and November 2024 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore 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. Assistant Varsity Boys Wrestling Coach

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer to approve Eric Smith as the Assistant Varsity Boys Wrestling Coach for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and required employment documentation.

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

b. Resignation – Assistant 7th/8th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla to approve the resignation of McKena Cowden as Assistant 7th/8th grade Girls Volleyball Coach, effective immediately.

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

c. Volunteer 7th/8th Grade Cheerleading Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla to approve Sidney Zelenko as a volunteer for the 7th/8th grade Cheerleading Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Discussion Item: Teacher Roundtable Meeting

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update**
Ms. Dryer has no update at the time.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. NRG/Direct Energy Contract**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla to approve a three-year contract extension with NRG/Direct Energy for Natural Gas on the Columbia Gas System with a start date of September 1, 2025, with a basis price of (\$0.267) cents per DTH, as recommended by the Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium Committee, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

- b. Boundless Federal Funding – Federal E-Rate Program**
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer to approve contracting with Boundless Federal Funding, LLC to assist with the Federal E-Rate Program for funding year 2025, per Attachment Finance “B”.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

- a. Statement of Charges**
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the attached Statement of Charges and to terminate the employment of Marianne Boris, effective immediately, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “A”.

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

- b. Part Time Cafeteria Posting**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore to ratify the posting for a Part-Time Cafeteria Employee at 5 hours per day / 180 days per year, effective November 14, 2024 advertisement if necessary.

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

- c. Cafeteria Staff**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Armstrong to ratify the following increased hours for the cafeteria staff, effective October 21, 2024:

Amanda Conley	4 hours	to	5.5 hours
Faythe Mazza	4 hours	to	5.5 hours
Tristan Brown	4 hours	to	5.5 hours
Valerie Champion	4 hours	to	5 hours

(Diana Dorsey, Katie Doak, and Shari Dami will remain at 5.5 hours)

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

d. Substitute Custodial Employee

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve Bruce Myers as a Substitute Custodial Employee for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and required employment documentation.

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

e. School Volunteer List

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

Raymond Phillips
Nitanna Jones
Ray Phillips
Toni Snoke
Holly Winland
Kyle Winland
Sidney Zelenko

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

f. Policy 329 Hiring for Professional Positions

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the adoption of Policy 329 – Hiring for Professional Positions, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Paris said, “aye”. Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Shore said, “nay”. Mr. Jacobs abstained. Motion failed, 4-3-1.

g. PSBA Policies

Motion to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies, per the recommendations of PSBA, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “C”.

Volume IV-2024

103 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Students
104 Discrimination/Harassment Affecting Staff
247 Hazing
249 Bullying/Cyber Bullying

Volume V-2024

113.2 Behavior Support
202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students
254 Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Regular Board Meeting
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ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 8-0.

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,

Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary