AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

December 5, 2024

The Reorganization Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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, Tia Shore, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Melissa Dryer

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal – Absent
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal – Absent
Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor
Christian Sesek, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions - None

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items - None

B. REORGANIZATION

1. NOMINATIONS FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to nominate Mr. James Gagich as the Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization.

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

No other nominations were made for Temporary President.

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to close the nominations and appoint Mr. Gagich as Temporary President.

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

Mr. Gagich takes the chair as Temporary President.

B. REORGANIZATION

2. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to nominate Mr. Emanuel Paris as Board President.

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

No other nominations were made for Board President.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to close the nominations for Board President.

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

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to appoint Mr. Emanuel Paris as Board President.

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

Mr. Emanuel Paris takes over the chair as Board President.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Paris, to nominate Mr. Scott Willyerd as Board Vice-President.

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

No other nominations were made for Board Vice-President.

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Shore, to close the nominations for Board Vice-President.

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

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to appoint Mr. Scott Willyerd as Board Vice-President.

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

4. DISTRICT SOLICITOR

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Rachel Lozosky, Law Offices of Peacock Keller, LLP, to continue as the District’s Solicitor for the 2024 year, per attached proposal letter dated November 19, 2024. (Attachment “A”)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore said “aye”. Mr. Willyerd said, “nay”. Motion carried. 7-1.

B. REORGANIZATION

5. BOARD MEETINGS

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve a tentative list of the 2025 meeting dates with meeting times beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are regular meetings. The committee meetings will be non-voting and meet as needed and advertised. (Attachment "B").

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

6. FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve permission for application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to use facsimile signatures for the following bank accounts:

Cafeteria Fund Checks:	President and Secretary
General Fund Checks:	President, Treasurer and Secretary
Payroll Fund Checks:	Treasurer and Secretary

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

7. AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENTS

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the Officers of the Board to be authorized to draw orders for payrolls and for payments of bonds, interest, utilities and other pertinent bills as they come due.

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

8. BOARD COMMITTEES

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the Board Committee List for the 2025 year.

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

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary

AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

December 4, 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, December 4, 2024. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., following the Reorganization Meeting. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel, contracts, policies and procedures. 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, Tia Shore, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Melissa Dryer

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal - Absent
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal – Absent
Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor
Christian Sesek, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions – None

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 November 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2024 General Fund.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd 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 Girls Basketball Coach – Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept the resignation of Oliva Scott as Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach effective, November 13, 2024.

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

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

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Allie Brownlee as Assistant 7th/8th grade Girls Volleyball Coach, for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and required employment documentation.

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

c. JSHS Yearbook Advisor – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Jamey Pryber as JSHS Yearbook Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year, effective January 7, 2025.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – continued

d. JSHS Yearbook Advisor – Posting
Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the posting for a JSHS Yearbook Advisor for the 2024-2025 school year (advertisement if necessary).

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

e. JSHS Play Producer – Resignation
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Jamey Pryber as JSHS Play Producer for the 2024-2025 school year, effective January 7, 2025.

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

f. JSHS Play Producer – Posting
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the posting for a JSHS Play producer for the 2024-2025 school year (advertisement if necessary).

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career &Technology Center Update
Mr. Cyril Walther reported that WACTC is showing continued growth. Most all shops are operating at full capacity, with over 750 students enrolled.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE– No Report

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. AMCA Systems, LLC
Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the AMCA TaxTrack Software License Agreement between the Avella Area School District and AMCA Systems, LLC, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Status Update of Newly Hired Employees

- Marissa Bourg, Elementary Guidance Counselor's first day is 10/28/24
- Christy Byerly, Behavioral Specialist's first day is 11/01/24

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

b. Kasey Scears, JSHS Guidance Counselor

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve hiring Kasey Scears to the position of JSHS Guidance Counselor, full-time temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, (pending completion of required coursework/certification) effective upon release from current school district.

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

c. Jamey Pryber, JSHS English Teacher – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation of Jamey Pryber, JSHS English Teacher, effective January 7, 2025.

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

d. JSHS English Teacher – Posting/Advertisement

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr., Willyerd, to post (advertisement if necessary) for a JSHS English Teacher.

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

e. Rescind Motion – Lisa Conn Retirement

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve rescinding the following motion board approved August 7, 2024:

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept the retirement of Lisa Conn, effective June 3, 2025.

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

f. Sarah Hill, Family Medical Leave Act

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Willyerd to accept Sarah Hill, Elementary Title I Teacher's request for Family Medical Leave (maternity leave) effective upon delivery until February 26, 2025.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE - continued

g. Ralph Bradbury, Family Medical Leave Act
Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to accept Ralph Bradbury, Custodian's request for Family Medical Leave, effective December 16, 2024 - return upon release from doctor, not to exceed twelve weeks.

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

h. Substitute Cafeteria List
Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve Nancy Stefkovich to the Substitute Cafeteria List, pending receipt of updated clearances.

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

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

- Joyce Downey
- Kim Spencer

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

C. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary