

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 15, 2025

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, January 15, 2025. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding students, contracts, policies and procedures. 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, Tia Shore, Scott Willyerd

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

1. The following students are recognized as the January Students of the Month:
Rylei Ross – Senior
Connor Conley – 6th Grade Student
2. The Circle of Excellence Award is presented to:
Jamie Scaers – Junior-Senior High School
Jenna Craig – Elementary School
3. Board Members are recognized for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

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 December 2024 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve December 2024 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

ATTACHMENT "B"

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the December 2024 and January 2025 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2024 and January 2025 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS

ATTACHMENT "C"

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ATTACHMENT "D"

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. Dana Hammond, Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve Dana Hammond as the Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

Ms. Dryer reported that she had no update. Mr. Walther added that WACTC is moving forward as scheduled with the Diesel Mechanics program.

b. ~~Student Enrollment – DM~~

The following motion was stuck from the board meeting due to changing circumstances with the student.

Motion to approve the re-enrollment of DM as a 10th grade student for the 2024-2025 school year.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, continued

c. Washington & Jefferson College Field Experience Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Field Experience Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Washington & Jefferson College, per Attachment Curriculum "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

d. Jerryd Shumaker, Washington & Jefferson Agreement

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Jerryd Shumaker, Washington & Jefferson College Student Teacher, to be placed in the Special Education Department for 40 hours, effective January 15, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. ~~Pennsylvania American Water Company Deed of Easement and Right of Way~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the Regular meeting:

Motion to approve the Indenture between the Avella Area School District and Pennsylvania American Water Company, granting Deed of Easement and Right of Way, effective January 15, 2025, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "A".

b. ~~Pennsylvania American Water Company Damage Agreement~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the Regular meeting:

Motion to approve the Damage Agreement between Avella Area School District and Pennsylvania American Water Company, effective January 15, 2025, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "B".

c. ~~West Penn Power Easement~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the Regular meeting:

Motion to approve the easement between Avella Area School District and West Penn Power, effective January 15, 2025, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "C".

d. ~~Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Consent of Fee Driveway Permit~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the Regular meeting:

Motion to approve the consent of the application for highway occupancy permit to construct a driveway, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "D".

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Taylor Boarts, Part-Time Social Studies Teacher

Moved by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to ratify Taylor Boarts to the position of Part-Time Social Studies Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective January 9, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Gregory Curtain, English Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Willyerd. to approve Gregory Curtain to the position of English Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective January 21, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Gregory Curtain, Yearbook Sponsor

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve Gregory Curtain to the position of Yearbook Sponsor, effective January 21, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

d. Substitute Support Staff – Cafeteria

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to ratify the following to the Substitute Support Staff (Cafeteria) list for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Alexis Redd

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. Marcie Campbell – Part-Time Cafeteria Employee

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify Marcie Campbell as a part-time cafeteria employee, 5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective January 8, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

f. Marcie Campbell – Part Time Cafeteria Employee – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to accept the resignation of Marcie Campbell, part-time cafeteria employee, effective January 9, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, continued

g. Posting – Part Time Cafeteria Employee

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve a posting for a part-time cafeteria employee, 5 hours per day/180 days per year (Marcie Campbell's position).

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

h. Faythe Mazza, Part-Time Cafeteria Employee– Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to accept the resignation of Faythe Mazza, part time Cafeteria Employee, effective January 8, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

i. Posting – Part-Time Cafeteria Employee

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to ratify a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time cafeteria employee 5 hours per day/180 days per year (Valerie Champion's position).

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

j. Valerie Champion – Part Time Cafeteria Employee

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to move Valerie Champion into the 5.5 hour per day/180 days per year position (due to resignation of Faythe Mazza) based on seniority, effective January 9, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

k. Lori Ragan – Family Medical Leave

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Lori Ragan, Elementary School Secretary's request for Family Medical Leave, effective January 6, 2025, return upon release from doctor, not to exceed twelve weeks.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

l. Jessica Miller – Family Medical Leave

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jessica Miller, Secondary Art Teacher's request for an intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective January 15, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, continued

m. Substitute Teacher List

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

- Sidney Zelenko
- Stephanie Gordon Golembiewski

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

n. Substitute Support Staff List – Secretarial

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List (Secretary) for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances and all required employment documentation.

- Stephanie Gordon Golembiewski

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

o. School Volunteer List

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

- Pamela Brown

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled February 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, and Mr. Willyerd said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary