

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 19, 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, March 19, 2025. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and policies. Dana Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

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

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

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students are recognized as the March Students of the Month:
Dillan Pfeifer – Senior
Roman Downey – 6th Grade Student
2. The Circle of Excellence Award is presented to:
Kathy Adams – Junior-Senior High School
Lauren Baker – 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 February 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the February 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

ATTACHMENT "B"

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2025 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2025 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS

ATTACHMENT "C"

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ATTACHMENT "D"

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. **An Athletic Committee meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2025 at 5:30.**

b. Inventory Control – Baseball Uniforms

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve discarding all outdated baseball uniforms.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

Ms. Dryer was not present to report. Mr. Walther reported that enrollment is at 671 students. The Diesel Mechanics Program is slated to begin during the second half of the 2025-2026 school year.

b. Success for All (SFA) Reading Curriculum

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the purchase agreement of Success for All (SFA) Elementary Reading Curriculum, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye". Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, continued

c. Center for Community Resources

Moved by Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Student Assistance Program Agreement between Center for Community Resources and Avella School District for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

d. Student Discipline – JD

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Waiver of a Formal Hearing and Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Student JD, and direct and authorize the Administration to implement it.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

e. Chromebook Procedures and Information Update

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Willyerd to approve the updates made to the Chromebook Procedures and Information packet to reflect updated pricing and insurance information, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No report

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Finance Committee Meetings are scheduled for March 19, 2025 at 5:30 and April 23 and May 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

b. AIU Joint Purchasing Resolution

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris to approve the Joint Purchasing Resolution between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Avella Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Mr. Cyril Walther – District Superintendent

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Agreement for Employment of Superintendent between Mr. Cyril Walther and the Avella Area School District for a term of three (3) years, commencing July 1, 2025 and continuing through June 30, 2028, in accordance with the terms of the mutually acceptable Employment Agreement, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Amy Rush, Family Medical Leave Act

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to accept Amy Rush, full-time Aide's request for Intermittent Family Medical Leave.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

b. Statement of Charges – Tristan Brown

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Statement of Charges and terminate the employment of Tristan Brown, cafeteria employee, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

c. Posting – Part-Time Cafeteria Employee

Motion to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time cafeteria employee, 5.5 hours per day/180 days per year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

d. Posting – Full-Time JSHS Secretary

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd to approve the posting (advertisement if necessary for a full-time JSHS Secretary, 8 hours per day/260 days per year due to the retirement of Kathy Adams.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

e. Posting – Homebound Instructor (7th grade student)

Moved Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to ratify the posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Wilson-Intensive Certified Homebound Instructor for a 7th grade student.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye".
Motion carried 6-0.

f. ~~Renew Motion: Policy 329 Hiring for Professional Positions~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris and Board Vice-President, Scott Willyerd, as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the Regular Meeting:

Motion to renew the motion made at the November 13, 2024 Regular Meeting to approve the adoption of Policy 329 – Hiring for Professional Positions, per the Attachment to the November Agenda identified as Personnel & Policy "B".

g. ~~Policy 329 – Hiring for Professional Positions~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris and Board Vice-President, Scott Willyerd, as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the Regular Meeting:

Motion to approve the adoption of Policy 329 – Hiring for Professional Positions, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "A".

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICIES, continued

h. Policy 916 – Volunteers

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd to approve the revision to Policy 916 – Volunteers, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said “aye”.
Motion carried 6-0.

i. School Volunteer List

Motion to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of clearances:

- Phoebe Armstrong
- Elizabeth Wells

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said “aye”.
Motion carried 6-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee meeting is scheduled April 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dunmore seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said “aye”.
Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary