

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 23, 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, April 23, 2022. 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 personnel 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, Tia Shore, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Melissa Dryer

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
Robert Vernon, of Counsel

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students are recognized as the April Students of the Month:
Maria Stritzinger – Senior
Destiny Dupain – 6th Grade Student
2. Congratulations to Mrs. Jastrzebski's 5th and 6th grade ELA students. Every Avella student who participated in a writing contest through Young Writers were chosen to be published authors in a book called, "Scary Tales".

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting –

Parent request to speak regarding a video shown as part of the Health Curriculum.

Amber Davis, 83 County Park Road, Avella PA

Karen Hodgdon, 81 Nickolay Road, Avella PA

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 March 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the March 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, 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 March and April 2025 General Fund.

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

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

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS

ATTACHMENT "C"

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ATTACHMENT "D"

5. BOARD MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

The May School Board Meeting will be held at Western Area Career & Technology Center, 688 Western Avenue, Canonsburg, PA 15317, on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 2025-2026 School Year – JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following to the JSHS Extracurricular Activities for the 2025-2026 school year, per AEA Contract:

- Noah Kilgus – Band Director
- Amanda Kolson – Assistant Band Director (Elementary Music Teacher)
- Dexter Greene – Assistant Band Director (Drum Line)
- Cheryl Rush – Assistant Band Director (Color Guard)
- Julianne Rush – Assistant Band Director (Other)
- Noah Kilgus – Pep Band
- Julianne Rush – Winterguard Dance Line
- Cheryl Rush – Winterguard Dance Line Assistant
- Noah Kilgus – Choral Director
- VACANT – Musical Producer/Play Producer
- Joelle Cooper – Senior Class Manager
- Samantha Jacobs – Junior Class Sponsor
- Christina Musser – Sophomore Class Sponsor
- Jamie Scaers – Freshman Class Sponsor
- VACANT – 7/8 Grade Combined Class Sponsor
- Carrie Struth – Student Council
- Lynn Akins – National Honor Society
- Christina Musser – Newspaper
- Gregory Curtin – Yearbook
- Jessica Miller – Art Club
- VACANT – Community Service Club
- Erika Minch – SADD Club

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. 2025-2026 School Year – JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities, *continued*

- VACANT – Science Club
- Joelle Cooper/Zachary Franks – STEM Club
- VACANT – Cheerleading Varsity Head Summer/Football
- VACANT – Cheerleading Varsity Head Basketball/Wrestling
- VACANT – Cheerleading Varsity Assistant Summer/Football
- VACANT – Cheerleading Varsity Assistant Basketball/Wrestling
- JT Mylan – Weight Room Coordinator After School
- JT Mylan – Weight Room Coordinator Evening
- Kara Ruffalo – Vo-Ag Instructor

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

b. Jr. High Boys Basketball Assistant Coach – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify the resignation of Thomas Smith as Jr. High Boys Basketball Assistant Coach, effective January 16, 2025.

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

c. Jr. High Boys Basketball Assistant Coach – Jason Fogg

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify Jason Fogg as the Jr. High Boys Basketball Assistant Coach, effective January 16, 2025.

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

d. Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Susan Kubacka as Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach effective the end of the 2024-2025 season.

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

e. Posting – Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the posting for the Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach position for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

f. Sarah Maidment – Freshman Class Sponsor Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve the resignation of Sarah Maidment as Freshman Class Sponsor for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, *continued*

g. Jamie Scears – Freshman Class Sponsor (2024-2025)

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to retroactively approve Jamie Scears as the Freshman Class Sponsor for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

h. Evelyn Breitigan – JSHS Extracurricular Activities Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Evelyn Breitigan from the following JSHS Extracurricular Activities, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

- Community Service Club
- Science Club
- 7/8 Grade Combined Class Sponsor

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

i. Posting – JSHS Extracurricular Activities

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the posting for the following Extracurricular Activities for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Community Service Club
- Science Club
- 7/8 Grade Combined Class Sponsor

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

j. Musical Producer/Play Producer – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of Kara Ruffalo as Musical Producer/Play Producer, effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

k. Posting – Musical Producer/Play Producer

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the posting for JSHS Musical Producer/Play Producer for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Parent Square Agreement

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to enter an agreement between Parent Square and Avella Area School District for mass communication software, effective May 1, 2025, per Attachment Communications “A”.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

b. Informational Item: Understanding Gender Video

c. Big Brothers Big Sisters MOU

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to ratify the MOU between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh BBBSPGH and Avella Area School District, effective March 5, 2025, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

d. Life Skills Program

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve creating and implementing a grade 7-12 Life Skills Program beginning for the 2025-2026 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye". Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Gagich, said "nay". Motion carried 6-2.

e. Bradley Center Agreement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between the Bradley Center and Avella Area School District, effective 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

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

f. Washington DC Band Trip

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to approve the band to travel to Washington DC from Thursday, March 12 – Saturday, March 14, 2026, per Attachment Curriculum & Attachment "C".

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

g. Special Education Plan Report

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Avella Area School District's Special Education Plan Report, effective July 01, 2025 – June 30, 2028, per Curriculum & Technology "D".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, *continued*

h. Give Thx Agreement

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the agreement between Give Thx and Avella Area School District through the School Wellbeing Program Grant to be used as a part of the JSHS Crew Curriculum, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "E".

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

i. Student Discipline – BA

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

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

j. Student Discipline – LK

Moved by Mr. Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Waiver of a Formal Hearing and Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Student LK and direct and authorize the Administration to implement it.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said "aye". Ms. Colilla abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

k. Student Enrollment – DM

Motion to approve the re-enrollment of DM as a 10th grade student for the 2024-2025 school year was tabled for further discussion during Executive Session following the Regular Meeting.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Discussion Item: Transportation Concerns

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. A Finance Committee Meetings is scheduled for May 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

b. Western Area Career and Technology Center - Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the 2025-2026 Western Area Career & Technology Center's proposed budget totaling, \$6,251,751.00, per letter dated April 15, 2025, from Mihael Milanovich, Executive Director of Vocational Education, per Attachment Finance & Transportation "A".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE, *continued*

c. JMA, LLC – Proposal to Provide Professional Services

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the Proposal to Provide Professional Services from JMA, LLC, P.O. Box 498, Beaver PA 15009, as the external auditors for Avella Area School District for the years ending June 2025-2028, per Attachment Finance & Transportation “B”.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Kaitlyn Schwab – Part-Time Cafeteria Employee

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify Kaitlyn Schwab as a part-time cafeteria employee, 5.5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective March 28, 2025.

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

b. Samantha Jacobs – Homebound Instructor (7th Grade Student)

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve Samantha Jacobs as the Wilson-Intensive Certified Homebound Instructor for a 7th grade student, effective March 22, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore, Mr. Willyerd, said “aye”. Mr. Jacobs abstained. Motion carried 7-0-1.

c. Clara Zatta – Substitute Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify Clara Zatta to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2024-2025 school year, effective April 22, 2025.

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

d. K.R. – Family Medical Leave

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve K.R.’s JSHS FFA Teacher’s request for Intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective April 10, 2025.

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

e. GG&C Driver List

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve Sheila Moore as a van driver to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, *continued*

f. STAT Staffing Agreement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Agreement between STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc. ("STAT") and Avella Area School District effective, March 31, 2025 for a 1-year term, per Attachment Personnel and Policy "A".

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2025.

RECESS: The Board of Directors recessed the Regular Meeting of Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:46 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors entered into Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss student discipline issue, and contracts.

RECONVENED: The Board of Directors reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 8:27 p.m. to vote on Personnel & Policy, Item R, which was tabled earlier in the evening.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

k. Student Enrollment – DM

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the re-enrollment of DM as a 10th grade student for the 2024-2025 school year **with an amendment to the Agreement.**

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

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary