

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

August 6, 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, August 6, 2025. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:18 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, Melissa Dryer, Beth Dunmore, James Gagich, Terry Jacobs, Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore, Scott Willyerd
Absent: Phoebe Armstrong

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

REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING –

~~Laura Lazzarotti – 27 Morningside Drive, Avella PA 15312 Re: Varsity Softball (cancelled)~~

VISITORS REQUEST TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEM – None

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES **ATTACHMENT "A"**

Board Members were furnished copies of the June 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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 May and June 2025 General Fund.

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

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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. Amended Agenda

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to amend the agenda to include the following:

Athletic & Activities

- a.) 2025-2026 School Year – Athletic Coaches/Athletic Director
Varsity Volleyball
Allie Brownlee, Assistant Coach

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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

a. 2025-2026 Athletic Coaches

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer to approve the following Athletic Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year:

Volleyball
Ashley Fedak, Head Coach
Allie Brownlee, Assistant Coach

Baseball – Junior Varsity
Jim Gatewood, Head Coach

Softball
Dana Hammond, Head Coach
Laura Lazzarotti, Assistant Coach

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, continued

b. Dexter Greene, Assistant Band Director, Drum Line – Resignation

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Dexter Greene as Assistant Band Director, Drum Line for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

c. Jason Stough, Assistant Band Director, Drum Line

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jason Stough as Assistant Band Director, Drum Line for the 2025-2026 school year, pending receipt of clearances and employment paperwork.

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

d. Wonsettler Physical Therapy Agreement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Athletic Training Services Agreement between Wonsettler Physical Therapy and the Avella Area School District, effective August 18, 2025 – June 30, 2028, per Attachment Athletic and Activities, “A”.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Discussion Item – Parent Square Launch

b. Discussion Item – Cell Phone Policy Letter to Parents

2. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update –

Ms. Dryer reported that there was no meeting in July, therefore there are no updates at this time.

b. Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc. for SAP services for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “A”.

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

c. KeySolution Staffing, LLC – Psychology Services

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Staffing, LLC, to provide psychology services for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “B”.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, continued

d. Outside In Agreement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Outside In for students requiring drug and alcohol treatment or rehabilitation services, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

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

e. 2025-2026 IU1 - Partial Hospitalization Program MOU

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area school District and Intermediate Unit 1 to confirm participation in the Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

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

f. ECYEH Program Letter of Agreement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the 2025-2026 Local Education Agency Letter of Agreement for Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program: Region 4, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "E".

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

g. Watson Institute Agreement

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Agreement between The Watson Institute and Avella Area School District for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "F".

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

h. Student Enrollment – DM

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the re-enrollment of DM as an 11th grader for the 2025-2026 school year, subject to conditions set forth by the Administration.

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

i. Inventory Control – Reading Textbooks

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve discarding the outdated Jr. High Reading textbooks listed on Attachment Curriculum & Technology "G".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "A". (GG&C is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

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

b. Jake Schneider's Van Driver List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Jake Schneider's Van Driver List for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "B". (Jake Schneider is responsible for updating bus/van driver documentation on list with CAO before driving.)

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

c. Jake Schneider, Inc. Contract for School Pupils

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Contract for School Pupils between the Avella Area School District and Jake Schneider, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "C".

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. A School Finance Workshop has been scheduled for September 10, 2025 @ 5:30 pm.

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

b. 7th Grade Student Activity Fund

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Class of 2031 (7th Grade) to establish a Student Activity Account.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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. Board of Assessment Appeals

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to authorize the law firm of Peacock Keller, LLP to file tax assessment appeals for the 2025 tax year to the Board of Assessment Appeals, Washington County, for the tax parcel identification numbers:

- 3700040000003200
- 3700040000003301
- 2100190000300305
- 2100190000000400
- 3700160000001901
- 3700160000001900

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Mr. Willyerd, said “aye”. Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Shore said, “nay”. Motion carried 5-3.

d. Adult Breakfast Price Increase

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the price increase for an Adult Breakfast from \$2.85 to \$3.00.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. AEA – Non-Resident / Tuition-Free Students

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following students to be enrolled as non-resident / tuition-free students in the Avella Area School District for the 2025-2026:

Isabella Crum – Grade 4
Jeffrey Crum – Grade 2
Caleb Fedak – Grade 5
Claire Fedak – Grade 10
Brett Fogg – Kindergarten
Ryan Fogg – Grade 5
Ashlyn Ripley McDougan – Grade 9

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

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Substitute Teacher List for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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

b. Substitute Support Personnel List

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Substitute Support Personnel List for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "B".

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

c. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the updated School Volunteer List for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "C".

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

d. Gregory Curtin, Elementary Reading Specialist

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the transfer of Gregory Curtin from JSHS English Teacher/Yearbook Advisor to the position of Elementary Reading Specialist, effective August 18, 2025.

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

e. Gregory Curtin, Yearbook Advisor – Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the resignation of Gregory Curtin, Yearbook Advisor due to his new position as Elementary Reading Specialist.

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

f. JSHS English Teacher – Posting

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to ratify the posting/advertisement for a JSHS English Teacher, per AEA contract.

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

g. William Belding – JSHS English Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve William Belding to the position of English Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective August 18, 2025.

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

h. William Belding – Yearbook Sponsor

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve William Belding to the position of Yearbook Sponsor for the 2025-2026 school year, per AEA contract.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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

i. Teacher's Handbook

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Teacher's Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "D".

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

j. Student Handbooks

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the Elementary Center and JSHS Handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "E".

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

k. Policy 237: Electronic Devices

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the revisions to Policy 237: Electronic Devices as recommended by the Board, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "F".

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

l. PSBA Policies

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Willyerd, to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies and attachments as recommended by PSBA, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "G".

Volume III – 2025

626	Federal Fiscal Compliance
626 Attach	Grant Subrecipient Monitoring Procedures
626 Attach	Cash Management
626 Attach	Administration of Federal Funds
626 Attach	Allowability of Costs
626 Attach	Procurement
626.1	Travel Reimbursement
827	Conflict of Interest

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

c. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2025.

d. Health & Safety Plan

Moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Health & Safety Plan for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Safety "A".

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

Regular Board Meeting
August 06, 2025

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Willyerd, seconded by Ms. Shore, to adjourn the meeting 7:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, 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