

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

October 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, September 17, 2025. Mr. Scott Willyerd, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel, athletics 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, Tia Shore
Absent: Phoebe Armstrong, Scott Willyerd

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal – Absent
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 September Students of the Month:
Kamden Jeffers – Senior
Heather Strohmeyer – 6th Grade Student

REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING – None

VISITORS REQUEST TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEM – None

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ATTACHMENT "A"

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

Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the September 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

ATTACHMENT "B"

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the September and October 2025 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the September and October 2025 General Fund.

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

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS

ATTACHMENT "C"

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ATTACHMENT "D"

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. Scott Willyerd, Independent Swim Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Scott Willyerd as the Coach for Quinn Willyerd who will represent Avella Area School District as an independent swimmer in cooperation with Canon-McMillan High School, per Attachment Athletic & Activities "A".

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

b. Assistant 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve William McKee as the 7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

c. Rifle Coaches – Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to accept the resignation of the following Rifle Coaches for the 2025-2026 season:

- Nikki Knopp – Head Coach
- Branden Kosey – Assistant Coach

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, continued

d. Rifle Coach – Posting

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the posting for a Varsity Rifle Coach for the 2025-2026 season.

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

e. Rifle Coaches

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following rifle coaches for the 2025-2026 season, pending receipt of clearances and required employment paperwork.

- Rebecca Spencer, Head Coach
- John Scott Cooper, Assistant Coach

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

f. Wildwood, NJ – Winterguard Students

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Winterguard to travel to Wildwood, NJ from April 29 - May 4, 2026 for the 2026 TIA Atlantic Coach Championships, per Attachment Athletics & Activities “B”. Students are responsible for all costs.

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update – Ms. Dryer reported that she has no updates at this time, as she was not in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Walther reported that the Center is at full capacity with 732 students. They are looking to add additional programs.

b. Student Discipline – DR

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

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

c. JSHS After-School Tutoring Program

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to implement an after-school tutoring program at the Junior-Senior High School to increase student proficiency in mathematics as measured by PA state assessments, beginning the Week of October 20, 2025.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, continued

d. Elementary After-School Tutoring Program

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to implement an after-school tutoring program at the Elementary Center to increase student proficiency in mathematics beginning the week of November 3, 2025.

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

e. Elementary & JSHS Handbooks – Child Find

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to add information about Pennsylvania Child Find, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) to the 2025-2026 Elementary and JSHS Handbooks, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • John Bruno | • Amanda Lettich |
| • Harry Fisher | • Clayton Mounts |

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

b. Memorandum of Understanding – Dean of Discipline

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Area Education Association, PSEA/NEA, regarding the need for a short-term Dean of Discipline for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

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

c. Memorandum of Understanding – Teacher Evaluation Process

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Area Education Association, PSEA/NEA, regarding the Teacher Evaluation Process for teachers with more than eight years of experience, per Attachment Negotiations "B".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. JSHS Principal – Military Leave

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to make a matter of record the Full-Time National Guard Duty-Operational Support Orders for Ms. Heather Zalar, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, beginning August 25, 2025.

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

b. Proven Educational Consulting, LLC Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the agreement for building level consultation services between the Avella rea School District and Proven Educational Consulting, LLC, attachment beginning October 20, 2025, until the conclusion of the current military leave and legally permitted return to duty period of the Junior-Senior High School Principal, Heather Zalar, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “B”.

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

c. Posting – Dean of Discipline

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to ratify the posting for a Dean of Discipline at the Junior-Senior High School for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

d. Darren Shaffer – Dean of Discipline

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Darren Shaffer as the Dean of Discipline for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year according to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding listed under *Negotiations: A* above.

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

e. Geanna Samol, Elementary Special Education Teacher

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Geanna Samol to the position of Elementary Special Education Teacher, full-time temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, pending completion of required coursework/certification, effective October 30, 2025.

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

f. Zackery Franks, JSJS School Mathematics Teacher - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to accept the resignation of Zackery Franks, JSJS Mathematics Teacher, effective date to be determined.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, continued

g. JSHS Mathematics Teacher – Posting

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to ratify the posting (advertisement if necessary) for a JSHS Mathematics Teacher, for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

h. Shelby Brown, Part-Time Cafeteria Employee - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the resignation of Shelby Brown as a part-time cafeteria employee, effective October 1, 2025.

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

i. Stephanie Burris, Cafeteria Substitute

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Stephanie Burris as a part-time cafeteria employee, 5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective October 3, 2025.

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

j. School Volunteer List

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the following to the School Volunteer List for the 2025-2026 school year.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Michael “Geno” Bongiorni | • Hannah Mull |
| • Stacy Brandenburg | • Megan Paxton |
| • Amanda Hammett | • Christopher Peterson |
| • Nitanna Jones | • Alex Ramsey |
| • Caitlin Loughry | • Lana Ramsey |
| • Jared Magon | • Hanna Welch |
| • Aaron Margaria | • Cody Welling |
| • Faythe Mazza | • Robin Welling |

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

d. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2025 at 9 am.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the meeting 7:32 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary