AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

December 3, 2025

The Reorganization Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dana Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Elmo Cecchetti, Suzanne Colilla, Beth Dunmore, Melissa Dryer, Terry Jacobs, Kimberly Mace Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore
Phoebe Armstrong, *via phone for Reorganization Item 1. (prior to Oaths of Office)*
Absent: James Gagich

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal – Absent
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal
Donald Snoke, Educational Consultant
Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor
Robert Vernon, Of Council

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions - None

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items - None

B. REORGANIZATION

1. NOMINATIONS FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT

Moved by Emanuel Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to nominate Mr. Terry Jacobs as the Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore said "aye". *Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace were ineligible to vote prior to taking the Oath of Office.* Motion carried 5-0.

No other nominations were made for Temporary President.

B. REORGANIZATION

1. NOMINATIONS FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT, continued

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Armstrong, to close the nominations and appoint Mr. Jacobs as Temporary President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Armstrong, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Paris, Ms. Shore said "aye". *Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace were ineligible to vote prior to taking the Oath of Office* Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Jacobs takes the chair as Temporary President.

Mater of Record: Election certificates have been received for Elmo Cecchetti, Melissa Dryer, Beth Dunmore, and Kimberly Mace.

Melody Paris, Notary/HR Manager, administered the Oath of Office to Elmo Cecchetti, Melissa Dryer, Beth Dunmore, and Kimberly Mace.

Phoebe Armstrong (via phone) left the meeting.

2. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to nominate Mr. Emanuel Paris as Board President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, "aye". Motion carried, 8-0.

No other nominations were made for Board President.

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to close the nominations for Board President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, "aye". Motion carried, 8-0.

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to appoint Mr. Emanuel Paris as Board President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, "aye". Motion carried, 8-0.

Mr. Emanuel Paris takes over the chair as Board President.

3. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to nominate Ms. Melissa Dryer as Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, "aye". Motion carried, 8-0.

B. REORGANIZATION

3. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT, continued

Moved by Ms. Mace, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to nominate Mr. Jacobs as Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to close the nominations for Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Shore, to appoint Mr. Melissa Dryer as Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, and Mr. Paris, said, “aye”. Ms. Mace said, “nay”. Motion carried, 7-1.

4. DISTRICT SOLICITOR

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Rachel Lozosky, Law Offices of Peacock Keller, LLP, to continue as the District’s Solicitor for the 2026 year, per attached proposal letter dated November 25, 2025. (Attachment “A”)

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

5. BOARD MEETINGS

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve a tentative list of the 2026 meeting dates with meeting times beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are regular meetings, with the exception of the Reorganization meeting in December. The committee meetings will be non-voting and meet as needed and advertised. (Attachment “B”).

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

6. FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve permission for application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to use facsimile signatures for the following bank accounts:

Cafeteria Fund Checks:	President and Secretary
General Fund Checks:	President, Treasurer and Secretary
Payroll Fund Checks:	Treasurer and Secretary

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

B. REORGANIZATION

7. AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENTS

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Officers of the Board to be authorized to draw orders for payrolls and for payments of bonds, interest, utilities and other pertinent bills as they come due.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

8. BOARD COMMITTEES

Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Board Committee List for the 2026 year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Mace said, “aye”. Motion carried, 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary

AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

December 3, 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, December 3, 2025. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:22 p.m., following the Reorganization Meeting. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding athletics, personnel, and contracts, Dana Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Elmo Cecchetti, Susanne Colilla, Melissa Dryer, Beth Dunmore, Terry Jacobs, Kimberly Mace, Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore
Absent: James Gagich

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal - Absent
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal
Donald Snoke, Educational Consultant
Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor
Robert Vernon, Of Council

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions – None

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting

Avella Athletics Board Members – Re: Athletics Football and Wrestling Use of Facilities.

- **Ryan Shore, President –** ***225 Stolze Road, Burgettstown PA 15021***
- **Joe Powell, Treasurer –** ***181 Rea Road Avella PA 15312***
- **John Caltumo, Financial Secretary –** ***54 Campground Road, Avella PA 15312***

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 November 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ***ATTACHMENT "B"***

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

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2025 General Fund.

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

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS ***ATTACHMENT "C"***

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT ***ATTACHMENT "D"***

5. ADDED MOTIONS

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to add the following two (2) motions to the agenda as both items were brought to the administration's attention within 24 hours of the meeting:

- Personnel & Policy
  d.) Colleen Benard – Elementary STEAM Club Education Advisor

- Personnel & Policy
  e.) J.M. – Intermittent Family Medical Leave

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career &Technology Center Update

Ms. Dryer reported that Western Area is purchasing a 10-passenger van for student transportation from Carvana. Mr. Walther reported that the Diesel Technical Program is currently at a standstill due to the project exceeding its budget and the need to secure additional funding.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, continued

b. Homebound Instruction – R.F.
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the application for Homebound Instruction for R.F., 12th grade student.

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

c. Hickory Telephone Company IRU Agreement – Aerial Fiber Lease
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) Agreement between Hickory Telephone Company and Avella Area School District for a term of ten (10) years, for Aerial Fiber Lines from School to ticket booth, concession stand, press box, and tennis courts, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

d. Hickory Telephone Company IRU Agreement – Dark Fiber Lease, Buried
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) Agreement between Hickory Telephone Company and Avella Area School District for a term of ten (10) years, for Dark Fiber Buried Lines from feeder pole, to greenhouse to sewage building, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

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

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 with CAO before driving).

- Cody Lynn Hennrich
- Karrie McClellan

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. AMCA Systems, LLC
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the AMCA TaxTrack Software License Agreement between the Avella Area School District and AMCA Systems, LLC, per Attachment Finance "A".

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. A Negotiations Committee Meeting with members of the Avella Area ESP is scheduled for December 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Desiree Dayak, Part-Time Special Education Aide
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve Desiree Dayak as a Part-Time Special Education Aide (4 hours per day/180 days per year), per Avella Area ESP contract, effective December 15, 2025.

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

b. **Homebound Instruction Posting**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the posting for a Homebound Instructor (advertisement if necessary) for a 12th grade High School student, starting in January, 2026.

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

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

- Julia Jastrzebski
- Pamela Brown

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

d. Colleen Benard – Elementary STEAM Club Education Advisor
Added motion
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Colleen Benard as the Elementary STEAM Club Education Advisor for the Elementary After-School STEAM Club.

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

e. J.M. – Intermittent Family Medical Leave
Added motion
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve J.M., Elementary Teacher's request for intermittent leave under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), effective immediately, as needed up to 12 work weeks in a 12-month period, per FMLA regulations, with appropriate medical certification on file.

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

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled December 4, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary