AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1000 AVELLA ROAD
AVELLA, PA 15312

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 21, 2026

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, January 21, 2026. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m., following the Reorganization Meeting. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding 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, James Gagich, Terry Jacobs, Kimberly Mace, Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore

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

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

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students are recognized as the January Students of the Month:
Kaitlyn Bruce – Senior
Fiona Dunmore – 6th Grade Student

2. Board Members are recognized for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting

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 Board Minutes for the December 2025 Reorganization and Regular Board Meetings.

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the December 2025 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the December 2025 and January 2026 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2025 and January 2026 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

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

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. Assistant Jr. High Volleyball Coach - Resignation

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the resignation of Allie Brownlee as Assistant Jr. High Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 season.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Assistant Jr. High Volleyball Coach – Kasey Scears

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Kasey Scears as Assistant Jr. High Volleyball Coach for the 2025-2026 season.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Assistant Independent Swim Coaches

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to appoint the following as the Volunteer Assistant Coaches for Quinn Willyerd, who represents Avella Area School District as an independent swimmer, in cooperation with Canon-McMillan High School, under the supervision of Head Coach, Scott Willyerd:

- Royce Tipper
- Benon Brewer
- Jillian Breckenridge

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career &Technology Center Update
Ms. Dryer had nothing to report as the meeting for Western Area will take place next week.

b. Student Enrollment – B.A.
Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to retroactively approve the re-enrollment of B.A. as a 10th grade student on January 14, 2026, having verified full compliance with all terms of the expulsion agreement.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Saturday Detention
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the creation of Saturday Detention Program for the Jr./Sr. High School.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Mr. Cecchetti said, "nay". Motion carried 8-1.

d. SPHS CARE Center Letter of Agreement
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the agreement between SPHS CARE Center and Avella Area School District commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2027, per Attachment Curriculum and Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. SPHS Behavioral Health Letter of Agreement
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the agreement between SPHS Behavioral Health and Avella Area School District commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2027, per Attachment Curriculum and Technology "B".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

f. FFA Trip 2028
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the FFA trip to Belgium and the Netherlands with EF Educational Tours in April of 2028, per Attachment Curriculum and Technology "C".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

~~g. Electronic Displays~~
The following motion was struck from the agenda, as the proposed purchase has been incorporated into a grant application.

Motion to approve the purchase of Newline 43' LCD displays along with a 3-year Newline Signage Pro License, per Quote #6B03T0N, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

B. NEW BUSINESS

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. Equipment - Municibid

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to authorize the Administration to utilize Municibid auction for cafeteria shelves that have been replaced (utilizing grant money).

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. 2025-2026 GG&C List of Drivers

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to the following to the 2025-2026 GG&C List of Drivers:

- Andrea Orum
- Kevin Massimino

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. John Deer Tractor Lease Buyout

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the early payoff of the existing lease agreement for the district tractor (2022 John Deere 5075E Cab Utility Tractor), which currently has 37 months remaining on the lease term, per Attachment Finance "A". This action will satisfy the remaining lease obligation in full and result in district ownership of the tractor, eliminating future lease payments and associated interest costs.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. AASD Water Line – Advertisement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Administration to advertise for bids/proposals for the Avella Area School District Water Line Project.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Memorandum of Understanding – Math Department Coverage

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Area Education Association, PSEA/NEA, regarding compensation for coverage.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. **Brooke Franco – JSHS Mathematics Teacher**
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to ratify hiring Brooke Franco to the position of JSHS Mathematics Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective January 12, 2026.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

b. Jenna Craig, Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher – Resignation
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to accept the resignation of Jenna Craig, Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher, effective January 16, 2026.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

c. Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher – Posting
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to retroactively approve the posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher.

d. Karleigh Kowcheck – Part Time Elementary Art Teacher
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to ratify hiring Karleigh Kowcheck to the position of Part-Time Elementary Art Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective January 19, 2026.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

e. Cassandra Maidment – JSHS Science Teacher
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Colilla to ratify hiring Cassandra Maidment to the position of JSHS Science (Biology) Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA Contract, effective January 14, 2026.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

~~**f. _____ - STEAM Club Paraprofessional Support**~~
The motion was struck from the agenda, as no one submitted interest in the position.

Motion to approve _____ as the Special Education Paraprofessional to support students during the after-school STEAM Club Program, beginning in January.

g. Saturday Detention Monitor – POSTING
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve a posting for a Saturday Detention Monitor at the Jr./Sr. High School.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, *continued*

h. Dave Niekum - Homebound Instruction
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Dave Niekum as the Homebound Instructor for a 12th grade student.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

i. Jeanie Lloyd, Part-Time Cafeteria Employee – Resignation
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to retroactively approve the resignation of Jeanie Lloyd, part-time cafeteria employee, effective January 4, 2026.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

j. Part-Time Cafeteria Employee – Posting
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a part-time cafeteria employee, 5 hours per day/180 days per year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

k. K.R. – Intermittent Family Medical Leave
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve K.R., High School Teacher's request for intermittent leave under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), beginning December 18, 2025, 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. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

l. Substitute Teacher List
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to ratify Robert West to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2025-2026 school year, effective December 15, 2025.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

m. Substitute Support Staff List – Cafeteria
Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Caitlyn Glemba to the Substitute Support Staff List (Cafeteria) for the 2025-2026 school year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 9-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, *continued*

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

- Joseph Naperatz

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary