

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 18, 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, February 18, 2026. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding grants, projects and procedures. Dana Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

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

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

1. Sebastian Kelley is recognized as the Elementary February Student of the Month.
2. Congratulations to Senior, Bryce Wright for earning a place in Avella Eagles Boys Basketball by reaching 1,000 career points.
3. Congratulations to Junior, Anna Unger for her 16th place finish at WPIAL Individual Rifle Championship. She earned a spot to compete at the PIAA State Scholastic Individual Rifle Championship next week.
4. Congratulations to the Varsity Boys Basketball Team for their second-place finish in WPIAL Class A sections. They play in Round 1 of WPIAL Playoffs this evening.
5. Congratulations to the following Varsity Boys' Wrestlers for their placement in the WPIAL 2A South Section Championships, earning them a spot at the WPIAL Individuals this coming weekend. Chas Rush (172) – 2nd place, Dominic Muzzi (189) – 2nd place, Gage Samol (127) – 4th place, Dustin Mace (114) – 2nd place, Xander Winters (107) – 5th place, Jorden Moore (121) – 6th place.

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 January 2026 Regular Board Meetings.

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the January 2026 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 January and February 2026 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the January and February 2026 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"*

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- a. An Athletics Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- a. **Western Area Career & Technology Center Update**

Ms. Dryer reported that the Culinary Department is hosting a Fish Fry through lent. The menu is available online and orders are available for takeout.

- b. **Steel City Therapy, LLC – Terminate Service Agreement**

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Mace, to retroactively authorize the Administration to terminate the Service Agreement with Steel City Therapy, LLC., effective January 30, 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.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, continued

c. KeySolution Education Staffing – Occupational Therapist

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to retroactively approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and KeySolution Education Staffing to provide Occupational Therapy services, 25 hours per week, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, 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. ~~School Calendar – 2026-2027~~

The following motion was struck from the board agenda due to the postponement of the Calendar Planning Meeting.

Motion to approve the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, 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.

e. Bristol Brown, Burgettstown Tuition Student

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve Bristol Brown to enroll in the Avella Area School District’s vocational agricultural course of study as a tuition student for the 2026-2027 school year.

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. ~~Green’s Taxi, LLC – Supplemental Transportation Agreement~~

The following motion was struck from the agenda to allow additional time for review by Green’s Taxi, LLC.

Motion to approve the attached Supplemental Transportation Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Green’s Taxi, LLC., per Attachment Facilities & Transportation “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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, continued

b. GG&C Bus Company, Inc. – Terminate Service Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore, to direct and authorize the Administration to terminate the Transportation Agreement between the Avella Area School District and GG&C Bus Company, Inc. in the event that GG&C fails to cure, within the contractually required thirty (30) days' notice and cure period, the deficiencies as listed in the Notice of Material Breach dated February 13, 2026. Per the Transportation Agreement, termination would occur upon fifteen (15) day's written notice from the School District to GG&C following the conclusion of the thirty (30) day notice and cure period.

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. Transportation Services – Request for Proposals

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Shore, to authorize and direct the Administration to prepare and advertise a request for proposals for transportation services.

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. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Kenneth Collins to the GG&C's Bus/Van Driver List for the 2025-2026 school year.

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. Finance Committee Meetings have been scheduled for March 18, April 15 and May 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

b. Resolution – Intermediate Unit 1

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the 2026-2027 Intermediate Unit 1 Operational Budget, Section 914-A(6)(1) Act 102 of 1970, requires that the Intermediate Unit Budget be approved by at least a majority of the school districts comprising of the Intermediate Unit, 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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE, continued

c. RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of School Directors for the Avella Area School District, hereby set the amount of bonds of the newly elected tax collectors for four years (2026-2030), West Middletown Borough for two years (2026-2028), and be set in the amount of thirty (30%) percent of the estimated amount of collections as follows:

Cross Creek Township	Rachel W. Welsh, Tax Collector		
Assessed Value		\$	93,945,309
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$	1,344,573
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$	403,372
Hopewell Township	Beverly Paul, Tax Collector		
Assessed Value		\$	74,339,515
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$	1,063,969
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$	319,191
Independence Township	Judy Magon, Tax Collector		
Assessed Value		\$	86,389,221
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$	1,236,428
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$	370,929
West Middletown Borough	Beverly Paul, Tax Collector		
Assessed Value		\$	6,330,110
Estimated Amount of Collections, School District		\$	90,598
Amount of Bond (30% of Collections)		\$	27,180

This Resolution approved by the Board of School Directors for the Avella Area School District at its Regular Monthly Meeting on February 18, 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.

d. Boundless Federal Funding – Federal E-Rate Program

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve contracting with Boundless Federal Funding, LLC to assist with the Federal E-Rate Program for the funding years through June 30, 2030., per Attachment Finance "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.

B. NEW BUSINESS

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

a. Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Avella Area Education Support Professionals, for the period of time beginning July 1, 2026 and continuing through June 30, 2030, per Attachment Negotiations "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.

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Proven Educational Consulting Addendum

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Addendum to Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Proven Educational Consulting, LLC, as per Attachment Personnel & Policy "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. Saturday Detention Monitors

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following as the Saturday Detention Monitors for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. Assignments will rotate based on seniority (as listed below) and availability.

- Jason Fogg
- Carrie Struth
- Kara Ruffalo
- Renee Worst
- Brandon Miller

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. MJ – Intermittent Family Medical Leave

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve M.J., elementary employee's request for an Intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective March 9, 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.

d. Mrs. Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal, Federal Programs Coordinator, will review Policy 918-Title I Parent and Family Engagement, during a parent meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Regular Board Meeting
February 18, 2026

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 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,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary