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

# BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

**March 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, March 18, 2026. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:09 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, Melissa Dryer, Beth Dunmore, James Gagich, Kimberly Mace, Emanuel Paris, Tia Shore
Terry Jacobs - Absent

**ADMINISTRATION**: Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal - Absent
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal - Absent
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.** The following students are recognized as the March Students of the Month:
Connor Ruffalo – Senior
Brantley Dolanch – 6th Grade Student

**2.** Congratulations to sisters, freshman Gabriella Dolanch and junior Abigail Dolanch for their outstanding performances at the WPIAL Girls Wrestling Championships and the PIAA West Region Girls Wrestling Tournament. Their success in the post-season earne them a place at the PIAA Individual Wrestling Championships in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Abigail finished 7th in her bracket and is now only the second student-athlete from Avella to place at the PIAA State Tournament three times.

**Request to Speak at the Board Meeting** - None

**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 February 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the February 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, 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 February and March 2026 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Accounts Payable for the January and February 2026 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, 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. Open Position – Girls' Varsity Basketball Head Coach**

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to open the position for the Girls' Varsity Basketball Head Coach for the 2026-2027 school year, per recommendation of the Athletic & Activities Committee.

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

**b. Dana Hammond, 7/8th Grade Softball Head Coach – Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Dana Hammond, 7/8th grade Softball Head Coach, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 season.

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

**c. Posting – JSHS Coaching Positions**

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the postings (advertisement if necessary) for the following coaching positions for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Girls' Varsity Basketball Head Coach
- 7/8th Grade Softball Head Coach

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

## B. NEW BUSINESS

### 2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### 3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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

Ms. Dryer reported that the Culinary Department continues to host its Lenten Fish Fry. The Center is also implementing a "Dress for Success" program, providing students with appropriate attire for mock interviews. A recently donated robotic arm has prompted the development of new, related curriculum. Additionally, grant funding is being used or facility improvements, including a new boiler system and parking lot paving. The Center will also partner with CCBC, which will utilize the facility in the evenings for its Adult Education Program.

**b. Student Discipline - HF**

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Waiver of a Formal Hearing and Agreement between the Avella Area School District and elementary student HF, and direct and authorize the Administration to implement it.

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

**c. School Calendar – 2026-2027**

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Avella Area School District Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

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

### 4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**~~a.~~ ~~AASD Water Line Project~~**

The following motion was **struck** from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the regular meeting.

*Motion to award the Water Line Project for the Avella Area School District to John T. Subrick, Inc., the low bidders outlined in NIRA Engineers' letter dated March 16, 2026, in the amount of $344,300.00 per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "A".*

**b. Equipment – Municibid**

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Shore, to authorize the Administration to utilize Municibid Auction for cafeteria shelving units.

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

## B. NEW BUSINESS

### 4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, *continued*

**c. Green's Taxi, LLC – Supplemental Transportation Agreement**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the attached Supplemental Transportation Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Green's Taxi, LLC., per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "B".

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

**~~d. Green's Taxi, LLC – Transportation Agreement~~**
The following motion was **struck** from the agenda by Board President, Emanuel Paris as a result of discussion during the Executive Session of the Board prior to the regular meeting.

*Motion to approve the attached Transportation Agreement with Green's Taxi, LLC, to provide Primary and Auxiliary Transportation Services to the Avella Area School District for a term beginning April 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2029, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "C".*

**e. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List**
Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Christina Brink
- Matthew Chambers
- Christina Grubbs
- Joshua Holstein
- Kurt Irey
- Kristy Jocuns
- Alec Long
- Kelly Miles
- Sharon Rice
- Cherryleen Rodgriguez

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

### 5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

### 6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

**a. Matter of Record**
Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve and make a matter of record the successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Avella Area Education Support Professionals, approved at the February 18, 2026 school board meeting is for the period of five (5 years) beginning July 1, 2026 and continuing through June 30, 2031.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE, *continued***

**b. Separation Agreement and Release**

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Shore, to accept the resignation for personal reasons of Gregory Curtin, elementary Title I Teacher, effective, February 27, 2026 and to approve the Separation Agreement and Release related to said resignation, per Attachment Negotiations "A".

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

**7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**a. Posting – Title I Reading Specialist**

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to post (advertise if necessary) for an Elementary Title I Reading Specialist teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

**b. Katelyn Schwab, Part-Time Cafeteria Employee - Resignation**

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to accept the resignation of Kaitlyn Schwab, part-time cafeteria employee, 5.5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective March 4, 2026.

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

**c. Stephanie Burris, Part-Time Cafeteria Employee – Increased Hours**

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the increased hours for Stephanie Burris; 5 hours to 5.5 hours, effective March 19, 2026 (due to the resignation of Katelyn Schwab).

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

**d. Jamie Woodburn – Part-Time Cafeteria Employee**

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Jamie Woodburn as a part-time cafeteria employee, 5 hours per day/180 days per year, effective March 19, 2026.

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

**e. Posting – Part-Time Cafeteria Employee**

Moved by Ms. Colilla, 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, effective immediately.

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

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary