

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 15, 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, April 15, 2026. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding curriculum, personnel, 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, 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
Dana M. Davis, Board Secretary

OTHERS: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations/Recognitions

1. The following students are recognized as the April Students of the Month:
Brayden Davis – Senior
Gage Lesnock – 6th Grade Student
2. Odyssey of the Mind Student Presentation

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 March 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the March 2026 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 March and April 2026 General Fund.

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Accounts Payable for the March and April 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. An Athletic Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

b. **2026-2027 School Year – JSHS Extra-Curricular Activities**

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the following to the JSHS extracurricular activities for the 2026-2027 school year:

Band Director

Noah Kilgus – Summer Band

Assistant Band Director

Amanda Kolson – Elementary Music Teacher

Jason Stough – Drum Line

Cheryl Rush – Color Guard

Julianne Rush – Other

Pep Band

Noah Kilgus

Winterguard

Julianne Rush – Dance Line

Cheryl Rush – Dance Line Assistant

Choral Director

Noah Kilgus

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

b. 2026-2027 School Year – JSHS Extracurricular Activities, *continued*

Musical Producer/Play Producer
Lynn Clarchick

Senior Class Manager
Joelle Cooper

Class Sponsor
Samantha Jacobs – Junior
Christina Musser – Sophomore
VACANT – Freshman
Sarah Franks – 7/8 Combined

Student Council
Carrie Struth

National Honor Society
Lynn Akins

Newspaper
Christina Musser

Yearbook
William Belding

Curriculum Related Clubs
Jessica Miller – Art Club
VACANT – Community Service
Renee Worst – Debate Team
Erika Minch – SADD
VACANT – Science Club
Joelle Cooper – STEM Club

Varsity Cheerleading
Melody Paris – Head Summer/Football
Melody Paris – Head Basketball/Wrestling
Samantha Jacobs – Assistant Summer/Football
Samantha Jacobs – Assistant Basketball/Wrestling

Weight Room Coordinator
JT Mylan – After School
JT Mylan – Evening

Vo-Ag
Kara Ruffalo

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Mace, and Ms. Shore said, “aye”. Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Paris “abstained”. Motion carried 7-0-2.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE - *continued*

c. Jamie Scears – JSHS Extracurricular Activities – Resignation

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to accept the resignation of Jamie Scears for the following JSHS extracurricular activities for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Freshman Class Sponsor
- Community Service Club

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.

d. Posting – JSHS Extracurricular Activities

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the postings for the following extracurricular activities for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Freshman Class Sponsor
- Community Service Club

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. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

Ms. Dryer reported that the auditors presented at the April WACTC Board Meeting and the 2026-2027 budget was approved. Negotiations continue regarding rental of the facility to CCBC for its Adult Education Program. All instructional positions are filled. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held on April 24, 2026 from 3:00-7:00 p.m., with proceeds benefitting the Brownlee and Georgetti Legacy 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.

b. Center for Community Resources

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Student Assistance Program Agreement between Center for Community Resources and Avella School District for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & 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.

c. Bradley Center Agreement

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Agreement between the Bradley Center and Avella Area School District, effective 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & 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.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - *continued*

d. ESL Agreement

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Agreement between the Intermediate Unit 1 and the Avella Area School District for English as a Second Language (ESL) Services for the 2025-2026 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & 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.

e. FFA Trip, Indianapolis IN

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve members of the FFA Program to travel to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana in late October 2026, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

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. NFHS Network School Broadcast Program Agreement

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the NFHS Network School Broadcast Program Agreement between NFHS Network and Avella Area School District for the "One-Time Fee" Agreement, providing installation and access to two (2) cameras and associated software for the purpose of streaming athletic events at no cost to the district, for a term of five (5) years, beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2031, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "E".

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. ProSoft Technologies, Inc. Software Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to renew the Software Maintenance Agreement between Avella Area School District and ProSoft Technologies, Inc., for the period starting July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "F".

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.

h. Finals site

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to renew the proposal from Finals site for website hosting services, for a term of four (4) years effective May 1, 2026 through June 30, 2030, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "G".

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

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. ~~Rental of School Facilities – PA Dawgz Football Organization~~

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

Motion to approve the rental of the Avella Area School District's facilities for football games to be played on Saturdays (5/23/26, 6/6/26, 6/20/26, and 6/27/26) to PA Dawgz Football Organization. Conditioned upon an agreement to be prepared by the solicitor and approved by both parties.

b. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Bryson Kaffka
- Kortney Kiskadden
- Samantha Linnear

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. Western Area Career and Technology Center – Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the 2026-2027 Western Area Career & Technology Center's proposed budget totaling, \$6,418,818.00, per letter dated March 26, 2026, from Michael Milanovich, Executive Director of Vocational Education, per Attachment Finance & Transportation "A".

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Lauren Baker – Title I Reading Specialist

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Lauren Baker (current first grade teacher) as the Title I Reading Specialist for the 2026-2027 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. Posting – Elementary First Grade Teacher

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve a posting for a full-time Elementary First Grade Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. (Lauren Baker's position)

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*

c. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Debra Evans to the Substitute Teacher List 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.

d. Substitute Support Staff List – Cafeteria

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve Katelyn Schwab 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.

e. Ralph Bradbury – Notice of Retirement

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to retroactively accept the retirement notice of Ralph Bradbury, Full-Time Custodian, per letter dated October 22, 2024. His effective date of retirement from the district will be June 9, 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. L.B., Elementary Teacher – FMLA Request

Moved by Mr. Gagich, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve L.B., Elementary Teacher's request for Intermittent Family Medical Leave, effective April 1, 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.

g. PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement between the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Avella Area School District, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "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.

h. IDEA Policies and Procedures

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Gagich, to approve the Notice of Adoption of Approved LEA Policies, Procedures and Use of Funds form and Coordinated Early Intervention Services form from the Intermediate Unit 1, per Attachment Personnel and Policy "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.

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Board Meeting

April 15, 2026

B. NEW BUSINESS

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE, *continued*

b. Safe & Drug Free School – Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Pennsylvania State Police Department and the Avella Area School District, Section 1317-2, (due every two years), per Attachment Safety "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.

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary