

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 13, 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, May 13, 2026. Ms. Melissa Dryer, Board Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting and reconvened following the meeting to discuss contracts, personnel, projects and policies. Dana Davis, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

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

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 May Students of the Month:
Noah Kimberland – Senior
Rachel Penrod – 6th Grade Student

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 April 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the April 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

ATTACHMENT "B"

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the April and May 2026 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2026 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

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 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

b. 2026-2027 School Year - JSHS Extracurricular Activities

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the following to the JSHS Extracurricular Activities for the 2026-2027 school year:

Freshman Class Sponsor

Noah Kilgus

Community Service Club Sponsor

Renee Worst

Science Club

Cassandra Maidment

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, *continued*

c. Jr. High Cheerleading Program

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Jr. High Cheerleading Program (grades 7-8) for the 2026-2027 school year. Jr. High Cheerleaders are to follow the guidelines set forth in the Jr. High Cheerleading Handbook.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

d. Volunteer Cheerleading Coach

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve Sidney Zelenko as a volunteer Jr. High Cheerleading Coach for the 2026-2027 school year.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

Ms. Dryer reported that the WACTC Completer Ceremony will be held on May 14, 2026 at Canon-McMillan School District, recognizing 223 senior graduates. WACTC also hosted a Signing Day on May 8, 2026. Avella senior, Thomas Chilzer was recognized as a completer in the Machine Shop Program and has accepted full-time employment with The Perryman Company following graduation. Additionally, Avella sophomore, Morgan Cowden was recognized for her achievements in the Cosmetology Program at the Crystal Owl Gala through the Challenge Program. She was selected as a Rising Star Finalist from more than 500 applicants and was named "Queen of the Night."

b. AASD End of Year Calendar Dates:

Thursday, May 14, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

WACTC Certificate Ceremony: Peters Township High School Auditorium

Sunday, May 17, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

Baccalaureate Service: Grove United Presbyterian Church

Friday, May 29, 2026

Last Day for Students

Friday, May 29, 2026 @ 7:00

Class of 2026 Commencement: Avella High School Gymnasium

c. Comprehensive Plan

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the Avella Area School District's Comprehensive Plan, effective 2026-2029, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, *continued*

d. Induction Plan

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the Avella Area School District's Induction Plan, effective 2026-2029, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

e. Discussion Item: District Plans

Mr. Cyril Walther has submitted the following plans to the State:

- Professional Development Plan
- Gifted Education Plan
- ESL Plan

f. Elementary Extended School Year Program Teachers

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the following to the Elementary Extended School Year Program Teacher position(s), effective summer 2026, per AEA Contract.

(Week 1: Tuesday, June 16th – Thursday, June 18th - 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.)

(Week 2: Tuesday, July 14th – Thursday, July 16th – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

- Dana Gatewood
- Colleen Benard
- Leigh Stets

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

g. Blueprints Agreement

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Lease Agreement and Meal Service Agreement between Avella Area School District and Blueprints Early Learning Head Start and Pre-K Counts, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "C".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

h. IU1 Educational Services Agreement

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the IU1 Educational Service Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Intermediate Unit 1, effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "D".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

i. AEDY Educational Services Agreement

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Educational Services Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Intermediate Unit 1, for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "E".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

B. NEW BUSINESS

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, *continued*

j. ESL Services Agreement

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Mr. Paris, 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 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "F".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. A Building & Grounds Walkthrough is scheduled for June 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

b. AASD Water Line Project

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to award the Water Line Project for the Avella Area School District to Preferred Plumbing & Heating Solutions, the low bidder outlined in NIRA Engineers' letter dated May 8, 2026, in the amount of \$317,573.00, contingent upon NIRA's satisfactory completion of review of contractor references, per Attachment Facilities & Transportation "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

c. GG&C Bus/Van Driver List

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

- Erika Agni
- Candace Graham
- Debra McKinny

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. 2026-2027 Avella Area School District – Proposed Budget

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Shore, to approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$13,975,471.00 for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and set the millage at 14.6343 mills, a 0.322 mill increase, per Attachment Finance "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Mace, and Mr. Paris said, "aye". Ms. Dunmore and Ms. Shore said, "nay". Motion carried 5-2.

B. NEW BUSINESS

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE, *continued*

b. Resolution – IU1 Electric Consortium

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to permit the Superintendent and Business Manager to enter into an agreement with a vendor selected by the Intermediate Unit 1 Electric Consortium to provide electricity supply, beginning December 2026 for a period of 24 to 36 months, per Attachment Finance “B”.

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

c. SBAP Agreement to Participate

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement to Participate – Early Intervention/School Age for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Finance “C”.

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

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Jody Morgan, Elementary Teacher/SFA Facilitator – Retirement

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the retirement of Jody Morgan, Elementary Teacher/SFA Facilitator, effective June 10, 2027 (one year notice).

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

b. Full-Time Elementary Teacher Position

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to create an elementary teaching position due to increased Kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

c. Elementary Teacher Position – Posting

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Full-Time Elementary Teacher, effective at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

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

d. Half-Time Art/Half-Time Elementary Teacher Position

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to create a position for a Half-Time Art Teacher/Half-Time Elementary Teacher position, effective at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. (This action effectively transitions the current part-time Art position into a full-time role by combining it with elementary teaching responsibilities.)

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, *continued*

e. Half-Time Art/Half-Time Elementary Teacher – Posting

Moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Half-Time/Half-Time Elementary Teacher, at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

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

~~f. John Galvin, Business Manager – Contract~~

The following motion was **struck** from the agenda, as a result of discussion during Executive Session prior the regular meeting. The Personnel Committee will meet prior to the June Board Meeting to further review the proposed contracts and make recommendations to the Board.

Motion to approve the Business Manager Contract between John Galvin, Business Manager and the Avella Area School District for a term of three (3) years, commencing July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “A”.

~~g. Heather Poirier, Food Service Director – Contract~~

The following motion was **struck** from the agenda, as a result of discussion during Executive Session prior the regular meeting. The Personnel Committee will meet prior to the June Board Meeting to further review the proposed contracts and make recommendations to the Board.

Motion to approve the Food Service Director Contract between Heather Poirier, Food Service Director and the Avella Area School District for a term of three (3) years, commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “B”.

~~h. John Galvin, Business Manager – Renewal Bond~~

The following motion to approve the renewal of the surety bond for the Business Manager was **struck** from the agenda. In accordance with district practice, the bond is contingent upon approval of the Business Manager’s employment contract. Since the contract as not yet been approved, the bond renewal will be presented for Board consideration following action on the contract at a future meeting.

Motion to approve the renewal bond of John Galvin, Business Manager, setting bond at \$100,000, to begin July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, according to PA School Code Section 404.

i. Board Treasurer

Moved by Ms. Shore, seconded by Mr. Paris, to appoint Tia Shore as Board Treasurer for one year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at \$50,000.

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

B. NEW BUSINESS

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE, *continued*

j. Dana Davis, Board Secretary – Renewal Bond

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to approve the renewal bond of Dana Davis, Board Secretary, setting bond at \$50,000, to begin July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027 according to PA School Code Section 404.

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

k. Cheryl Rush - Elementary First Grade Teacher

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve Cheryl Rush as an Elementary First Grade Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year (due to Lauren Baker’s transfer into the Title I classroom).

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

l. Posting – Elementary Special Education Teacher

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to ratify a posting for a full-time Elementary Special Education position for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

m. Posting – Full-Time Custodian

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to ratify the posting for a full-time custodian, due to the retirement of Ralph Bradbury.

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

n. Substitute Teacher List

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

- Elizabeth Galligan
- Dacia Marker (pending clearances and required employment paperwork)

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

o. Substitute Support Staff List – Cafeteria

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Dunmore, to approve Meredith Bongiorno to the Substitute Support Staff List (Cafeteria) for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

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

p. Discussion Item: Attendance Letters

Mrs. Graff revised the Avella Area School District Attendance Letters (Attachment Personnel & Policies “C”).

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

Regular Board Meeting
April 15, 2026

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Cecchetti, seconded by Ms. Colilla, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said, "aye". Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana M. Davis
Board Secretary