

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

June 30, 2026

The Special Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Mr. Emanuel Paris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. 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, and Tia Shore

ADMINISTRATION: Cyril Walther, Superintendent - Absent
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

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting

Visitor's Request to Speak on Agenda Items

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026-2027 FINAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET

a. 2026-2027 General Budget with 2.25% tax increase

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve the General Fund Budget, totaling \$13,820,304.00 be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2026-2027, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, with a millage set at 14.6343 mills, a 0.322 mill increase on real estate, \$5 per capita tax under Section 679; \$5 per capita tax, and one-half of one percent (1/2%) on all earned income, under Act 511. Attachment Budget "A".

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, Mr. Jacobs, and Mr. Paris said, "aye". Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Mace, and Ms. Shore said, "nay". Motion failed 4-5.

b. 2026-2027 General Budget with 0% tax increase

Moved by Ms. Dunmore, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the General Fund Budget, totaling \$13,820,304.00 be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2026-2027, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, with a millage set at 14.3123 mills, a 0.000 mill increase on real estate, \$5 per capita tax under Section 679; \$5 per capita tax, and one-half of one percent (1/2%) on all earned income, under Act 511. Attachment Budget "B".

ROLL CALL: Ms. Dryer, Ms. Dunmore, Mr. Gagich, Ms. Mace, Mr. Paris, and Ms. Shore said "aye". Mr. Cecchetti, Ms. Colilla, and Mr. Jacobs said "nay". Motion passed 6-3.

c. Rescind Motion – Homestead and Farmstead Resolution

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to approve rescinding the following motion board approved June 17, 2026:

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2026-2027 school year, per [June 17, 2026] Attachment Finance "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.

d. Homestead and Farmstead Resolution

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Paris to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Budget "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. Amended Agenda

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to amend the agenda to add a motion to direct and authorize the Superintendent and/or Director of Building and Grounds to solicit quotes for a passenger van holding at least 8 passengers and costing no more than \$24,500, and to obtain cooperative purchasing information regarding the same.

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

1. 2026-2027 FINAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET, continued

a. Passenger Van Quotes

Moved by Ms. Dryer, seconded by Mr. Cecchetti, to direct and authorize the Superintendent and/or Director of Buildings and Grounds to solicit quotes for a passenger van holding at least 8 passengers and costing no more than \$24,500, and to obtain cooperative purchasing information regarding the same.

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. ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. An Athletics Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Key Solution Education Staffing – Special Education Consultant Agreement

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Key Solution Education Staffing, LLC to provide Special Education Consulting 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.

b. Key Solution Staffing – School Psychologist Services

Moved by Ms. Colilla, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Key Solution Staffing, LLC to provide school psychologist services for the 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.

4. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Administration Raise – Superintendent

Moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to approve an increase of 3% in the Superintendent's salary for the 2026-2027 school year, effective July 1, 2026, per the contract currently in place between the Superintendent and the Avella Area School District.

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.

Regular Board Meeting
June 30, 2026

C. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Dryer, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 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