

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

September 16, 2026

**VISITOR'S
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Elmo Cecchetti Suzanne Colilla Melissa Dryer Beth Dunmore	James Gagich Kimbery Mace Emanuel Paris Tia Shore
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ADMINISTRATION

Cyril Walther, Superintendent
John Galvin, Business Manager
Heather Zalar, JSHS Principal
Carrie Graff, Elementary Principal
Donald Snoke, Educational Consultant
Dana Davis, Board Secretary

A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. PSBA recognizes and presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Susan Colilla, School Board Director, in recognition of her ongoing school board service.
2. The following students are recognized s the September Students of the Month:
Paisley Downey – Senior
Brylin Dorsey – 6th Grade Student

REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING – None

VISITORS REQUEST TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEM

GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ATTACHMENT "A"

Board Members have been furnished copies of the Board Minutes for the August 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____	Mr. Jacobs	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

ATTACHMENT "B"

Board Members have been furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the August and September 2026 General Fund.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____	Mr. Jacobs	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS

ATTACHMENT "C"

4. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

ATTACHMENT "D"

5. BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

The November Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 due to the original date falling on a No School day.

B. NEW BUSINESS

Independence Township Board Position

Jeffrey Devenney, Independence Township Board Member

Motion to appoint Jeffrey Devenney to the Independence Township Board Member position created by the resignation of Terry Jacobs, September 16, 2026 – December 2, 2027.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
		_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

Oath of Office will be administered to Jeffrey Devenney.

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. Samantha Jacobs, Junior Class Sponsor – Resignation

Motion to accept the resignation of Samantha Jacobs as the Junior Class Sponsor for the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

b. Erika Minch, Junior Class Sponsor

Motion to approve Erika Minch as the Junior Class Sponsor for the 2026-2027 school year. (The Avella Area Education Association has waived the contractual internal posting requirement to facilitate a timely process).

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

c. John T. Mylan, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach – Resignation

Motion to accept the resignation of John T. Mylan as the Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2026-2027 season.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

d. Homecoming Events

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

6:30 pm Homecoming Parade on Campbell Street (Main Street), followed by Bonfire at Avella Fire Department

Friday, October 2, 2026

6:30 pm Pre-game: Avella Marching Band
7:00 pm Kickoff: Avella vs. West Greene
Halftime Crowning of Homecoming King/Queen
Post-game Avella Marching Band Halftime Performance

Saturday, October 3, 2026

7:00 pm Homecoming Dance @ Avella Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

b. IU1 Partial Hospitalization Program Services Agreement

Motion to retroactively approve the Services Agreement between Avella Area School District and Intermediate Unit 1 to confirm participation in the Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "A".

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

c. Washington County Probation Services - MOU

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and Washington County Juvenile Probation to provide services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology "B".

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

d. Junior Achievement – Biz Town Contract

Motion to approve the Financial Assistance Contract/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Junior Achievement (JA) of Western Pennsylvania and Avella Area School District for attendance at JA Biz Town during the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Curriculum & Technology “C”.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

e. Inventory Control – Elementary Textbooks

Motion to the disposal of outdated Elementary textbooks as listed on Attachment Curriculum & Technology “D”.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

f. School Calendar - Revision– 2026-2027

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

Friday, August 28, 2026 – No School (Cancelled due to Power Outage)
Thursday, March 25, 2027 – Makeup Snow Day

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

4. FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

a. GG&C Substitute Driver List

Motion to approve the following to the GG&C Bus/Van Driver List:

- Mackenzie Barker
- Keith Breese
- Jeffrey Lowery
- Francis Partozoti
- Denise Reese
- Donald Seibert
- Courtney Taylor
- Michelle Warchol

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

b. Purchase of School Van

Motion to retroactively approve the purchase of a 2014 Chevrolet Express 2500 Series 10 passenger school van, through the Municibid Auction, for the purchase price of \$15,000.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Water Line Progress Payment

Motion to approve the progress payment in the amount of \$251,364.60 to Preferred Plumbing for the construction of the water line project, as verified by the project engineer, per Attachment Finance "A".

MOTION:			SECOND:		
Roll Call:	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore

b. FFA National Convention Transportation Cost

Motion to approve covering the transportation cost for seven FFA students attending the national FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 21-24, 2026, at a cost of \$170 per student, for a total cost of \$1,190.00.

MOTION:			SECOND:		
Roll Call:	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Samantha Jacobs – Fifth Grade Teacher

Motion to retroactively approve Samantha Jacobs as a full-time Elementary Fifth Grade Teacher (due to Marie Smitsky's transfer into a Third Grade Classroom).

MOTION:			SECOND:		
Roll Call:	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore

b. _____ - Full Time Secondary Special Education Teacher

Motion to approve hiring _____ to the position of Full-Time Secondary Education Teacher (due to the transfer of Samantha Jacobs to the Elementary), temporary professional employee, Step _____, per AEA contract.

MOTION:			SECOND:		
Roll Call:	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore

c. Karleigh Kowcheck – Resignation

Motion to accept the resignation of Karleigh Kowcheck as Half-Time Art/Half-Time Elementary Teacher, effective August 10, 2026.

MOTION:			SECOND:		
Roll Call:	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore

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

Motion to ratify the posting and advertisement for a Half-Time Art/Half time Elementary Teacher.

MOTION:			SECOND:		
Roll Call:	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore

e. Jameson Murray, Half Time Art/Half Time Elementary Teacher

Motion to approve hiring Jameson Murray to the position of Half-Time Art/Half-Time Elementary Teacher, temporary professional employee, Step 1, per AEA contract.

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

f. Linda Gagliani, Full-Time Elementary Paraprofessional – Retirement

Motion to retroactively accept the retirement notice of Linda Gagliani, Full-Time Paraprofessional effective August 27, 2026.

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

g. Full-Time Elementary Paraprofessional - Posting

Motion to retroactively approve the posting for a Full-Time Paraprofessional in the Elementary (due to the retirement of Linda Gagliani).

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

h. Anticipated Part-Time Elementary Paraprofessional – Posting

Motion to retroactively approve the posting for an *anticipated* Part-Time Paraprofessional Position (should the current part-time aide transfer into the full-time position).

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

i. Desiree Dayak – Full-Time Elementary Paraprofessional

Motion to approve Desiree Dayak as the Full-Time Elementary Paraprofessional, effective the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

j. Samantha Birdsall – Part-Time Elementary Paraprofessional

Motion to approve Samantha Birdsall as the Part-Time Elementary Paraprofessional, effective August 25, 2026, contingent upon her successful completion of the Para-Pro Assessment, which was passed on August 30, 2026.

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

k. Makaylee DePetro, Licensed Professional Counselor

Motion to approve Makaylee DePetro as a Licensed Professional Counselor, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “A”.

Roll Call:	MOTION:		SECOND:			
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

I. Substitute Support Personnel List – Update

Motion to add Linda Gagliani to the Substitute Support Personnel List as a JSHS Aide for the 2026-2027 school year.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

m. School Volunteer List

Motion to approve the updated Volunteer List for the 2026-2027 school year, per Attachment Personnel & Policy “B”.

Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____

8. SAFETY COMMITTEE

a. A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____	ADJOURNMENT TIME: _____
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Roll Call:	MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____		
	Mr. Cecchetti	_____	Ms. Colilla	_____	Ms. Dryer	_____
	Mr. Devenney	_____	Ms. Dunmore	_____	Mr. Gagich	_____
	Ms. Mace	_____	Mr. Paris	_____	Ms. Shore	_____