

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

October 21, 2026

**VISITOR'S
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Elmo Cecchetti _____ Suzanne Colilla _____ Jeffrey Devenney _____ Melissa Dryer _____ Beth Dunmore _____	James Gagich _____ Kimbery Mace _____ Emanuel Paris _____ Tia Shore _____
--	--

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 plaque to James Gagich, School Board Director, recognizing his 20 years of service on the school board.
2. The following students are recognized as the October Students of the Month:
Tristan Davis – Senior
Elena Elswick – 6th Grade Student
3. Congratulations to Senior Tristan Davis on an outstanding golf season. Tristan was the WPIAL 2A Section IV Medalist at Shannopin Country Club, finished 10th in the first round at South Hills Country Club, and placed 11th in the WPIAL Championship Finals at Oakmont Country Club. His performance earned him a spot in the 2026 PIAA State Golf Championships, held October 19-20, where he finished 26th out of 72 golfers statewide.

REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING

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 September 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 September and October 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"

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

a. Winter Sports Volunteer Coaches

Motion to approve the following as Volunteer Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Coaches for the Winter Sports Season for the 2026-2027 school year, pending receipt of clearances.

BOYS JV/VARSITY BASKETBALL:

Brandon Miller
Ivan Ullom

GIRLS JV/VARSITY BASKETBALL:

Jack Conn

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING:

Jared Magon
Jeremiah McClain
Raymond Phillips
Chas Rush

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

3. CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

a. Western Area Career & Technology Center Update

b. Pathways of Southwestern Pennsylvania Agreement

Motion to retroactively approve the Agreement between Avella Area School District and Pathways of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Inc for Community Participation Support Services for District Special Education students, 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. Helping and Healing Paws – Children Reading to Dogs Program

Motion to retroactively approve the Helping and Healing Paws – Children Reading to Dogs – Tail Waggin’ Tutors Program, 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. IU1 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title 1 Agreement

Motion to approve the Agreement between the Avella Area School District and IU1 to provide Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title 1 supplemental education services for 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. Winter Concert Dates

Motion to approve the following Winter Concert dates for the 2026-2027 school year:

- **High School Concert:** December 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm.
- **Elementary Concert:** December 10, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

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:

- Robert Asman
- David Cronin
- Willie Dukes
- Russell Kerr
- Jamaica Papa
- Ashley Rodgers
- Amy Soukey
- Alicia Westbrook
- Brenda Whitlaw

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

b. Jake Schneider, Inc. Auxiliary Transportation Agreement

Motion to approve the revised Contract for School Pupils between the Avella Area School District and Jake Schneider, Inc. for additional student transportation services for the 2026-2027 school year. The original agreement was approved at the August 5, 2026 meeting and was subsequently revised by the District's Solicitor at the request of the Board. Attachment Facilities & Transportation "A".

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

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

7. PERSONNEL & POLICY COMMITTEE

a. Sarah Amsler - Full Time Secondary Special Education Teacher

Motion to retroactively approve the employment of Sarah Amsler as a Full-Time Secondary Special Education Teacher, Temporary Professional Employee, Step 1, in accordance with the AEA Contract, effective October 5, 2026, to fill the vacancy resulting from Samantha Jacobs' transfer to the Elementary Center.

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

b. Permanent Teacher Contracts

Motion to approve the issuance of the following Professional Employee Contracts for eligible teachers who have completed three years of satisfactory service, in accordance with applicable requirements and effective dates as listed below.

- Brandon Miller – Effective September 26, 2025
- Emily Jezowicz – Effective August 21, 2026
- Lauren O'Brien – Effective August 21, 2026
- Kevin Painter – Effective August 24, 2026

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

c. Substitute Teacher List – Update

Motion to retroactively add the following individual(s) to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2026-2027 school year. All required clearances and employment paperwork have been completed.

- Stacy Burk
- Annalisse Scammell
- Nicole Sefcik

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

d. Substitute Nurse List

Motion to retroactively add the following individual(s) to the Substitute Nurse List for the 2026-2027 school year. All required clearances and employment paperwork have been completed.

- Caitlyn Munger

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

e. School Volunteer List

Motion to approve the updated Avella Area School District Volunteer List for the 2026-2027 school year, 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	_____

f. PSBA Policies

Motion to approve the adoption/revisions to the following policies and attachments as recommended by PSBA, per Attachment Personnel & Policy "B".

Volume III – 2026

102	Academic Standards
204.1	Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks
209-AR-0	Mandated Health Services
246	School Wellness
246-AR-2	Physical Education
246-AR-7	Healthy School Environment
249	Bullying/Cyberbullying
800-AR-1	Records Retention Schedule

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 November 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:	_____	SECOND:	_____	ADJOURNMENT TIME: _____
----------------	-------	----------------	-------	----------------------------

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