AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**December 9, 2015**

The Reorganization Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS**: Karen Birdsall, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, James Gagich, Tina Lengauer, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris

**ADMINISTRATION**: Cyril Walther, Superintendent

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS Principal

Zachary Zebrasky, Elementary Principal

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

**A. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

##### Roll Call

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations/Recognitions** - None

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

**Visitor’s Request to Speak on Agenda Items** - None

**B. REORGANIZATION**

**1. NOMINATIONS FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT**

Moved by Mr. Muhr to nominate Corey McConn as Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization.

Moved by Mr. McConn to nominate Leslie Cunningham as Temporary President for the purpose of reorganization.

No other nominations were made for Temporary President.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Newman, to close the nominations for Temporary President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**B. REORGANIZATION - Continued**

Roll call by voice vote for Temporary President:

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Dr. Lengauer and Mr. Muhr voted for Mr. McConn by voice vote. Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Mr. McConn, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris voted for Ms. Cunningham by voice vote. Majority vote for Ms. Cunningham as Temporary Board President, motion carried 5-4.

Ms. Cunningham takes the chair as Temporary President.

**The Oath of Office was administered to Karen Birdsall, Jeffrey Devenney, James Gagich, Tina Lengauer, and Alex Paris.**

1. **NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD PRESIDENT**

Moved by Mr. McConn to nominate Mr. Jeffrey Devenney as Board President.

No other nominations were made for Board President.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Newman, to close the nominations for Board President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Newman, to appoint Jeffrey Devenney as Board President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Jeffrey Devenney takes over the chair as Board President.

1. **NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT**

Moved by Mr. McConn to nominate Leslie Cunningham as Board Vice-President.

No other nominations were made for Board Vice-President.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to close the nominations for Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to appoint Leslie Cunningham as Board Vice-President.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**B. REORGANIZATION - Continued**

1. **BOARD TREASURER**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Jennifer Newman as Board Treasurer, effective December 10, 2015 – June 30, 2016, according to PA School Code Section 404, setting bond at $50,000.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**5. DISTRICT SOLICITOR**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Barbara Graham, Law Offices of Peacock, Keller & Ecker, LLP, to continue as the District’s Solicitor for the 2016 year, per attached proposal letter dated November 18, 2015.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**6. BOARD MEETINGS**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve a tentative list of the 2016 meeting dates with meeting times beginning at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are regular meetings. The committee meetings will be non-voting and meet as needed and advertised. (Attachment)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**7. FACSIMILE SIGNATURES**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve permission for application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to use facsimile signatures for the following bank accounts:

Cafeteria Fund Checks: President and Secretary

General Fund Checks: President, Treasurer and Secretary

Payroll Fund Checks: Treasurer and Secretary

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**8. AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENTS**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Officers of the Board to be authorized to draw orders for payrolls and for payments of bonds, interest, utilities and other pertinent bills as they come due.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**9. BOARD COMMITTEES**

The Board President asked the board members which committees they would like to serve on. Committees are to be evenly distributed.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Board Committee List for the 2016 year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**B. REORGANIZATION - Continued**

**10. Joint Operating Committee - WACTC**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to elect Leslie Cunningham to fulfill the remaining one-year term created by the vacancy of Donald Underwood, to the Joint Operating Committee of WACTC.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary

AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**December 9, 2015**

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, December 9, 2015. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m., following the Reorganization Meeting. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel and contracts. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS**: Karen Birdsall, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, James Gagich, Tina Lengauer, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris

**ADMINISTRATION**: Cyril Walther, Superintendent

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS Principal

Zachary Zebrasky, Elementary Principal

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

**A. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

##### Roll Call

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations/Recognitions** - None

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 November 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the November 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**2. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE *ATTACHMENT “B”***

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2015 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the November and December 2015 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**3. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REPORTS *ATTACHMENT “C”***

**4. SOLICITOR’S REPORT *ATTACHMENT “D”***

**5. BOARD INSURANCE REPORT *ATTACHMENT “E”***

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**a. Joelle Cooper – Assistant 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Volleyball Coach**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Joelle Cooper as the Assistant 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Volleyball Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Shane Tonkavitch – Assistant Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Shane Tonkavitch as the Assistant Varsity Boys’ Basketball Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**c. Athletic Inventory Control**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Zachary Zebrasky’s request to dispose of old girls’ basketball warm-ups.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Use of School Facilities**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the following Use of School Facilities:

NAME: Avella AEC – Color Run

PURPOSE: Fundraiser

PLACE: Football Field, Concession Stand, Elementary Building

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Inventory Control**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Greg Wargo, Network Administrator’s request to dispose of items listed in Attachment B&G “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. Walsh Media, LLC**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Agreement between Avella Area School District and Walsh Media, LLC, effective December 9, 2015 – 2018, per Attachment Curriculum “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Holocaust Museum Field Trip**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Mrs. Frank’s Sophomore English Class and Mrs. Worst’s American History Class to attend the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC on February 16, 2016. The bus will depart at 5:30 a.m. and return approximately 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. (Invitation will be extended to additional AP classes if there are vacant seats.)

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**c. The following events are scheduled on the 2015 school calendar:**

**12/16/15 @ 7:00 p.m. JSHS Christmas Concert – JSHS Gym**

**12/17/15 @ 7:00 p.m. Elementary Christmas Concert – JSHS Gym**

**12/24/15 – 1/3/16 No School - Christmas Break**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Adoption of Resolution – Act 1**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the adoption of the Resolution, pursuant to Section 311(d)(1), indicating that the District will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index, per Attachment Finance “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. McLean Architects – Change Orders**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve McLean Architects’ request for change order, dated November 16, 2015, per Attachment Finance “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**c. Premier Power Solutions**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the extension of the current electricity agreement between Avella Area School District and Premier Power Solutions, through the IU Energy Consortium, beginning July 2017, per Attachment Finance “C”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**d. Advertisement for Bid**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve McLean Architect to advertise for bid of improvements for Avella Area School District, Phase II, Project # MA 1504, per Attachment Finance “D”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – No Report**

**7. POLICIES – No Report**

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a. Safety Committee meeting scheduled January 7, 2016 at 7:45 a.m.**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report**

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report**

**RECESS:** The Board of Directors recessed the Regular Board Meeting of Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., and to enter into an Executive Session to discuss personnel and contracts.

**RECONVENED:** The Reconvened Regular Board Meeting of the Avella Area School District Board of Education was held in the Avella Jr. Sr. High School Library on Monday, December 14, 2015. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:53 p.m. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS**: Karen Birdsall, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, James Gagich, Tina Lengauer, Corey McConn, Jennifer Newman

Absent: Michael Muhr, Alex Paris

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Student Expulsion**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to permanently expel Student “A” from the Avella Area School District, with the right to apply for readmission on or after December 14, 2016, subject to the conditions identified on the record at the student discipline hearing, to be further listed in an Adjudication to be prepared by the Solicitor and provided to the Parent.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, and Ms. Newman said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Birdsall, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Gagich, Dr. Lengauer, Mr. McConn, and Ms. Newman said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary