AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**March 21, 2012**

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, March 21, 2012. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. 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**: James Cassidy, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Kevin Geresti, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris, Donald Underwood

**ADMINISTRATION**: Dr. Janell Logue-Belden, Superintendent

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Timothy Beck, Jr. Sr. High School Principal

Joel Kirsch, Elementary Principal

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

17 Visitors

#### A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. The following students were recognized as the March Students of the Month:

Joshua Graham – Senior

Summer Miller – Senior

Paige Allen – 6th Grade

Madison Dubich – 6th Grade

**REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING**

1. Mary Burns, 115 Rea Road, Avella, Pennsylvania, requested to speak regarding the high school fire drill procedures.

2. James Geresti, Avella Fireman, reported that Avella Fire Department members observed the fire drills and all procedures were completed in a timely manner, with no issues or concerns.

**VISITORS REQUEST TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEM - None**

**GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES *ATTACHMENT “A”***

Board Members were furnished copies of Board Minutes for the February 2012 Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve the February 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of Accounts Payable for the February and March 2012 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2012 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood 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. Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Carmen Liggett as the Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach for the 2012-13 school year (summer/football and basketball/wrestling seasons), per AEA Contract.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Boys’ Basketball Coaches – MOU**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Boys’ Basketball Coaches for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years, prepared by the solicitor.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**c.** The Board requested the JSHS Principal to direct the Athletic Director to have all Memorandums of Understanding approved before the athletic season begins.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE - Continued**

**d. Assistant Football Coaches**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve a posting (advertisement, if necessary) for Assistant Varsity Football Coaches, if Ryan Cecchini, Head Varsity Football Coach, does not provide the names within three weeks.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Use of School Facilities**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following Use of School Facilities:

NAME: Cross Creek III Election Board

PURPOSE: 2012 Primary Election

PLACE: High School Health Room

DATES: April 24, 2012 (6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

April 23, 2012 (Setup)

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b.** Brian Smitsky, Maintenance Supervisor, provided a Prioritized Maintenance List for the 2011-12 school year for the board to review.

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. Wheeling Jesuit University – Challenger Learning Center**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the 7th grade class to attend “Return to the Moon” at Wheeling Jesuit University on May 4, 2012. The University is providing $1,200 for simulation and the bus will be paid from the 7th grade activity fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. W&J College Education Exchange**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Washington and Jefferson College’s proposal for the Avella Area School District to participate in the Benedum Grant, per Attachment Curriculum “A”.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Continued**

**c. Yearbook Fundraiser**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a Yearbook Fundraiser to sell outdated yearbooks (1994 to present) to alumni school members

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**d. Eighth-Grade Trip**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Eighth-Grade Trip to Pittsburgh, tentative date is May 15, 2012, per Attachment Curriculum “B”.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Hickory Telephone Company**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve the Application for Service Contract with Hickory Telephone Company, effective July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, per Attachment Finance “A”.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Western Area Career & Technology Center**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the 2012-2013 Western Area Career & Technology Center’s proposed budget totaling $6,259,977, per letter dated February 23, 2012 from Joseph Iannetti, Ph.D., Director of Vocational Education. Attachment Finance “B”

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**c. Special Counsel – Timothy R. Berggren**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to ratify the action of the District Superintendent, following consultation with the Board President, in retaining the services of Timothy R. Berggren, Esquire, as special counsel to the School District on a specific personnel matter, retroactive to January 23, 2012.

**d.** The Board requested the amount of $2,000 be reinstated in the budget for the Avella Area Community Library.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – No Report**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Volunteers**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following to the 2011-12 Volunteer List:

Amanda Greene - Elementary School. All clearances are on file

Robin Pompe – Dance Team - All clearances are on file

Janice Miller – Dance Team – All clearances are on file

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Mary Ann Gordon, Cafeteria Worker – Leave of Absence**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Mary Ann Gordon’s request for a leave of absence without pay, effective February 24, 2012.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**c. Extended Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Amanda Scott as an Extended Day-to-Day Substitute Teacher while Mrs. Ripley is on FMLA, effective March 22, 2012.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**d. Music Teacher**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Nicholas Deutsch as a Music Teacher/Band Director, full time temporary professional employee, per AEA Contract, per receipt of Child Abuse Clearance (Rec’d 3/26/12).

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**e. 2011-2012 Substitute Teacher List**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Cinnamon Kramer to the 2011-12 Substitute Teacher List. All clearances are on file.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Continued**

**f. Nathan Bell – Chatham University Student Teacher**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve Nathan Bell, Chatham University Student, to complete his student teaching in the JSHS English Department from August 27, 2012 to December 7, 2012. All clearances are on file.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**g. Extended School Year Program Coordinator - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve a posting for the Extended School Year Program Coordinator, effective Summer 2012.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**h. Extended School Year Program Teachers - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve a posting for two Extended School Year Program Teachers, effective Summer 2012, 19 – One (1) Hour Sessions.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**i. Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve a posting for the Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective Summer 2012.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**j. Camp Laugh-A-Lot Program Special Education Aide - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve a posting for a Special Education Aide for the Camp Laugh-A-Lot Program, effective Summer 2012.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. POLICIES**

**a.** **Student Records Policies – Attachment from 2/15/12 Agenda**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adopt the following policies, effective immediately:

* 216.1 Policy Governing the Collection, Classification, Maintenance and Disclosure of Student Records (Regular Education Records)
* 216.2 Policy Governing the Collection, Classification, Maintenance and Disclosure of Student Records (Special Education Records)

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** The Safety Committee meeting is scheduled April 12, 2012 at 7:45 a.m.

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**a.** Dr. Logue-Belden reported all E-Rate Forms have been submitted.

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**a. 2011-12 Bus/Van Driver List**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to add the following to the 2011-12 Bus/Van Driver List, pending receipt of all driving documentation:

* Edwin Strychalski
* Adelina Waters

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**b. Transportation Agreement**

Moved by Mr. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve the School Transportation Agreement between James and Tammy Moore and Avella Area School District, per Attachment Transportation “A”.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. McConn called an Executive Session at 8:25 p.m., with no further voting to occur.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary