AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**April 15, 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, April 15, 2015. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 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**: Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris, Donald Underwood

Absent: James Cassidy, Kevin Geresti

**ADMINISTRATION**: Cyril Walther, Acting Superintendent/JSHS Principal

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Bobbi-Ann Barnes, Elementary Principal

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Barbara Graham, District Solicitor

12 Visitors

**A. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

##### Roll Call

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations/Recognitions**

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

Lyndon Herschell– 6th Grade Student

Jordan Chappel – 6th Grade Student

Brianne Morgan – Senior

Keith Painter - Senior

**2. April Teacher Spotlight:**

Heather Maidment - Elementary Teacher

Evy Breitigan - JSHS Teacher

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 March 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the March 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2015 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Accounts Payable for the March and April 2015 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**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. Athletic Inventory**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Jason Fogg, Athletic Director’s request, to discard 4 old batting helmets and 1 broken helmet bag.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**b. AmeriCheer Camp**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Varsity Cheerleaders to attend AmeriCheer camp in Columbus, Ohio from July 24-26, 2015, per Attachment Athletic “A” and transportation waivers signed by parents.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**c. Football Uniforms**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the purchase of Varsity Football Uniforms (40 sets of blue/40 sets of white) from BSN Sports, in the amount of $11,280.00, per Attachment Athletic “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**d. Rachel Adams, Assistant Softball Coach**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Rachel Adams as the Assistant Softball Coach for the 2014-15 school year, pending receipt of final clearance.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Use of Facilities**

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

NAME: Avella Eagles Connection

PURPOSE: End of School Picnic

PLACE: High School Field

DATES: May 18, 2015

NAME: Cross Creek Township Election Board

PURPOSE: Voting

PLACE: High School

DATES: May 19, 2015

NAME: Avella Little League Cheerleaders

PURPOSE: Cheerleading Signup Meeting

PLACE: Elementary School

DATES: May 14 & 19, 2015

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. NHS Human Services**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the Letter of Collaborative Agreement between Avella Area School District and NHS Human Services (no cost to the District), per Attachment Curriculum “A”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. **Finance Committee Meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the following dates:**

April 15, 2015

May 6, 2015

June 3, 2015

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**a. Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS Principal**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Paris, to appoint Sheryl Wright-Brown as a School Principal, effective July 1, 2015, at an annual salary of $72,000. The Principal’s assignment shall be the Junior Senior High School. The terms and conditions of her employment shall be pursuant to the Administrative Compensation Plan.

In addition, Mrs. Wright-Brown shall be permitted to carry all sick leave days accrued from her prior position as JSHS Social Studies Teacher with the Avella Area School District into the administrative position.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**b. Zachary Zebrasky, Elementary Principal**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to appoint Zachary Zebrasky as a School Principal, effective July 1, 2015, at an annual salary of $62,500. The Principal’s assignment shall be the Elementary School. The terms and conditions of his employment shall be pursuant to the Administrative Compensation Plan.

In addition, Mr. Zebrasky shall be permitted to carry all sick leave days accrued from his prior position as JSHS Social Studies/Science Teacher with the Avella Area School District into the administrative position.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**c. Bobbi-Ann Barnes, Elementary Principal - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Paris, to amend Bobbie-Ann Barnes, Elementary Principal’s effective resignation date to May 22, 2015.

Mr. McConn asked Mrs. Barnes if she would reconsider her effective date to be May 29, 2015 so she can coordinate and participate in the students’ end of the school year activities. Mrs. Barnes was in agreement if Deer Lakes School Board would agree.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to table the above motion until the May 20, 2015 meeting.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Professional Staff Posting**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for the following positions:

* JSHS Mathematics Teacher (Due to Mr. Seibert’s retirement)
* 1 JSHS Social Studies/Science Teacher
* 1 JSHS Dual Certification with primary cert being Social Studies

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**b. Cheryl Rush, Extended School Year Teacher**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve Cheryl Rush as the Extended School Year Program Teacher, effective Summer 2015, per AEA Contract.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**c. Extended School Year Teacher, 19 One Hour Sessions**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve Colleen Jastrzebski as the Extended School Year Program Teacher, 19 – One (1) Hour Sessions, effective Summer 2015, per AEA Contract.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**d. Extended School Year Special Education Aides**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve Linda Gagliani, Jennifer Markle and Tonya Yuhas as the Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective Summer 2015.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**e. Camp Laugh-a-Lot Program/Laboratory Special Education Aide**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve Joshua Graham as the Camp Laugh-a-Lot/Laboratory Special Education Aide, effective Summer 2015.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**f. Alyssa Lee, Color Guard Instructor - Resignation**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to accept the resignation of Alyssa Lee, Color Guard Instructor, effective February 4, 2015.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**g. Color Guard Instructor - Posting**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the posting (advertisement if necessary) of a Color Guard Instructor for the 2015-16 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**h. Substitute Teacher List**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the following to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2014-15 school year:

Donna Fox

Cindy Patterson

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**i. Katrina Rado, Kindergarten Teacher – Leave of Absence**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve Katrina Rado’s request for a leave of absence (maternity, FMLA and personal) for the 2015-16 school year.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**j. Long Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher - Posting**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Long Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher for the 2015-16 school year, due to Katrina Rado’s request for a leave of absence.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**7. POLICIES**

1. **A first reading was held of the following policies:**

* Discipline of Students with Disabilities Policy #113.1
* Behavior Support #113.2
* School Volunteer Policy #916

1. **Policies Revisions**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the revisions to the following policies, effective April 15, 2015. (First reading was Attachment to March Agenda.)

* Attendance Policy #204
* Substitute Teacher Policy #405

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** **A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled May 7, 2015 at 7:45 a.m.**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report**

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report**

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris, and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary