AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**June 24, 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, June 24, 2015. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Alex Paris, Donald Underwood

Absent: Kevin Geresti, Jennifer Newman

**ADMINISTRATION**: Cyril Walther, Superintendent - Absent

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Sheryl Wright-Brown, JSHS Principal

Zachary Zebrasky, Elementary Principal - Absent

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Rachel Lozosky, Solicitor

2 Visitors

**A. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

##### Roll Call

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations/Recognitions**

1, Mike McCaig of Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC and Chris Brewer of Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, provided information regarding the 2015 construction bond.

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 May 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the May 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, 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 May and June 2015 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the May and June 2015 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, 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 *NONE***

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**a. Jason Fogg, Athletic Director**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve Jason Fogg as Athletic Director for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**b. Zane Zebrasky, Assistant Baseball Coach**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to ratify Zane Zebrasky as an Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2014-15 school year, per Attachment Athletic “A” from Jason Fogg, Athletic Director.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Rachel Adams as the Assistant Softball Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**d. Zach Zebrasky, Resignation of 7th/8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Coach**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to accept Zachary Zebrasky’s resignation as 7th/8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**e. 7th/8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Coach - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a 7th/8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Brian Smitsky, Facilities Manager, reported the progress of the construction projects.**

**b. Use of Facilities**

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

NAME: 7th/8th Grade Basketball – Brownson House

PURPOSE: Practice

PLACE: Elementary Gym

DATES: Summer 2015

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

**c. A Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting is scheduled July 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. 2015-16 School Calendar - Revised**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the following revisions to the School Calendar for the 2015-16 school year. Attachment Curriculum “A”.

* August 27, 2015 – Clerical Day
* August 28, 2015 – In-Service Day
* Sept. 16, 2015 – Elementary Open House
* Sept. 17, 2015 – JSHS Open House

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Continued**

**b. Washington Community Human Services, Inc.**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Letters of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding for Student Assistance Program Services (SAP) services between Avella Area School District and the Washington Community Human Services, Inc., per Attachment Curriculum “B”.

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

**c. The Meadows Psychiatric Center**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Letter of Agreement between Avella Area School District and The Meadows Psychiatric Center for the 2015-16 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “C”.

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

**d. Teaching Assignments**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the tentative teaching assignments for the JSHS and Elementary School for the 2015-16 school term. Attachment Curriculum “D”.

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

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Agreement – Margaret Swanson, CRNP**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Agreement between Avella Area School District and Margaret Swanson, CRNP, to provide Physician Authorization Services for the 2015-16 school year, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

**b. National Honor Society Donation**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a $385 donation to the National Honor Society Children’s Activity Fund to assist in the Chapter Affiliation fee of the National Honor Society.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Continued**

**c. Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the insurance proposal between Avella Area School District and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, effective July 1, 2015, per Attachment Finance “C”.

* Commercial Package, including School Board Liability, in the amount of $40,413
* Commercial Umbrella in the amount of $6,774
* Worker’s Compensation in the amount of $25,493

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

**d. Agreement – Rachel Huey, NCSP**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Agreement between Avella Area School District and Rachel Huey, NCSP, to provide School Psychologist Services for the 2015-16 school year, per Attachment Finance “D”.

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

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

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the 2015-16 Western Area Career & Technology Center’s proposed budget totaling $5,689,172.00, per letter dated May 27, 2015 from Dennis McCarthy, Ph.D., Director of Vocational Education. Attachment Finance “E”

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

**f. McLean Architects – Application and Certification for Payment**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Application and Certificate for Payment to First American Industries, Inc., in the amount of $1,035.00, per Attachment Finance “F”.

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

**g. McLean Architects – Application and Certification for Payment**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Application and Certificate for Payment to Liokareas Construction, in the amount of $38,610.00, per Attachment Finance “G”.

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

**h. McLean Architects – Application and Certification for Payment**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Application and Certificate for Payment to Commercial Appliance Contracts, Inc., in the amount of $9,964.80, per Attachment Finance “H”.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Continued**

**i. McLean Architects – Application and Certification for Payment**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Application and Certificate for Payment to First American Industries, Inc., in the amount of $158,602.50, per Attachment Finance “I”.

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

**j. McLean Architects - Invoice**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve payment of McLean Architects’ invoice in the amount of $8,764.94 for Project MA 1412 - 6, per Attachment Finance “J”.

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

**k. Bond/Loan Financing**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Resolution authorizing the incurring of non-electoral debt by the issuance of general obligation notes in an aggregate principal amount of $7,230,000, per Attachment Finance “K”

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

**l. Avella Volunteer Fire Department Donation**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve a $200 donation to the Avella Volunteer Fire Department as consideration for training our staff members in CPR.

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

**m. 2015-2016 General Fund Budget**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. McConn, to approve the General Fund Budget totaling $10,514,733.00, be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2015-2016, beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, with millage set at 123 mills (0 mill increase) on real estate, $5.00 per capita tax under Section 679; $5.00 per capita tax, and one-half of one percent (1/2%) on all earned income, under Act 511. Attachment Finance “L” to Revised Agenda.

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

**n. Homestead and Farmstead Resolution**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2015-16 school year, per Attachment Finance “B”.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Continued**

**o. McLean Architects – Change Orders**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve McLean Architects’ request for change orders (excluding the modification to door openings in the amount of $27,777.75), per Attachment Finance “O” to Revised Agenda.

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

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**a. Brian Smitsky, Facilities Manager**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Agreement between Brian Smitsky, Facilities Manager, and the Avella Area School District, effective July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018, per Attachment Negotiations “A”.

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

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Rebecca Cecchini, Substitute Nurse**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to ratify Rebecca Cecchini to the Substitute Nurse List for the 2014-15 school year, effective May 1, 2015.

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

**b. Homebound Instructor - Posting**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to ratify a posting for a Homebound Instructor for a 9th Grade Special Education Student.

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

**c. Jason Fogg, Homebound Instructor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to ratify Jason Fogg as a Homebound Instructor for a 9th Grade Special Education Student.

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

**d. Sherrill Ripley - Retirement**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to accept Sherill Ripley’s request for retirement, effective the end of the 2016 – 17 school year.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Continued**

**e. Nicholas Deutsch, Senior Class Sponsor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Nicholas Deutsch as the Senior Class Sponsor for the 2015–16 school year.

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

**f. Kara Ruffalo, Junior Class Sponsor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Kara Ruffalo as the Junior Class Sponsor for the 2015–16 school year.

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

**g. Joelle Yamber, Sophomore Class Sponsor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Joelle Yamber as the Sophomore Class Sponsor for the 2015–16 school year.

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

**h. Freshman Class Sponsor - Posting**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to post for a Freshman Class Sponsor for the 2015-16 school year (Joelle Yamber held position).

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

**i. Lynn Akins, National Honor Society Sponsor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Lynn Akins as the National Honor Society Sponsor for the 2015–16 school year.

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

**j. Jamie Scears, Resignation of SADD Sponsor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to accept Jamie Scears’ resignation as SADD Sponsor, effective immediately.

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

**k. SADD Sponsor Posting**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a posting for a SADD Sponsor for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Continued**

**l. Cheryl Rush, Kindergarten Long Term Substitute Teacher**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Cheryl Rush as a Long Term Substitute Teacher for Kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**m. 2015-16 Volunteer List**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the following to the Volunteer List for the 2015-16 school year. All clearances are on file.

* Melissa Fluharty
* Michael Hixenbaugh
* Sharon Hixenbaugh

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

**7. POLICIES – No Report**

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** **Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled July 2, 2015 at 7:45 a.m.**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report**

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**a. A Transportation Meeting is scheduled July 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary