AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**January 21, 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, January 21, 2015. Mr. Jeffrey Devenney, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting regarding personnel. 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, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris

Absent: Kevin Geresti, Donald Underwood

**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 January Students of the Month:

Nikkia Phipps – 6th Grade Student

Tyler Cerciello – 6th Grade Student

Kennedy Hamilton – Senior

Joshua Yalacki - Senior

2. January Teacher Spotlight:

Lynette Zimmerman - Elementary Teacher

Lesa Scammell - JSHS Teacher

3. Board Members were recognized during the month of January for volunteering their time for the betterment of public education in our community from the staff, students, and Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

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 December 2014 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the December 2014 Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the Accounts Payable for the December 2014 and January 2015 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the December 2014 and January 2015 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, and Mr. Paris 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. Dance Team - Competition**

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Dance Team to attend a competition in Wildwood, New Jersey, from April 30 – May 3, 2015, per Attachment Athletic “A”.

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

**b. Cooperative Agreement – Golf Team**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the Cooperative Agreement between Burgettstown Area School District and Avella Area School District for the purpose of enabling eligible students who are attending Avella Area School District to participate in the Burgettstown Area School District’s Golf Program for the 2015-16 school year. Attachment Athletic “B”.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**c. 2015-16 Fall Sport Coaches**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following coaches for the 2015-16 school year:

7th/8th Girls Basketball

Gilbert Cutruzzula, Head Coach

Mike Drazich, Assistant Coach

Football

Ryan Cecchini, Head Coach

Zach Zebrasky, Assistant Coach

Zane Zebrasky, Assistant Coach

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

**d. Postings – Fall Sport Coaches**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve postings (advertisements if necessary) for the following fall sport coaches for the 2015-16 school year:

* Head Cross Country Coach
* Head Tennis Coach

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

**e. Drew Denham - Boys’ Basketball Volunteer**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Drew Denham as a volunteer for the Boys’ Basketball Program for the 2014-15 school year. All clearances are on file.

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

**f. Dean Simonelli – Wrestling Volunteer**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Dean Simonelli as a volunteer for the Wrestling Program for the 2014-15 school year. All volunteer clearances are on file. (Once FBI clearance is received, Mr. Simonelli will be recommended for approval as the Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach.)

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

**g. Discussion Items:**

Mr. Walther, Acting Superintendent, reported:

* Only 8 students signed up for Track & Field; 2 of the 6 students will most likely participate in another spring sport.
* There is an interest in a 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Softball Team for the 2014-15 school year, with 18 students currently signed up.
* The 7th/8th Grade Football Team currently has 36 students signed up for the 2015-16 school year.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**h. 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Softball Team**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to establish a 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Softball Team for the 2014-15 school year, contingent upon executing a mutually acceptable Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Avella Education Association.

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

**i. Posting - Head 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Softball Coach**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to post (advertise if necessary) for a Head 7th/8th Grade Girls’ Softball Team for the 2014-15 school year.

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

**j. Posting - Head 7th/8th Grade Football Coach**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to post (advertise if necessary) for a Head 7th/8th Grade Football Coach for the 2015-16 school year

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

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Use of School Facilities**

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

NAME: Avella Athletics

PURPOSE: Basketball

PLACE: Elementary Gym

DATES: Jan. 12 – March 6, 2015

NAME: Avella Athletics

PURPOSE: Baseball

PLACE: Elementary Gym/Practice Field/Tennis Courts

DATES: March 2 – July 12, 2015

NAME: Avella Eagles Connection

PURPOSE: 4th, 5th, 6th Grade Dance

PLACE: Elementary Gym/One Classroom

DATES: May 1, 2015

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. Statistics Course - 2015-16 School Year**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to direct the Administration to implement a Statistics course to replace the Trigonometry course for the mathematics curriculum, effective 2015-16 school year.

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

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Invoice - McLean Architects**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the McLean Architects’ invoice in the amount of $21,000 for Project #MA 1412-2, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

**b. Hickory Telephone Company – Application for Service Contract**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Application for Service Contract with Hickory Telephone Company, effective July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, per Attachment Finance “B”.

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

**c. Adoption of Resolution – Act 1**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, 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 “C”.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Devenney called an Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss personnel and contracts. The Board returned to regular session at 8:17 p.m.

Further action taken by the Board:

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**a. Memorandum of Understanding – Grievance #13-14-01**

Motion tabled.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Volunteers for 2014-15 School Year**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following volunteers for the 2014-15 school year. All clearances are on file.

Christine Saunders – Elementary School

Jennifer Scott – Dance Team

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

**b. Homebound Instructor Posting**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to ratify a posting for Homebound Instructor for a 7th grade student.

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

**c. Kristen Jakiel, Homebound Instructor**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Kristen Jakiel as Homebound Instructor for a 7th grade student, effective January 5, 2015.

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

**d. School Police Officer Job Description**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the School Police Officer job description, effective immediately, per Attachment Personnel “A”.

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

**e. Kevin T. Kolson, School Police Officer**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. McConn, to hire Kevin T. Kolson to the position of School Police Officer, effective February 2, 2015, or the date approved by the Common Pleas Court, whichever is earlier, through the end of the 2015-16 school year, pending receipt of mutually agreed upon and signed employment contract and all necessary clearances, at a salary not to exceed $38,000 per year.

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

**7. POLICIES**

**a. A first reading was held of the Surrogate Parents’ Policy – Attachment Policies “A”**

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**7. POLICIES - Continued**

**b. Annual FERPA Notification and Opt Out Form**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Annual FERPA Notification and Opt Out Form, per Attachment Policies “B”.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, Ms. Newman, and Mr. Paris said “aye”. Mr. Cassidy said “nay”. Motion carried 6-1.

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** **Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled February 5, 2015 at 7:45 a.m.**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – No Report**

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Devenney called an Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. regarding personnel without any further voting to occur.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary