AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**March 20, 2013**

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 20, 2013. Mr. Corey McConn, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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**: Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris, Donald Underwood

Absent: James Cassidy, Kevin Geresti

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

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Thomas Graham, JSHS Principal

Joel Kirsch, Elementary Principal

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

23 Visitors

#### A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

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

Julianne Latynski – 6th Grade

Madelyn Walther – 6th Grade

Cassandra Hamilton – 12th Grade (February Student of the Month)

Olivia English - 12th Grade

Joseph DePetro – 12th Grade

**REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING**

1. The wrestling coaches (Jeremy Allen and Jeff Kusich) and the wrestling boosters (George Kusich, Jay Umphrey, and Michelle Gordon) requested to speak regarding the possibility of the wrestling team competing in a tournament in Maryland next season.

2. Scott Grant, Case|Sabatini, District Auditors, presented the Auditor’s Report for the 2011-12 year.

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

**GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS**

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

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

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the February 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 February and March 2013 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Accounts Payable for the February and March 2013 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. Wrestling Tournament - Maryland**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the wrestling coaches and boosters’ request to compete in a tournament in Maryland during the 2013-14 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.

**b. Clara Zatta, Cross Country Coach/Track Coach - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept Clara Zatta’s resignation as Cross Country Coach and Track Coach, effective the end of the 2012-13 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.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE - Continued**

**c. Cross Country Coach/Track Coach - Postings**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to post (advertise if necessary) the positions of Cross Country Coach and Track Coach for the 2013-14 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.

**d. Volunteer – Weight Room**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Jeffrey Kusich as a volunteer in the weight room for the 2012-13 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.

e. Eric Shargots – Volunteer Softball Coach

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve Eric Shargots as a Volunteer Softball Coach for the 2012-13 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.

**f.** A discussion was held regarding the townships of the Avella Area School District contributing money to the athletic program.

**g. Intramural Jr. High Cheerleading Program**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve an Intramural Junior High Cheerleading Program for the 2013-14 school year. The Board approves Tami Samol and Samantha Jacobs as volunteer coaches, pending verification of clearances.

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. Inventory Control**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve disposal of items listed on Attachment B&G “A”.

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

**b.** Mr. McConn, Board President, shared his email response addressing Linda Barnett’s items of concern during the February meeting.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE - Continued**

**c. Use of School Facilities**

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

NAME: Little League WrestlingPURPOSE: Practice for upcoming tournamentsPLACE: High School Team Room

DATES: March 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 2013

NAME: Avella Athletics Girls Softball Fast Pitch

PURPOSE: Pitching/CatcherPLACE: Elementary Gym

DATES: Mondays during month of April 2013

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. Muhr, 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**

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

Moved by Mr. Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to ratify the Application for Service Contract with Hickory Telephone Company, effective July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

**b. Hickory Telephone Company - Agreement**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Agreement with Hickory Telephone Company for updated firmware and software, per Attachment Finance “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**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Continued**

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

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the 2013-2014 Western Area Career & Technology Center’s proposed budget totaling $6,233,351, per letter dated February 28, 2013 from Joseph Iannetti, Ph.D., Director of Vocational Education. Attachment Finance “C”

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

**d. Application and Certification of Payment #2 for Ramp Construction**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Newman, to approve the Application and Certification of Payment #2 for Ramp Construction in the amount of $7,200.00, per Attachment Finance “D”

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

**e. PDE – 3074(a) Form**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the PDE-3074(a) Form for roof repair/replacement project from McLean Architects, LLC, per Attachment Finance “E”.

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

**f. Roof Repair/Replacement Project Advertisement**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve McLean Architects, LLC, to advertise the roof repair/replacement project.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, 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 February 22, 2013.

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

**h.** The Avella Foundation Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet before the April 17, 2013 board meeting.

**i.** Non-Voting Committee of the Whole Meetings are scheduled April 10, April 24, May 8, and June 5, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the 2013-14 budget.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**a.** A Negotiations Committee Meeting is scheduled March 25, 2013 at 6:15 p.m.

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Chain of Command**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Avella Area School District Chain of Command Chart, effective immediately, per Attachment Personnel “A”.

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

**b. Substitute Teacher List**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the following to the 2012-13 Substitute Teacher List. All clearances are on file.

1. Kayla Ferguson

2. Michael Holloway, Jr. – Intermediate Unit Substitute Program

3. Sharon Hixenbaugh

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 Program Coordinator - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve a posting for two (2) Extended School Year Program Coordinators, effective Summer 2013.

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 Program Teachers - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve a posting for two Extended School Year Program Teachers, effective Summer 2013, 19 – One (1) Hour Sessions.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve a posting for the Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective Summer 2013.

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 - Continued**

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

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve a posting for a Special Education Aide for the Camp Laugh-A-Lot Program, effective Summer 2013.

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

**g. Ronald Romano – Change of Retirement Date**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Ronald Romano’s request to change his retirement date effective July 23, 2013, per Personnel Attachment “B”. Mr. Romano’s retirement incentives will not be forfeited from his original retirement date.

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

**h. Volunteer List**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the following to the 2012-13 Volunteer List. All clearances are on file.

1. Penny Keller – Marching Band

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**

**a. Home Education Programs Policy #137**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to revise the Home Education Programs Policy #137, per the Solicitor’s recommendation, effective immediately, on Attachment Policies “A”.

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

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** A Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled April 11, 2013 at 7:45 a.m.

**b.** Dr. Logue-Belden, Superintendent, reported that the Pennsylvania State Police notified the Washington County School Districts that they will be visiting all schools more frequently.

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**a. Implementation of the Technology Initiative**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve assigning $300,000 of the unassigned Fund balance for the implementation of the technology initiative and related technology costs for the next 4 school years.

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**

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**a.** A letter from CH&D Enterprises, Inc. regarding bridge construction was reviewed by the Board.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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