AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**February 18, 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, February 18, 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**: James Cassidy, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Kevin Geresti, Corey McConn, Michael Muhr, Alex Paris

Absent: Jennifer Newman, 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

13 Visitors

**A. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

##### Roll Call

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentations/Recognitions**

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

Cassie Maidment – 6th Grade Student

Blaze Allen – 6th Grade Student

Rachel Bedillion – Senior

Santino Paris - Senior

2. February Teacher Spotlight:

Jody Morgan - Elementary Teacher

Joseph Seibert - JSHS Teacher

Request to Speak at the Board Meeting - None

1. Edward Gardner and Scott Grant, Case|Sabatini, District Auditors, presented the Auditor’s Report for the 2013-14 year.

**Visitor’s Request to Speak on Agenda Items**

1. Jack Conn, 242 Fallen Timber Road, Avella, PA, requested to speak regarding the need of a substitute school nurse.

**GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS**

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the January 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Mr. Muhr, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the January 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, 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 January and February 2015 General Fund.

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Accounts Payable for the January and February 2015 General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. Geresti, Mr. McConn, Mr. Muhr, 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. Athletic Trainer – California University of Pennsylvania**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the Article of Agreement for Graduate Athletic Training Internships with California University of Pennsylvania for the 2015-16 school year, and to include the same in the 2015-2016 Athletic Budget, at a cost of $16,000. Attachment Athletic “A”

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

**b. Donation of Old 7th/8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Uniforms**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve donating the old 7th/8th grade boys’ basketball uniforms to the Elementary School’s basketball program.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE - Continued**

**c. Dean Simonelli – Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Dean Simonelli as the Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach for the 2014-15 school year, per AEA Contract. All clearances are on file.

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

**d. Aaron Margaria – Wrestling Volunteer**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Aaron Margaria as a wrestling coach volunteer for the 2014-15 school year. All clearances are on file.

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

**e. 7th/8th Grade Softball Coaches - MOU**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Area Education Association to create positions of a Head and Assistant 7th/8th Grade Softball Coach for the 2014-15 school year, per Attachment Athletic “B” to Revised Agenda.

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

**f. 7th/8th Grade Softball Coaches**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following as the 7th/8th Grade Softball Coaches for the 2014-15 school year.

David Niekum, Head Coach

Jamie Scears, Assistant Coach

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

**g. Coaches – 2015-16 School Year**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Geresti, to approve the following coaches for the 2015-16 school year.

Cheerleading

Susan Kubacka, Head Coach

Amy Rush, Assistant Coach

Cross Country

Sarah Bogan, Head Cross Country Coach

7th/8th Grade Football

J.T. Mylan, Head Coach

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE - Continued**

**h. Head Volleyball Coach - Posting**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a Head Volleyball Coach for the 2015-16 school year.

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

**i. Due to a lack of student interest in Track and Field, a Cooperative Agreement will not be pursued with Burgettstown School District.**

**j. A discussion was held regarding distributing the varsity football uniforms and helmets to the 7th/8th grade football team.**

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Use of Facilities**

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

NAME: Yearbook

PURPOSE: Alumni Weekend

PLACE: High School Gym

DATES: March 28, 2015

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

**b. McLean Architects - Advertisement**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve McLean Architects to advertise for the boiler replacement project, and the restroom, locker room, and elementary kitchen projects.

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

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. 2015-16 School Calendar**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Avella Area School District 2015-16 School Calendar, per Attachment Curriculum “A”.

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

**b. JSHS Courses - 2015-16 School Year**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to direct the Administration to implement the following JSHS Courses for the 2015-16 school year, per Attachment Curriculum “B”.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**a. Invoice - McLean Architects**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the McLean Architects’ invoice in the amount of $31,500 for Project #MA 1412-3, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

**b. Resolution – Intermediate Unit I**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the 2015-16 Intermediate Unit I General Operational Budget. Section 914-A(6)(1) Act 102 of 1970, requires that the Intermediate Unit Budget be approved by at least a majority of the school districts comprising the Intermediate Unit. Attachment Finance “B”

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

**c. Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors Nominating Resolution, per Attachment Finance “C” to Revised Agenda, nominating Donald Underwood to stand for election or appointment to the Intermediate Unit I Board of Directors.

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

**d. The Caring Mission**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the Independent Contract Agreement between the Avella Area School District and Caring Mission Home Care, L.P., for the provision of the services of an appropriately licensed registered nurse to provide substitute nursing services to the District on an as needed basis, when a certified school nurse if not available, for the 2014-15 school year, per Attachment Finance “D” to Revised Agenda.

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

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the Avella Area School District and the Avella Area Education Support Professionals, to resolve Grievance #13-14-01.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Extended School Year Program Teacher - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Cassidy, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for an Extended School Year Program Teacher for the JSHS, effective Summer 2015.

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

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

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for the Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides for the JSHS, effective Summer 2015.

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

**c. Kerri Bauer, JSHS Guidance Counselor - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to accept the resignation of Kerri Bauer, JSHS Guidance Counselor, effective March 5, 2015.

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

**d. Alex Nikolopoulos, JSHS Guidance Counselor Long Term Sub**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve Alex Nikolopoulos as a Long Term Substitute for the JSHS Guidance Counselor position, effective March 2, 2015.

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

**e. JSHS Guidance Counselor - Posting**

Moved by Mr. McConn, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve a posting (advertisement if necessary) for a JSHS Guidance Counselor.

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

**7. POLICIES**

1. **Surrogate Parents’ Policy**

Moved by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Muhr, to approve the Surrogate Parents’ Policy, effective February 18, 2015. (First reading was held at the January board meeting.)

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

**b. A discussion was held regarding increasing the substitute nurse pay to $125 per day. A first reading of the policy revision will be held in March.**

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** **Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled March 5, 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 Mr. McConn, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary