AVELLA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1000 AVELLA ROAD

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**June 18, 2014**

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 18, 2014. 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 and negotiations. Debra Bentz, Board Secretary, held roll call and the following board members were present:

**BOARD MEMBERS**: James Cassidy, Leslie Cunningham, Jeffrey Devenney, Corey McConn, Jennifer Newman, Alex Paris, Donald Underwood

Absent: Kevin Geresti, Michael Muhr

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

Laura Shola, Business Manager

Cyril Walther, JSHS Principal

Debra L. Bentz, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**: Rachel Lozosky, District Solicitor

9 Visitors

#### A. GENERAL PROCEDURES

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

1. The following student was recognized as the May Student of the Month:

Julianne Rush – 6th Grade Student

**REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE BOARD MEETING - None**

**VISITORS REQUEST TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEM**

1. Jack Conn, 242 Fallen Timber Road, Avella, Pennsylvania, requested to speak regarding the Elementary secretary position.

**GENERAL PROCEDURE ITEMS**

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

Board Members were furnished copies of the May Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Mr. McConn, 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 *No Report***

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**a. Charles McGinnis, Head Varsity Tennis Coach - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to accept the resignation of Charles McGinnis as Head Varsity Tennis Coach, effective last date of 2013-14 school year.

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

**b. Head Varsity Tennis Coach - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to ratify a posting for Head Varsity Tennis Coach for the 2014-15 school year.

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

**c. 2014-15 Spring Sport Coaches**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following coaches for the 2014-15 school year.

**Baseball**

Jason Fogg – Head Baseball Coach

James Morris – Assistant Baseball Coach

James Matalik – Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

**c. 2014-15 Spring Sport Coaches - Continued**

**Softball**

Tammy West – Head Softball Coach

**Track**

Jessica Davis – Head Track Coach

Joelle Yamber – Assistant Track Coach

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

**d. Jason Fogg, 2014-15 Athletic Director**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve Jason Fogg as Athletic Director for the 2014-15 school year.

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

**e. Athletic Code of Conduct**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the following revisions to the Athletic Code of Conduct.

**Overnight Athletic Event Meal Reimbursement**

When a student athlete attends an athletic event that requires an overnight stay, the District will provide a meal allowance of $25 per day.  Receipts must be turned into the District within one week of the athletic event.  The head coach is responsible for collecting all athletes’ receipts.  No cash advances prior to the events will be awarded.  If at such events receipts will not be available to show proof of purchase, the athlete will be responsible for purchasing his/her own meals, or upon request the District will provide a bagged lunch for the athletes.  The District will not provide meals to athletes for events not requiring an overnight stay.

**Pick up/Drop off times** (this item will be under the miscellaneous section of the code so it won’t need a title)

All parents/guardians are required to drop off and pick up his/her student athlete(s) in a timely manner to/from all practices and games.  Violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action.

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

**f. Cross Country Team Meets**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the Cross Country Team to hold their home meets at Cross Creek Park on a one year trial basis.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**2. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**a. Inventory Control**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Newman, to approve the disposal of items listed on Attachment B&G “A” and the Elementary Trophies Reading Series.

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

**b. Use of Facilities**

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

NAME: Avella Little League Cheerleading

PURPOSE: Cheerleading Camp

PLACE: High School Cafeteria/Elementary Gym

DATES: July 7-24, 2014

NAME: Avella Little League Cheerleading

PURPOSE: Cheerleading Practice

PLACE: Elementary Gym

DATES: Tuesdays and Thursdays in August & September 2014

NAME: Avella Little League Cheerleading

PURPOSE: Cheerleading Practice

PLACE: High School Cafeteria

DATES: Mondays and Wednesdays in August & September 2014

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

**c. Rhodes Carpet and Installation**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Newman, to approve the estimate for band room flooring from Rhodes Carpet and Installation in the amount of $12,612.32, per attachment B&G “B”, to be paid out of Capital Projects Fund.

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

**d.** A project list was reviewed from the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on June 12, 2014.

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**a. Teaching Assignments**

Moved by Mr. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the tentative teaching assignments for the JSHS and Elementary School for the 2014-15 school term. Attachment Curriculum “A”.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**3. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

**b. My College Options**

Moved by Mr. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Authorization Form for My College Options, per Attachment Curriculum “B”.

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

**c. Grading Scale**

Moved by Mr. Paris, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the revised Grading Scale, per attachment.

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

**d. The following items were discussed:**

* **Grading Scale**
* **Keystone Courses for non-proficient students**
* **Literature – move 11th to 10th grade**
* **Spanish**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

Moved by Mr. Devenney, seconded by Mr. Underwood, to approve the Agreement between Avella Area School District and Margaret Swanson, CRNP, to provide Physician Authorization Services for the 2014-15 school year, per Attachment Finance “A”.

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

**b. Homestead and Farmstead Resolution**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to adopt the Resolution authorizing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Real Estate Tax Assessment Reductions for the 2014-15 school year, per Attachment Finance “B”.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the insurance proposal between Avella Area School District and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, effective July 1, 2014, per Attachment Finance “C”.

* Commercial Package, including School Board Liability, in the amount of $37,451
* Commercial Umbrella in the amount of $6,517
* Worker’s Compensation in the amount of $25,806

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**4. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**d. Agreement – Rachel Huey, NCSP**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Devenney, to approve the Agreement between Avella Area School District and Rachel Huey, NCSP, to provide School Psychologist Services for the 2014-15 school year, per Attachment Finance “D”.

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

**e. 2014-2015 General Fund Budget**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Newman, to approve the General Fund Budget totaling $10,430,531.00, be finally adopted for the fiscal year 2014-2015, beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, with millage set at 123 mills (2.12 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 “E” to Agenda.

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

**f. A discussion was held regarding the Avella Foundation account. Mr. McConn and Mr. Devenney suggested closing the account and donating the funds to a school organization.**

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**a. Bobbi-Ann Barnes, Elementary School Principal**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to appoint Bobbi-Ann Barnes as a School Principal, tentatively effective August 1, 2014, at an annual salary of $87,500, pro-rated as of her initial start date. The Principal’s assignment shall be the Elementary School. The terms and conditions of her employment shall be pursuant to the Administrative Compensation Plan.

In addition, subject to appropriate verification, she shall be permitted to carry into the School District 100 sick leave days accrued in her prior employment for use, if ever, as a sick leave bank after the days earned by her employment with Avella are exhausted, as follows:

(1) 25 days will first become available for use during school year 2014-2015;

(2) an additional 25 days will first become available for use during each of the next three school years thereafter

To the extent that at any point during her employment with the Avella Area School District, she is entitled to payment for unused sick leave days, that entitlement shall not be extended to any of the above.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**5. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**a. Bobbi-Ann Barnes, Elementary School Principal - Continued**

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

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**a. Olinda Zusinas, Foreign Language Teacher - Resignation**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the Agreement and Release of Olinda Zusinas, effective resignation date May 31, 2014, per Attachment Personnel “A”.

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

**b. Spanish/French Teacher**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to abolish the position of Spanish/French Teacher.

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

**c. Spanish Teacher**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to create, post (advertise if necessary) a Spanish Teacher position.

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

**d. ESY Aides**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Joy Kowcheck and Tonya Yuhas as Extended School Year Program Special Education Aides, effective Summer 2014.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. Devenney, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Mr. McConn abstained. Motion carried 6-0-1.

**e. Second Grade Teaching Position - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to ratify a posting for a Second Grade Teacher due to Deborah Knox’s retirement.

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

**f. Transfer of Elementary Positions**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the following transfer of assignments in Elementary positions:

Jody Morgan from 1st Grade to 2nd Grade

Dana Gatewood from 3rd Grade to 1st Grade

Dan Davidson from 6th Grade to 3rd Grade

Kristina Kocher from 5th Grade to 6th Grade

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**g. Fifth Grade Elementary Teaching Position - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to ratify a posting for a full time Fifth Grade Elementary Teacher.

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

**h. 7th/8th Grade Class Advisor**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the resignation of Clara Zatta and Joseph Seibert as 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsors, effective last day of the 2013-14 school year.

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

**i. 7th/8th Grade Class Advisor - Posting**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to ratify a posting for 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor for the 2014-15 school year.

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

**j. Kristin Jakiel, 7th/8th Grade Class Advisor**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Kristin Jakiel as 7th/8th Grade Class Sponsor for the 2014-15 school year.

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

**k. Zachary Zebrasky, Junior Class Advisor**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Zachary Zebrasky as Junior Class Sponsor for the 2014-15 school year.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve the volunteers listed on Attachment Personnel “B” for the 2014-15 school year. All clearances are on file.

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

**m. James Geresti, Head Security Officer**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to accept the resignation of James Geresti as Head Security Officer, effective July 30, 2014.

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

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

**6. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**n. Meghan Brownlee, Part-Time Elementary Secretary**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Mr. Paris, to approve Meghan Brownlee as part-time Elementary Secretary, 5.5 hours per day/200 days per year, effective August 7, 2014, per PSEA Contract.

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

Mr. Devenney exited the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**7. POLICIES**

**a. Dr. Logue-Belden, Superintendent, reported the attendance percentages have not increased with the revisions made to the Attendance Policy regarding finals.**

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

* **Attendance Policy**
* **Suicide Policy**
* **Audio & Video Taping on District Transportation Policy**

**8. SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**a.** **Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled July 10, 2014 at 7:45 a.m.**

**9. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**a. A Technology Committee Meeting is scheduled July 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.**

**b. Independent Contractor Agreement**

Moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement for Technical Services between Avella Area School District and Mr. Carl Robert Hage, to work as needed, at the rate of $22.50 per hour, per Attachment Technology “A”.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. McConn, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

**10. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – No Report**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. McConn called an Executive Session at 7:45 regarding personnel, with no further voting to occur.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, moved by Mr. Underwood, seconded by Ms. Newman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Cassidy, Ms. Cunningham, Mr. McConn, Ms. Newman, Mr. Paris and Mr. Underwood said “aye”. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Debra L. Bentz

Board Secretary