

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION Seneca Valley Senior High School Auditorium - 7 p.m.

Minutes

February 5, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Drew Rudoff, third grader at Ehrman Crest Elementary School, continued the board initiative, “I Led the Pledge” by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. **Roll Call** – by Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Nick Brower, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Fred Peterson, Mr. Jeff Widdowson and Ms. Kari Zimmer.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Seneca Valley has earned the College Board Advanced Placement (AP®) Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls’ access in AP computer science courses. More than 1,100 institutions achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science exam takers meeting or exceeding that of the school’s female population during the 2022-23 school year. In 2023, Seneca Valley was one of 834 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles (CSP).
 2. The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank recently announced the results of the third annual WPIAL & Pittsburgh City League Food & Fund Drive, with six schools earning Community Champion titles for their efforts, including Seneca Valley. The District was recognized in the 6A category and is proud of being a back-to-back champion in this program. The third annual food and fund drive raised over 65,000 meals that benefits 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania through a network of more than 1,000 agencies, partners and programs.

3. The Seneca Valley Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently competed in the Regional Leadership Conference at Robert Morris University, which included nine Seneca Valley students winning their events and qualifying for states. Future Business Leaders of America helps students develop leadership abilities and prepare for careers in business-related occupations. The Pennsylvania FBLA State Leadership Conference will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 8-10, where nearly 5,500 PA FBLA members and advisers will be in attendance. Seneca Valley’s FBLA advisers are Seneca Valley High School Business teachers Ms. Maria Brooks, Ms. Erin Schollaert and Ms. Kelly Skwortz.

B. **Dates to Remember** - Ms. Linda Andreassi announced the following dates to remember:

February	National Black History Month
February 5-9	National School Counseling Week
February 9	All-School Musical Ticket Sales Open - Tickets for SV Something Rotten! in Harmony from ShowClix (https://www.showclix.com/event/sv-something-rotten)
February 12	School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., SHS Auditorium
February 14	Ash Wednesday & Valentine’s Day
February 16	Inclement Weather Makeup Day for January 16 closure – students and staff will be in session
February 19	Presidents’ Day – Staff-In Service Day – No School for Students
February 29, March 1-3	All-School Musical, “Something Rotten”
March 1	End of Second Trimester for Grades K-6

C. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Proposed Budget** – Dr. Regina Hiler presented the 2024-25 proposed Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) operating budget. Ballots will be given to each school board member to cast their vote at the Feb. 12 School Board Meeting. The ballots are due back to the BCAVTS by March 27.

Dr. Hiler went through the budget page-by-page. The budget shows an increase of \$228,301 from last year with the Seneca Valley School District’s portion rising by \$82,462.

Mr. Jacobs raised a question regarding his time on the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) in that he doesn’t recall having a zero amount over the break point on equipment and asked for clarification. Dr. Hiler shared that they have received more funding than ever before. This school year, the BCAVTS has received an equipment grant in the amount of \$113,000, that they are projected to receive an additional \$100,00 grant and they have applied for another grant in the amount of \$85,000, which has been able to provide the students with their needs.

Mr. Hester thanked Dr. Hiler and shared that when the JOC received the first budget, it was much higher than what was presented this evening. Mr. Hester shared that Dr. Hiler made changes and that there are plans to make a longer-term plan instead of looking year-to-year.

- D. **CannonDesign Presentation for IHS Project** – Mr. Jeremy Dwyer from CannonDesign started by sharing that, prior to this presentation, there have been many District meetings with various groups. They have taken what they learned from these meetings and have broken down the project into three sections: building programs, building concept and the site master plan.

Originally, there was a group called the master planning committee. This group looked at the entire campus and how the IHS project will affect the future and the next phases.

The next step is the building concept phase and they developed three schemes to present based on input from administration and faculty:

- Scheme one, called “Laminate/Light Touch,” would keep most of the existing building, involves heavy renovation in the student ring, with an addition to academic space, new theater and lobby space.
- Scheme two, called “Phase Forward,” would involve building the academic space first, followed by the lobby that would connect to the SHS and finish with building the new theater after selective demolition is completed.
- Scheme three, called “All New,” would completely replace the existing IHS.

Mr. Dwyer highlighted that with each of these schemes, a green space is included. He also shared that a survey was sent out to parents, students and staff. Currently, security is the number one priority and transportation is the number two priority among those respondents. They will continue to monitor the survey results until it closes on Feb. 9. The next step is to solidify which scheme the District wants to go with so that they can begin to move forward with the design.

Mr. DiTullio asked Mr. Dwyer which of the schemes would be the least disruptive to students’ education and activities. Mr. Dwyer responded that scheme two would be the least disruptive because it would be able to be built in phases. Mr. DiTullio also asked what the current square footage is for the IHS currently as compared to the square footage included in schemes one and two. Mr. Dwyer responded that the current IHS has 255,000 square feet, scheme 1 has about 345,000 square feet and scheme 2 has about 326,000 square feet, and both include room for growth.

Mr. Peterson asked which scheme option gives the most usable space. Mr. Dwyer shared that when we look at numbers and plan for growth, the spaces will need to be larger to accommodate additional students. We will need to be creative and collaborate how to best make use of the space.

Mr. Hester asked for confirmation if schemes one or two would eliminate the existing gymnasiums that we have. Mr. Dwyer responded that they would both be kept with either option.

Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Dwyer if he could give more details around the new theater. Mr. Dwyer shared that there will be a theater team that will be coming in on Feb. 20, and will share more about the options for what the new auditorium would look like after that.

Dr. Vitale also addressed Mr. DiTullio’s inquiry on a least disruptive scheme and shared that the ideal situation is what took place at Ehrman Crest with a new site where we built the building and then moved the students in once it was complete.

However, we won’t be able to do that with this project since we will have all of the students to account for and will need to phase in the construction for additions and renovations. She shared that our surveys indicated that safety and security is a top priority and that connecting the IHS to the SHS is also at the top of this list. Another priority is that an auditorium is needed so it can fit two classes, all students in a building, at one time. The performing arts program has grown and we do not have a theater on campus that supports the needs of the music or theater programs. A third priority is having a 6A gymnasium that would support our winter athletics programs.

Dr. Vitale is encouraging the Board to carefully consider each of these options as they are all costly. She reminded them to consider finances while knowing that we will need to also renovate three elementary buildings in the future to meet the districts needs and that we don’t want to overspend on this project and not be able to complete other projects. Additionally, she reminded them that Seneca Valley is one of the largest school districts in the area and that we are continuing to grow.

E. **Agency Reports**

- 1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Fred Peterson reported that they spent a good amount of their meeting discussing the budget that was presented this evening by Dr. Hiler. Additionally, he shared that the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) has given Dr. Hiler permission to redevelop the Commercial Drivers License (CDL) certification program.
- 2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that they have appointed three new members to serve out the terms of the three members who were not reelected to their positions. Additionally, they have approved the I.U. budget, noting that the contributions for the school districts did not change. He also shared that they have looked at realigning the business office that will provide a savings.

F. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the Governor will be presenting his budget on Feb. 6.

G. **Financial Reports**

- 1. Operations
- 2. Senior High Activities
- 3. Intermediate High Activities
- 4. Middle School Activities
- 5. Athletics
- 6. Food Service
- 7. Tax Collections
- 8. Capital Projects Funds

3. ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Public Comment** – Public comment was heard by Mr. Timothy Straight requesting that the Kampas Orthodontics shuttle be allowed on school grounds.
- B. **Personnel** – Approved the following personnel items that were shared in backup and were discussed in the executive session:
 - 1. **Memorandum of Understanding** – Approved the MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **Work Session** – January 8, 2024
- B. **Action Meeting** – January 22, 2024

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

6. GENERAL FUND BILLS

Grand Total: \$3,628,075.53

7. CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS

Grand Total: TBD

8. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Board Policies** -
 - 1. Approve board policy 601, Fiscal Objectives, second and final reading.
 - 2. Approve board policy 603, Budget Preparation, second and final reading.
 - 3. Approve board policy 604, Budget Adoption, second and final reading.
 - 4. Approve board policy 610, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, second and final reading.
 - 5. Approve board policy 613, Cooperative Purchasing, second and final reading.
 - 6. Approve board policy 407, Student Teachers/Interns, second and final reading.
 - 7. Approve board policies, 351 (Administrative Employees), 451 (Professional Employees) and 551 (Classified Employees), Drug and Substance Abuse, second and final reading.
 - 8. Approve board policy 137, Home Education Programs, second and final reading.
 - 9. Approve board policy 137.1, Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students, second and final reading.
 - 10. Approve board policy 137.2, Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Student, second and final reading.
 - 11. Approve board policy 137.3, Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students, second and final reading.
- B. **School Resource Officer Agreement** – Approve the School Resource Officer Agreement with Jackson Township for service at Seneca Valley High School,

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School, and Ryan Gloyer Middle School starting January 1, 2024, through the 2027-28 school year.

Mr. DiTullio shared his appreciation to Ms. Kirk for all her work in updating policies. He also thanked Mr. Young for his work and relationship with Jackson Twp. on the School Resource Officer Agreement.

9. **INSTRUCTION**

- A. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **Audit Acknowledgement** - Acknowledge the local audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.
- C. **COBRA Administration** – Approve a proposal from CM Regent Solutions for COBRA Administration services.
- D. **Group Life/Long Term Disability Insurance** – Approve a proposal from CM Regent Solutions for Group Term Life Insurance and Group Long Term Disability Insurance through Madison National Life Insurance Company Inc.
- E. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) 2024-2025 Budget** – Approve the BCAVTS proposed budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$6,837,331.00.

11. **PERSONNEL** – Approve resignations, appointments, leaves, and retirements.

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the January 22, 2024, public agenda:

- a. Brandie Sberna

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing to come before the board, Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel items.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, President

Ms. Julia Benson, Board Secretary