

Seneca Valley School District



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

Minutes

February 12, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - In loving memory of a Madison Kmonk, a Seneca Valley Senior, and Dr. Kevin Carugati, a Secondary Paraprofessional, who passed away Jan. 31 and Feb. 8, respectively, due to medical conditions. Our thoughts are with their families and friends, including staff and classmates, during this difficult time.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Diondre "Dre" Prugar, third grader at Connoquenessing Valley 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: Mr. Nick Brower, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Fred Peterson, Mr. Jeff Widdowson and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Ms. Leslie Bredl and Mr. Mike Jacobs were not in attendance.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Seven Seneca Valley Vo-Tech students placed at this year's SkillsUSA District 10 Competition, a program offered through the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School. Students throughout the region traveled to the New Castle School of Trades and Lawrence County Career and Technical Center to compete in a variety of competitions in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations. These students will now be advancing to the state conference that will be held in April in Hershey, Pa.
 2. Over 20 Seneca Valley chorus students in grades 10-12 recently took it up an octave as they participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District Chorus event that was held at Mercer High School. The District Chorus festival had student representatives from PMEA District 5 and, based on audition results, 17 of them will now be advancing to the regional level. Students were led by Bobi-Jean Alexander and Claire Barker, secondary choral instructors.

3. Seventeen Seneca Valley Band students were recently selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Band Festival held at Hopewell High School. District Band is a representative festival of all the schools in PMEA District 5, which covers Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. It is the first step in the state-level music festival system, where students have the opportunity to advance to the regional level. Seneca Valley students are led by Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Sara Snyder and Brian Croach, secondary instrumental instructors.

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

February	National Black History Month
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" - Tickets for SV Something Rotten! in Harmony from ShowClix (https://www.showclix.com/event/sv-something-rotten)
March 1	End of Second Trimester for Grades K-6

- C. **All-Star Award Winner, February 2024** - Diane Taylor, Seneca Valley Senior High School Custodian, was recognized and presented the All-Star award by Buildings and Grounds Director, Mr. Randy Miller, and Athletic Director, Ms. Heather Lewis. Mr. Miller shared that Ms. Taylor is reliable, hardworking and plays an integral role in the setup and cleanup of the many activities that are in the SHS. Ms. Lewis shared that Ms. Taylor is an invaluable team member who does everything with a smile. Mr. Miller and Ms. Lewis both recognized that we can't have the many activities we do without Ms. Taylor and her valuable work. Ms. Lewis continued by saying that Ms. Taylor is a wonderful teammate and that she is appreciated and valued, thanking her for all she does.
- D. **AI (Artificial Intelligence)** – Dr. Vitale reported that AI is something that administration has been researching and working on for close to a year. Administration has been looking at products like ChatGPT and has heard from AI expert, Dr. Joseph Yun, a Computer Science Professor with the University of Pittsburgh. At this time, the District is not locking down certain AI tools, but instead are talking about what appropriate use looks like. Dr. Vitale shared that currently there are not any schools in Pennsylvania that have policies on AI. It is moving faster than anything that the District has seen and that there is a team that meets on a regular basis to discuss AI. Additionally, administration is attending professional development to continue to learn more.

Mr. DiTullio thanked Dr. Vitale for her report and shared that he is not surprised that as a District we are at the cutting edge of AI as we have been in the past with other topics.

Mr. Hester thanked administration for what they are doing to learn more about AI and to teach the students the proper ways to use it.

E. **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. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.

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: \$270,404.40

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to approve the minute's, treasurer's report, general fund bills and construction fund bills. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Board Policies** -

1. Approved board policy 601, Fiscal Objectives, second and final reading.
2. Approved board policy 603, Budget Preparation, second and final reading.
3. Approved board policy 604, Budget Adoption, second and final reading.
4. Approved board policy 610, Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation, second and final reading.
5. Approved board policy 613, Cooperative Purchasing, second and final reading.
6. Approved board policy 407, Student Teachers/Interns, second and final reading.
7. Approved board policies, 351 (Administrative Employees), 451 (Professional Employees) and 551 (Classified Employees), Drug and Substance Abuse, second and final reading.
8. Approved board policy 137, Home Education Programs, second and final reading.
9. Approved board policy 137.1, Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students, second, final reading.
10. Approved board policy 137.2, Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Student, second, final reading.
11. Approved board policy 137.3, Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students, second, final reading.

12. Approved board policy 323 Employees – Tobacco Use, new, first reading.

Policies to be retired:

13. Policy 323 Administrative Employees – Tobacco Use, retire, first reading.

14. Policy 423 Professional Employees – Tobacco Use, retire, first reading.

15. Policy 523 Classified Employees – Tobacco Use, retire, first reading.

B. **School Resource Officer Agreement** – Approved 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.

C. **Student Adjudication** – Approved student adjudication #2023-24-11.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to approve board policies, School Resource Officer Agreement, and the Student Adjudication. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION

A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.

B. **Book Disposal** - Approved the sale, donation, or recycling of obsolete books from Rowan Elementary School.

C. **Grant Disbursement** – Granted permission for and to disburse:

1. PPG Innovative Classroom Grant in the amount of \$1,000 requested by Mr. Peter Tucciarone. Funds will be used to purchase supplies that the students will use to create scale models of the Ann Frank House as a culminating activity on The Holocaust.
2. Society of Analytical Chemists and Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Grant in the amount of \$2,100 requested by Mr. Tom Lavelle. Funds will be used by faculty to expand the number of opportunities for hands-on learning to create an investigative experience based on pinecone ecosystems.

Mr. Peterson encouraged the Board that if they have not spent time with Mr. Lavelle and his class, to take some time to do so.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower to approve conferences, book disposal and grant disbursements. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE

A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.

B. **Audit Acknowledgement** - Acknowledged the local audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

C. **COBRA Administration** – Approved a proposal from CM Regent Solutions for COBRA Administration services.

- D. **Group Life/Long Term Disability Insurance** – Approved 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. **Transfinder - School Bus Routing Software** – Approved to update and migrate our school bus routing software from Routefinder Pro to Routefinder PLUS for \$13,275.00.

Mr. Brower motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to approve budget transfers, the audit acknowledgment, COBRA administration, Group Life/Long Term Disability Insurance and the Transfinder – School Bus Routing Software. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- F. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) 2024-2025 Budget** – Approved the BCAVTS proposed budget for the 2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$6,837,331.00.

Mr. Peterson shared with the Board one of his experiences with students from BCAVTS and that their tests often require teamwork, are timed and graded on quality. He shared that he believes in what the students are learning at BCAVTS and encouraged the Board to vote in favor for the proposed budget.

Mr. Brower motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to approve the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) 2024-2025 budget. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 11. **PERSONNEL** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:
 - A. **Resignations** – *Professional Substitutes* – Timmi Jo Pashuta, *Classified* – Katelyn Karpinski, Anthony Hughett
 - B. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Nicoletta Donofrio, Ella Richards, Kara Vyborny, Benjamin Mattes, *Classified* – Janice Hogan, Kayla Warren, *Supplementals* – Mackenzie Gaydosh, Megan Kennedy, Ben Mattes, George Williams, Dan Dickey, Rob Veloz, John Cashdollar, Paul (PJ) Blinn, Bria Giovanelli, Steve Sterlick, Wess Brahler, Anastasa Williams, Spencer Murray, Morgan Peaco, Barry Murray, Dan Dickey, Rob Veloz, Catherine Lochner-Trejchel, Anastasa Williams, Spencer Murray, Marissa Bitonti, Craig Gehm, Kayla Robinson, Hannah Wehner, Ashley Turici, Julie Parenti, Andrea Platt, Janice Plutnicki, Christina King, Megan Davis, Erin Burkhart, Josh Plunkard, Steve Strelick, Ron Butschle, Dean Leventopoulos, Michael Stebbins, Brian Pesavento, Cam Palmer, George Williams, Mark Perry, Marlesse Hames, Traci Kuntz, Crystal Cypher, Mackenzie Gaydosh, Alicia Scopellite, James Ziegler, John Roman, Katherine Langley, Linda Plesniak, Michael Henry, Kayla Robinson, James Pyle, Megan Meeder, Kevin Wildrick, Kenneth Macek, Catherine Smolter, Matthew Pournaras, Varden Armstrong, Elaine Duggan, Karen Christopher, Susan Berlin, Bria Koch, Megan Bonistalli, Jacqueline Eriksen, Aaron Shafer, Sarah McKissick, Tracey Lowe, Tammie Wylie, Grace Rupik, Amanda Bondi, Alyssa Ceraulo, Joshua Sektnan, Jeremiah Friday, Steven Fortunato, Kenneth Macek, Matt Pournaras, David Gerrich, Emily Thorton, Kevin Wildrick, James Pyle, Kwang Suk Choi, Mallory Marinack, Robyn Naugle, Emily McGoey, Lindsay Peters, Adelina DiTullio, Tracy Glass, Kurt

McNaught, Kelly Levere, Erin Scott, Marlina Hasara, Amanda Lesney, Sarah Miller,
Internship – Hannah Brimkov

- C. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Bruce Clark, Julie Kaufman, Megan Hammer, Michelle Rogozinski, Kelsey Pappas, Sydney Heeter, Cheri Mihalik, Danielle Reynolds, Melody Snyder, Sarah Corona, Julie Smith, *Classified* – Lisa Fico, Jennifer Kaufman, Joyce Babcock
- D. **Retirements** – *Professional* – Jan Kovacevic, Amy Palaski, Deborah Gray, *Classified* – Karen Greenawalt, John Sulia

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the Feb. 5, 2024, public agenda:

a. Timothy Straight

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, President



Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary