



# Seneca Valley School District

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

### Minutes

**January 22, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Dominic Angel, a fourth grader at Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) Cyber, 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. Fred Peterson, Mr. Jeff Widdowson and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Mr. Mike Jacobs was not in attendance.
  
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
    1. Seneca Valley’s FIRST LEGO Lords team from Haine Elementary recently earned the Elementary Excellence Award by scoring as the top elementary school team at the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Western Pennsylvania Grand Championship competition held at Aliquippa High School last month. Approximately 65 teams of students in grades 4-8 participated in the robotics competition. Each team competed in four rounds of the table robot challenge game, where the students designed, built and programmed a robot to solve various challenges on a competition board. In addition, each team gave a presentation to a panel of judges, describing their robot, programming design, game play strategy and research project. Students from Seneca Valley were led by Ms. Mary Boburczak, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Industrial technology teacher, Ms. Jen Exler, Haine Middle School mathematics teacher, and Mr. Jeremiah Friday, Haine Elementary School gifted support teacher.
    2. Student Services Director and Seneca Valley Foundation Trustee Dr. Jeff Roberts was recently named an Individual Community Champion by the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Roberts was chosen based on his continued dedication to ensuring the success of students, staff and our school community. As you may be aware, he has implemented innovative programs like the Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program, along with Care Solace, a mental health care coordination service.

As stated in the nomination, his “above and beyond efforts create a supportive and nurturing environment for students and families.”

Mr. DiTullio recognized Dr. Roberts, sharing that this nomination is well deserved and thanked him for all that he does.

3. The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) recently introduced the WPIAL Hall of Fame Class of 2024, which features 14 inductees across seven different categories, including Ms. Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Athletics and Activities Director. Out of the 14 inductees, Ms. Lewis is listed in the Courage category for her unwavering and inspiring battle against breast cancer. The WPIAL Hall of Fame was organized as a means of recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports in Western Pennsylvania, and chose Ms. Lewis as an example for others to emulate. The annual WPIAL Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Friday, May 31, in Greentree.

Mr. Hester congratulated Ms. Lewis on this accomplishment and shared that Ms. Lewis is always asking what is best for our kids. He recognized that she means so much to our District and to the WPIAL.

Mr. DiTullio shared that many students look to Ms. Lewis as a mentor and that the student athletes respect her. He also commented that she is a great asset to our district and thanked her for her dedication to the students and District.

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

January 1-31	School Board Director Recognition Month
January 23	Report Card Release, Grades 7-12
January 29	SV Preschool Registration, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Senior High School
February 5	School Board Work Session Meeting, 7 p.m., Senior High School

- C. **All-Star Award Winner, January 2024** – Patricia (Patti) Ristey, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), Paraprofessional, was recognized and presented the All-Star Award by RGMS Assistant Principal, Ms. Trisha Butschle. Ms. Butschle shared that Ms. Ristey has a constant smile, how she has brightened up the tech lab and that her job is more fulfilling because of individuals like Patti. Ms. Butschle continued to share her heartfelt gratitude for Ms. Ristey and all that she does for the SV students and staff. Mr. DiTullio commented on how humble Ms. Ristey is and thanked her for her dedication. Dr. Vitale congratulated Ms. Ristey and the entire IT Department for this award. She shared that she is grateful for Dr. Nagy, how he leads his team and for all of those that work in the IT Department, sharing that this is a well-deserved honor for Ms. Ristey and the entire department.

D. **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** – November 6, 2023
- B. **Action Meeting** – November 13, 2023
- C. **Reorganization Meeting** – December 4, 2023

5. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$7,832,567.99

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,324,561.66

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

- B. **Committee Assignments** – Approved School Board committee assignments for 2024.
- C. **Vision to Learn** - Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Vision to Learn to provide vision examinations and glasses through a mobile clinic to referred students at no cost to the student’s family or the District.
- D. **Transportation Contract** - Approved the transportation contract for one family to transport their child to and from Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania Linda Lanham Zeszutek School Program – North Site, 8057 Rowan Rd., Cranberry Twp., PA 16066 retroactive to Nov. 27, 2023, when a nurse is not available.
- E. **Vo-Tech JOC Alternate Representatives** – Appointed Mr. Nick Brower and Mr. Eric DiTullio as Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee (BCAVTS JOC) alternate representatives.
- F. **Student Disciplinary Agreement** – Approved student disciplinary agreement #2023-24-09.
- G. **2024-2025 School Calendar** – Approved the 2024-2025 school calendar.
- H. **Local District Holidays** – Approved the resolution regarding local district holidays for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower to approve board policies, committee assignments, Vision to Learn, transportation contract, Vo-Tech JOC Alternate Representatives, student disciplinary agreement, 2024-2025 school calendar and local district holidays. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

## 9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Grant Disbursement** – Granted permission for and to disburse:
  1. Holocaust Curriculum Development and Holocaust/Genocide/Rights Violation Resource Center Creation grant in the amount of \$1,000 requested by Ms. Michele Russo. Funds will be used to purchase a set of a classroom books and to purchase Holocaust and other Genocide/Human Rights Violations related materials for the department and for the LIGHT Resource Center.
  2. Butterfly Project grant in the amount of \$210 requested by Ms. Victoria Hinchee and Ms. Maggie Mollura. Funds will be used for purchasing butterfly kits. Participants in the Butterfly Project learned about children who died in the Holocaust and received a card with the story of a specific child. The participants then paint ceramic butterflies, inspired by the story of that child. The international movement aims to paint 1.5 million butterflies to honor the 1.5 million children killed during the Holocaust.
  3. Ukrainian Refugee School Impact grant in the amount of \$28,180 requested by Ms. Annie Mersing. Funds will be used to provide programming and services to

English as a Second Language (ESL) learners, particularly from Ukraine, that support successful integration and academic success.

4. Modern Band Starter Kit grant in the amount of \$5,000 requested by Mr. Kyle Masson, teacher at Ehrman Crest Middle School. Schools that receive the Modern Band Starter Kit receive \$5,000 worth of musical equipment and resources that will be used to empower students to think more critically about the music that they listen to.
5. Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant in the amount of \$510,705 requested by Ms. Annie Mersing and Dr. Tony Babusci. Funds will be used to provide academic, artistic and cultural enhancement activities to students and their families when school is not in session. If approved, funding will be used for an afterschool and summer program at Ryan Gloyer Middle School that provides an opportunity for students to have access to homework help and tutoring; physical activity; family engagement opportunities; mentoring; remedial education activities; literacy education; English language learner activities; and STEAM initiatives.
6. Pittsburgh Steelers Youth Football Fund in the amount of \$3,000 requested by Ms. Heather Lewis. Funds will be used to purchase uniforms, coaching, and transportation for newly created sport of girl's flag football in the spring of 2024. The Steelers Youth Fund will also provide flag belts and footballs. Participants will be Seneca Valley female students in grades 9 – 12.

Mr. DiTullio raised the question if the girl's flag football team will be a club or WPIAL sport. Ms. Lewis answered that this will be like girls wrestling and that it will be club at first, but she expects it to eventually transition into a PIAA/WPIAL sport.

- B. **Student Trips** – Approved the following student trips:
  1. Academic Games League to the American National Tournament in Orlando, Florida on April 19-23, 2024, under the supervision of Ms. Julie Smith. Students will miss one day of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
  2. Mr. Lettiere, JROTC instructor at SHS, to take students to Gary Anderson CMP Masksmanship Center in Port Clinton, Ohio, February 14-17, 2024. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
  3. Ms. Sarah Miller, RGMS/IHS Orchestra teacher, to take students to Hickory High School for Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Districts, February 7-9, 2024. Students will miss two days of instruction.
- C. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- D. **Student Clubs** – Approved the following student clubs:
  1. **Holidays & Festivities Club** - Approved the establishment of a Holidays & Festivities Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Mr. Brian Pesavento effective for 2023-24 school year.
  2. **Speech & Debate Club** - Approved the establishment of a Speech & Debate Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Mrs. Janice Plutnicki effective for 2023-24 school year.

3. **Global Connections Club** - Approved the establishment of the Global Connections Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Mrs. Julie Parenti effective for 2023-24 school year.

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

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Food Service Equipment** - Approved the disposal or donation of an obsolete cooler.
- B. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- C. **Long-Range Budget Model** - Approved an agreement with PFM Financial Advisors LLC for use of the long-range budget model at an annual rate of \$8,500.
- D. **Finalsite Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Finalsite for a 60-month term effective July 1, 2024, for a Content Management System (CMS) platform for the school and district web sites including theme, design and CMS conversion.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to approve food service equipment, budget transfers, Long-Range Budget Model, and the Finalsite agreement. 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** – *Classified* – Emily Rihely, Alexander Port, ISG Angelo Lettiere, *Supplementals* – Noele Reynolds
- B. **Appointments** – *Supervisor* – Scott Lowery, *Professional* – Sarah Coon, Jordan Burnett, *Professional Substitutes* – Nicholas Szwaczkowski, Douglas Moore, Benjamin Mattes, Deborah Santilo, Haylee Fleishman, Holly Badger, Sophia Puricelli, Jean Forti, Amanda Ziegler, Timmi Pashuta, Tracey Williams, Dyanna Boosel, *Classified* – Amy Barkley, Rosa Gontad, Alexis Haney, Sara Nicklas, Dunja Brkic Negley, Ryan Cleaver, Karen Christopher, Natasha Cumba Gonzalez, Reed Angelucci, Michelle Spatafore, *Classified Substitutes* – Tracy Reckless, *Internship* – Cynthia Williams, *Supplementals* – Michael Henry, George Williams, Louis Newell, E.G. Sipp, Jane Leo, Tom Magill, Bill Parenti, Cam Palmer, Mickey Flood, Brian Pesavento, Greg Hayward, Megan Kelly, Jeff Beavers, Jordan Ray, Nicole Moorman, Jackie Hoover, Christina Hollowood, Emily Christ, Michael Marra, Bruce Smith, Amber Hugus, Jessica Kavanaugh, Bobi-Jean Alexander, Mark Beighey, Susana Garcia, Chessa Crum, Katelyn Leavell, Tracy Meanor, Anne Stanton, Hayley Landolina, Dave Benson, Mark Meanor, Alison Shuster, Rebecca Hester, Claire Barker, Katie Gemperlein, Danika Koller-Jones, Eric Grove, Joseph Ehmann, Tim Cammisa, Mackenzie Kacsur, Hannah Gonzales, Robin Presco, Nicole Ehmann, Wanda Reynolds, Eric Cupp, Maria Landolina, Amy Taylor, Karen (Julie) Fornadel, Paolo Tolomeo, Kate Peterson, Tyler Mesisca, Sarah Hackenberg, Amy Scott, Aimee Kaczmarek, Ari Zahavi, Ashley Salman, Kaitlyn Jarvie, Chelsea Bennardo, Erica Drennan, Jen Exler, Alyssa Ceraulo,

Megan Anderson, Tammy McKenry, Macrina Valletto, Rachael Zoelle, Sharon McSwaney, Jen Shipe, Joan Widdowson, Megan Witherell, Justin Burgh, Rachelle Magnani, Jacqueline Eriksen

- C. **Leaves** – *Administrator* – Jessica Parker, *Professional* – Lorie Chesnut, Nina Grinnell, Tyler Mesisca, Gioia Warecki, Lauren McClain, Kelly Cahall, Rebecca Bosco, Megan Orloff, Cara Martin, Kristin Henry, Kiera Kegges, Michelle Rogozinski, Tracey Clarke, Leah Kalan, Michelle Hess, *Classified* – Sheri Popson, Kristine Hart, Alicia Shao, Tara Sproat, Alicia Shao, Lynn Henderson
- D. **Retirements** – *Professional* – Jan Kovacevic, Linda Starosta, *Classified* – Valerie Damiani
- E. **Affiliation Agreements** – Approved affiliation agreements with Seneca Valley School District and Holy Family University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- F. **Memorandum of Understanding** – Approved the MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, retirements, affiliation agreements and Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the Jan. 8, 2024, public agenda.

- a. Missy Fuller

Mr. DiTullio shared that he has been elected as the Chair of the Finance and Actuarial Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Defined Contribution Committee for Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). Additionally, he shared that the next PSERS meeting will be held in March.

- 13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the board, Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 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, School Board Secretary