

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium - 7 p.m.

Minutes

April 17, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence in memory of Rich Moran Jr., who unexpectedly passed away on April 9. Mr. Moran was a school bus operator for A.J. Myers and ABC Transit where he transported Seneca Valley students since 2013. He enjoyed his time with the Seneca Valley Raiders Football Team and most recently was driving for the SV Secondary Campus and Rowan Elementary. We thank Mr. Moran for his service to Seneca Valley students and, most importantly, for his service to this great Country as he was a veteran of the United States Air Force. Please keep Mr. Moran’s wife, children, relatives and friends in your thoughts.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Joey McCormick, 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: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Fred Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Mr. Jim Nickel was not in attendance.
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Ms. Quincy Gildea, Assistant Principal of Seneca Valley Intermediate High School, has been named a 2023 recipient of the Emerging Woman in Education Award in memory of Professor Emeritus Dr. Jean E. Winsand, University of Pittsburgh, as hosted by the Tri-State Study Council. The award recognizes a woman educator who has made a significant impact and positive difference through her leadership activities and initiatives. Ms. Gildea was recognized during an awards ceremony at the Dr. Jean E. Winsand Workshop for Women in School Leadership earlier this month.

2. Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School has been named a winner in the 2023 American Institute of Architects Education Facility Design Awards program, which showcases innovation across the entire learning continuum. From early childhood facilities to higher education and throughout the learning continuum, architecture can be used to inspire learners, educators, administrators and campus communities alike. Ehrman Crest was one of only two K-6 facilities to be recognized in the national program and was said to be a vibrant example of contemporary educational architecture.
3. Seneca Valley's High School Mock Trial team made school history with their advancement to the State Championship, which took place March 24-25, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. There were only 14 teams out of 312 from across the state who qualified, including Seneca Valley, ultimately earning them an eighth-place finish in the state championship. The SV Mock Trial team comprises of students in grades 9-12 in the gifted program and is advised by Ms. Brieana Nassan, senior high school gifted support teacher.

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

April	Alcohol Awareness Month
April	Autism Awareness Month
April	National Child Abuse Prevention Month
April	School Library Month
April 15	ACT Testing, SVSHS, 7:30 a.m.
April 22	Earth Day
April 24	School Board Regular (Action) Meeting, SVIHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
April 27	"The Dangers of Tech" hosted by the FBI, Pittsburgh Division, SVSHS 6:30 p.m.
May 2	National Teacher Appreciation Day
May 4	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
May 5	School Lunch Hero Day
May 6	SAT Testing, SVSHS, 7:30 a.m.

- C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Jacobs reported that they met two weeks ago and that they passed the budget for the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Peterson shared that two Seneca Valley students were recently recognized as SkillsUSA competitors.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. DiTullio reported that at the meeting on March 22, the following were approved: financial statements and bills, updated listing of credit card corporations and authorized employees, request for contract authorization, resignations, employment, voluntary transfer, tenure, leave, job description, permission to advertise for bids for hazardous waste management, 2023 joint purchasing bid awards for art supplies, athletic supplies, copier paper, incentives, lighting, maintenance supplies, nursing supplies, school supplies, 2023-24 Early Intervention calendar, college students for field placement, policy review and bid award for the purchase of

two buses under the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) II Grant.

Mr. DiTullio has shared that the I.U. IV has been in contract negotiation with the I.U. teachers for almost 18 months. At the meeting in March, the union informed that their membership had authorized a vote to strike. At this time, a date to strike has not been set. There are meetings scheduled for April 20, May 2, May 9 and May 16 to be able to continue to work with the union to resolve the contract.

In addition, the I.U. IV Convention will be held on Wednesday, April 26.

- D. **Legislative** – Mr. DiTullio reported that the Senate and House of Representatives remain adjourned as budget hearings concluded last week. Both of the chambers will return to full session on April 24.

Eating disorder awareness, updated terminology in the school code and school district residency disputes were some of the bills that were approved by the House Committee.

In addition, Mr. DiTullio reported on the Pennsylvania School Employee's Retirement Systems (PSERS) sharing that the March meetings were held on March 30 and March 31. All committees have reviewed and approved their 2023 Committee Work Plans.

The Finance and Actuarial Committee recommended, and the board approved, a withdraw liability interest rate for closed schools.

PSERS has sent out over 260,000 1099s for the 2022 tax year. Because of the PSERS rate decrease approval in December, the budget request for state share of the PSERS state contribution decreased by 0.5% since last year. For six months, ending December 31, 2022, the total fund decreased in value \$1.4 billion to \$69.7 billion. This decrease was led mainly on a 5% increase to pension benefits paid, on state, school district and employee's contributions and next investment loss.

When looking at the PSERS performance for the fund as compared to public plan peers for the quarter and second quarter, the fund does not look well finishing in the 99th percentile. Mr. DiTullio shared that this is due to the strong equity positions of peers that saw losses at 20 plus percent to PSERS 4.5% total loss. PSERS saw 3.23% quarter growth where the median in the peer group was only 5.15%. Long term, how the PSERS fund strategy is designed, PSERS is in the top 4% for the year, top 5% for three years and top 5% for five years. The risk avoidance is in the top 100% for the ten-year period. PSERS fund is continuing to outperform policy benchmarks.

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. **ACTION AGENDA**

- A. **Public Comment** – Public comment was heard by Ms. Serenity Vincent regarding continuing excellence in the orchestra program. Ms. Lindsey Whitney was in attendance to support Ms. Vincent. Ms. Vincent shared that currently Seneca Valley has one orchestra instructor for the grades 7-12 and that with a growing program, most districts the same size have at least two instructors. She shared her concerns that, due to a lack of additional educators, the orchestra teacher does not have a flex period, a designated space for her students or a co-teacher, and that she is concerned for the teacher.
- B. **Field Trip Requests** – Approved the following student trips:
1. ISG Angelo Lettiere to take four students to Gary Anderson CMP Marksmanship Center from April 19-22, 2023. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the district.
 2. Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Sarah Miller, and Bobi-Jean Alexander to take 17 band, choir, and orchestra students to the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) All-State Conference from April 19-22, 2023. Students will miss three days of instruction.
- C. **Student Adjudications** – Approved the following Student Adjudications:
1. #2022-23-29
 2. #2022-23-30
 3. #2022-23-31
 4. #2022-23-32
 5. #2022-23-33
- D. **Conferences** – Approved the conference requests.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to approve the field trip requests, student adjudications and conferences. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** – March 6, 2023
- B. **Action Meeting** – March 13, 2023

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$4,304,299.45

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,148,072.39

8. **ADMINISTRATION**A. **Board Policies** – Approve the following policies:

1. Policy 800, Records Management, second, final reading.
2. Policy 309.1, Pre-Employment Drug Testing Policy, second, final reading.
3. Policy 915, Booster Clubs, revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review of final policy.

B. **Transportation Contract** - Approve the transportation contract for one family to transport their child to and from Total Learning Center retroactive March 27, 2023.9. **INSTRUCTION**A. **Intergovernmental Agreement** - Approve the intergovernmental agreement between Midwestern Intermediate Unit (IV) and Seneca Valley School District for special education services.B. **Grant Disbursements** – Grant permission for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:

1. School Psychology Paid Internships for an Out of State Graduate Student in the amount of \$20,000 requested by Dr. Jeff Roberts. Funding will be used to provide a stipend for a qualified school psychology intern for the district for the 2023-24 school year.
2. Gladys Brooks Foundation Grant in the amount of \$46,000 requested by Ms. Annie Mersing and Ms. Angela Kotula. Funds will be used to host annual presentations to students in grades 8-12 about online safety; the dangers of the internet; and the importance of digital citizenship.
3. The School Readiness Program/Hi5! Kindergarten Transition grant in the amount of \$2,000 requested by Dr. Kristen White. Funds will be used to purchase Heggerty materials to be used in local preschool programs. These materials will support students transitioning to kindergarten by reinforcing phonemic awareness prior to entering school age programs.

C. **Special Education Plan** – Approve the District's Special Education Plan submission for 2023-2026 to the PA Department of Education.D. **Grove City Area School District Agreement** – Approve the professional services agreement for a school psychologist to provide services at Seneca Valley during the 2022-23 school year retroactive to March 30, 2023.

- E. **DePaul School for Hearing and Speech Agreement** – Approve the DePaul School for the Hearing and Speech agreement for professional services for the 2022-23 school year.
- F. **Lego League Club** - Approve the establishment of a Lego League Club at RGMS at no cost to the district and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Mary Boburczak, effective for the 2023-24 school year.
- G. **Student Trip** – Approve the middle school ski trip to Breckenridge, CO on January 10, 2024, returning on January 16, 2024, at no cost to the district and under the supervision of Mickey Flood. Coinciding with the Martin Luther King holiday, the students will miss three days of instruction.
- H. **McGuire Memorial Agreement** – Approve the McGuire Memorial Agreement for the Extended School Year (ESY) Program rates for the 2022-2023 ESY.

Mr. DiTullio asked for clarification regarding the grant request for school psychology paid internships for out-of-state graduate students. Dr. Roberts answered that the state is realizing the need for additional psychologists and that this is a way for students who attend a Pennsylvania school but, live in another state, to do an internship in Pennsylvania.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Food Service Equipment** - Approve the sale of any food service equipment that is deemed to have resale value and the disposal of any items that are not suitable for resale in a responsible manner.
- B. **Owner’s Representative Agreement** – Approve Eckles Construction Services as the Owner’s Representative for the new Intermediate High School Project. Pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- C. **Summer 2023 Projects**
 - 1. **Ryan Gloyer Middle School Quarry Tile Replacement Phase II and Interior Painting** - Award the General Construction Bid to GEM Building Contractors and Developers in the amount of \$526,700.00.
 - 2. **Elementary Campus Marquee Entrance Sign Replacements** - Award the General Construction Bid to GEM Building Contractors and Developers in the amount of \$167,300.00.
 - 3. **Ryan Gloyer Middle partial Re-Roofing Project** - Approve Duro-Last, Inc. through the government cooperative purchasing program, The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Vendor Agreement for the RGMS partial Re-roofing Project, pending solicitor review of final agreement.
 - 4. **Secondary Campus Survey and Utility locating/mapping services** - Approve the Proposal from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. to provide a complete survey of the secondary campus that includes locating/mapping the underground utilities throughout the campus. Pending solicitor review of final agreement.

- D. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- E. **Pittsburgh Pride Fastpitch Agreement** – Approve the five-year agreement with Pittsburgh Pride Fastpitch Association to lease property for its youth athletics program from April 25, 2023-April 24, 2028.
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 March 13, 2023, public agenda:
- a. Lydia Horvath
 - b. Kari Zimmer
 - c. Lydia Horvath
 - d. Lydia Horvath
 - e. Charles Boone
 - f. Kevin Strayhorn
 - g. Kirk Tush
 - h. Jason Stevens
 - i. Denise Manganello & Amanda Mallin
 - j. David Loeffler
 - k. Erin McClymonds
 - l. Cheryl Rickens
 - m. Nate Sannes and the entire SVJFAC Board
 - n. Lydia Horvath

Mr. DiTullio thanked Mr. Miller for the construction update that was sent out and for all that he does.

Ms. Whittle shared that she is looking for three delegates for the PSBA delegate assembly and asked board members that are interested, to please let her know. In addition, she recognized the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) ribbon cutting ceremony that was held earlier this month. Lastly, Ms. Whittle acknowledged the Raiderthon, that it is student lead and that they are continually giving back to the community with the money raised at the event.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing to come before the board, Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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.

Ms. Kathy Whittle, President



Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary