



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

Minutes

March 6, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Aubree Patton, a second grader from Rowan 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, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Fred Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Ms. Susan Harrison was not in attendance.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Seneca Valley seniors Haihan Xu, Peter Ko and Eric Combs have been named finalists in the 68th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program held by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). These SV standouts are three of approximately 16,000 finalists and will now advance to the next level of the program where they will have the opportunity to earn National Merit Scholarships and, ultimately, the Merit Scholar® title. About 1.5 million juniors in more than 21,000 high schools entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

2. Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) is one of only 10 exemplary Middle Grades Schools in Pennsylvania to be named a 2023 PA Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch" (PA STW) as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. This program is an elite partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE), Duquesne University, Edinboro University, Kutztown University and the Horace Mann Service Corporation. RGMS is receiving this honor as a fourth PA STW redesignation after receiving the initial recognition 12 years ago. RGMS joined 38 other middle-grades schools recognized over the history of the program during the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Educations State Conference that took place at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, on Feb. 26. RGMS will also be recognized nationally with all the other recognized STW schools across the country in Washington, D.C., at the National Forum's National Schools to Watch Conference on June 22-24.

Dr. Babusci thanked the board for their support. He shared that six years ago when it was voted to change the name of the middle school to Ryan Gloyer Middle School, the staff were committed to add curriculum about Ryan Gloyer in all of the social studies classes and they have continued that commitment. This award is special because parents, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria staff, teachers and others were interviewed as part of the process for selecting the winning schools. He commended the staff and everything they do to make the school an enriching environment for students to learn and grow.

Ms. Butschle shared that together they make goals and they strive to reach them.

Mr. Jacobs recognizes that this award is possible because of the team effort and thanked them for how well they serve the seventh and eighth grade community.

Mr. Nickel shared that every grade is important but recognizes how important the seventh and eighth grade level is and that he is proud of what they have done.

Ms. Bredl thanked them and recognized that they have been awarded four times.

Ms. Whittle recognized that they continue to teach lessons on Ryan Gloyer and that she is proud of Seneca Valley School District.

Dr. Vitale recognizes that teaching seventh and eighth grades can be difficult but hopes that it is rewarding, as well. She acknowledged the leadership and commitment of Dr. Babusci and Ms. Butschle.

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

March	
March 6	First Day for all PIAA Spring Sports
March 8	The holiday of Holi
March 10	Reports of Student Progress Release, Grades K-6
March 11	SAT Testing – Seneca Valley Senior High School
March 12	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 13	School Board Regular Meeting – 7 p.m. SVIHS Auditorium
March 13	Parent & Community Presentation – Promoting Mental Health with Hope Squad & Community Support – 7 p.m. SHS Auditorium
March 17	Act 80 Day – No School for Students
March 20	Snow Make up Day #2 – If no snow day make-up day is needed, this becomes a holiday for students and staff
March 21	SVAOC Cyber End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
March 22	Ramadan Begins
March 24	Seneca Valley Raiderthon – 5-9 p.m., Senior High School
March 27	End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
March 29	Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) Drop-in Center Opening/Ribbon Cutting

C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Fred Peterson reported that the ransomware attack that they experienced recently has been corrected.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that they had to move the meeting to February 8, 2023, in order to be able to vote on the Fact Finder Report within the legal timeframe. The meeting on February 15, 2023, was to take the second legally required vote on the Fact Finder Report. The IU rejected the report in its entirety. The report will be made public to all employees and through the IU website.

At the next School Board meeting, there will be an action item to approve the MIU budget. Mr. DiTullio is recommending approval. Seneca Valley School District’s contribution in 2022-2023 was \$148,315 and the proposed contribution for 2023-2024 is \$141,505.

Mr. DiTullio asked Ms. Burtner about the decrease in the district’s contribution. Ms. Burtner stated she was happy to see the total had decreased.

D. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that Representative Mark Rozzi has stepped down from his role as Speaker of the House of Representatives and Representative Joanna McClinton was elected as the new speaker.

The Senate Education Committee conducted a hearing to discuss the teacher shortages in Pennsylvania. Issues discussed included declining number of teachers, teacher preparation reforms and needs, minimum salaries and professional development and supports for teachers.

A group of Legislators in the House of Representatives announced their intention a bill that would fund the school construction program PlanCon to fund critical school maintenance needs in school facilities.

The Senate Education Committee has approved Senate Bill 232 that establishes guidelines that school districts must follow if a tick is removed from a child during school hours and Senate Bill 297 that permits public schools to purchase whole, reduced fat or flavored milk.

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. Lydia Horvath regarding the difficulties and addiction that her son has with vaping and nicotine. She shared that her son is experiencing health issues due to the addiction and has been given consequences due to being caught in school with them. Ms. Horvath would like to return to the next School Board Meeting to share ways that she and others can partner with the district on helping students.
- B. **Personnel** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:
1. **Resignations** – *Supervisor* – Russell Sarver, *Professional* – Caroline King, *Classified* – Connie Wetzel, Lindy Winters
 2. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Samantha Mauk, Ava Ekstam, *Classified* – Anthony Hughett, *Supplementals* – Jordan Ray, Jackie Hoover, P.J. Blinn, Katie Smolter, Katie Wolford, Andrea Platt, Jen Shipe, Michelle Rogozinski, Stephanie Honeycutt, Alison Schuster, Karissa Lambert, Lara Meyer, LaVarr Stephens-Howling, Jason Groom, Michael Manipole
 3. **Leaves** – *Director* – Nolen Fetchko, *Professional* – Danielle Fagan, Amanda Horwat, Lindsay Bergstrom, Lauren McClain, Chelsea Risch, Jessica Bear, *Classified* – Richard Grupp, April Householder, Jennifer Schlichtkrull
 4. **Retirements** – *Professional* – Danette Yurich, Gabriella Thorell, Noele Reynolds, *Classified* – Susan McClure
- C. **Field Trip Request** – Approved Ms. Sarah Miller, Orchestra Teacher, to take students to State College for the Pennsylvania Music Education Association

(PMEA) Region Orchestra concert, March 8 – 10. Students will miss three days of instruction. – Dr. McKinley

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to approve personnel and the field trip request. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$3,173,272.83

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$776,624.37

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

- A. **MIU IV Board Member** – Approve the nomination of Mr. Eric DiTullio as a Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Board Member for the term of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

Mr. Nickel asked Mr. DiTullio if there was anything needed from the board members in a way of supporting him. Mr. DiTullio shared that he will update the board if anything is needed.

- B. **Social Media Litigation** - Approve the commencement of a civil suit, as part of a multi-district litigation, against Meta Platforms, Inc., Facebook Holdings, LLC, Snap, Inc., TikTok, Inc., YouTube, LLC and other social media companies, and, for such purpose, approve the contingent fee agreement with Frantz Law Group. (The contingent fee is 25% of any recovery. Litigation expenses shall be advanced by Frantz Law Group and deducted from any recovery. The Seneca Valley School District will not be responsible for any fee or cost reimbursement in the event that there is no recovery in the action).
- C. **Juul Settlement Agreement** - Approve the settlement agreement with Juul Labs, Inc., in relation to the multi-district litigation involving the marketing of vaping products and authorize the Seneca Valley School District's officers and legal counsel to execute such documents as required for and by such agreement.
- D. **Board Policy** – Approve the following policies:
 1. Policy 800, Records Management, revised, first reading.
 2. Policy 309.1, Pre-Employment Drug Testing Policy, new, first reading.

9. **INSTRUCTION**

- A. **Health and Safety Plan** – Acknowledge the six-month review of the Health and Safety Plan as per the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requirements (no proposed changes).
- B. **School Links Contract** - Approve the contract with SchoolLinks to provide career-readiness, work-based learning, and post-secondary planning online services. Access to SchoolLinks will be provided for students, parent and alumni. Pending solicitor review.
- C. **Grant Disbursements** – Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
 - 1. Target Community Grant in the amount of \$500 and the Walmart Community Grant in the amount of \$3,000. Funding will be used for equipment and supplies needed to maintain a positive and inviting atmosphere at the newly created Ryan Gloyer Middle School After-School Program. The program is designed to provide a safe space for students during after-school hours, and will support physical, social and behavioral development through organized recreational activities and mentoring.
 - 2. tranformedED Teacher Innovation Fellowship mini-grant funded through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and in association with the Western PA AASA consortium in the amount of \$1,500 requested by Ms. Jordan DiBucci, second-grade teacher at Ehrman Crest Elementary School. Funds will be used to purchase aero-gardens and an aquaponics fish tank to expose students to an alternate way of growing and maintaining gardens utilizing advanced technology.
- D. **Conferences** – Approve the conference requests.
- E. **Athletic Uniform Disposal** – Approve the disposal of old, unusable athletic uniforms.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **2023-24 MIU IV General Operating Budget** – Approve the 2023-24 Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV General Operating Budget in the total amount of \$3,831,803 with Seneca Valley’s contribution being \$141,505.
- B. **Audit Acknowledgement** – Acknowledge the local audit report for the 2021-22 school year.
- C. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- D. **Fiber Network Lease Agreement** – Approve the 5-year service renewal agreement with Armstrong Utilities, Inc. for a district-wide network in the amount of \$2,000 per month.

11. **PERSONNEL**

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the February 13, 2023, public agenda:
- a. Jason Dean
 - b. Lucy Giordano
 - c. Erin McClymonds
 - d. Hannah Bowser
 - e. Angie Denham
 - f. Stephanie Stroud

Mr. Peterson shared that he was amazed with the All-School Musical, “Mary Poppins” and the unbelievable talent that the students have.

Ms. Whittle shared that she loved that the All-School Musical was community-based and that she is proud of the students at SVSD.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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