

# Seneca Valley School District



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

### Minutes

**March 13, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Landon Donaldson, a fourth grader from Haine 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. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Fred Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Ms. Leslie Bredl, Ms. Susan Harrison and Mr. James Nickel were not in attendance.
  
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
    1. We are pleased to report that Ehrman Crest continues to receive recognition as we move through the first year of this innovative K-6 facility. As you may be aware, Ehrman Crest has been featured as a story in *Smithsonian Magazine*'s online edition and then again as a cover story in the online and print edition of *TIME for Kids Magazine*. We are also anticipating coverage by the Pittsburgh office of National Public Radio to take place sometime this month. Links to these and other stories covering Ehrman Crest, now and in the future, can be found at [Communications / Ehrman Crest Reviews, Accolades - Media Coverage \(svsd.net\)](#).
    2. Seven Seneca Valley students were recently announced as Gold Key winners in the 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, while 11 students took home the Silver Key and 31 received Honorable Mentions. The regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards were held at Carnegie Mellon University in the Hall of Arts on Feb. 25. Gold key winners now move on to the national competition where winners will be announced later this summer. The Pittsburgh Arts Region encompasses all of Allegheny, Beaver and Butler counties and is facilitated by the Seneca Valley School District, specifically Megan Bonistalli, senior high school art teacher, as well as the Pittsburgh Art Affiliate. This is one of the nation's longest-running, most prestigious recognition programs for creative teens and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers.

**B. Dates to Remember**

March	
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
April 27	The Dangers of Tech, a presentation for parents, hosted by the FBI, 6:30 p.m., Seneca Valley Senior High School Auditorium

- C. **All-Star Award Winner, March 2023** – Ms. Patty Ruggiero, Haine Middle School Special Education Paraprofessional, was recognized and presented with the All-Star Award by Supervisor of Special Education, Ms. Ashley Pattison. Ms. Pattison shared that she has had the honor of working alongside Ms. Ruggiero, that she puts students first, is kind and supportive of all students. Mr. DiTullio recognized that it takes a special person to do the job that Ms. Ruggiero does, that the love that she shows is a calling and thanked her for all she does. Mr. Peterson thanked Ms. Ruggiero for supporting the school, the district and congratulated Ms. Ruggiero on her retirement. Mr. Widdowson and Ms. Whittle both thanked Ms. Ruggiero and commented that she has left a mark on the children and district in her time here. Dr. Vitale recognized how selfless Ms. Ruggiero is, that she is a great role model and always positive.

**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

- E. **Remote Area Medical** – Dr. Vitale shared that on November 11 and 12, 2023, the Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps. will offer free dental, vision and medical exams at Butler Intermediate High. There are no eligibility requirements for the services and identification will not be required. Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps. will also need volunteers to assist with this event.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Public comment was heard by Ms. Katie Gemperlein regarding the Fall Musical for students in grades nine through 12. Ms. Gemperlein shared that the musical has evolved over the past nine years, that it provides growth and an opportunity for all children to be a part of this community. Ms. Gemperlein and others present want to advocate for the students and musical, and are willing to start a musical booster club.
- B. Public comment was heard by Ms. Angie Kort as a follow up to the public comment heard on March 6, 2023, on vaping. Ms. Kort would like to work with administration on an assembly for all secondary campus on vaping. In addition, the medical staff that she works with are willing to provide education on vaping.

### 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: \$783,020.23

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the minutes, 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 ACTION

- A. MIU IV Board Member – Approved 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.
- B. Social Media Litigation - Approved 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 - Approved 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** – Approved the following policies:

1. Policy 800, Records Management, revised, first reading.
2. Policy 309.1, Pre-Employment Drug Testing Policy, new, first reading.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the MIU IV board member, social media litigation, JUUL settlement and the board policies. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**

- A. **Health and Safety Plan** – Acknowledged 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** - Approved 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, parents, and alumni.

Mr. Jacobs raised the question asking if the School Links contract will replace a current contract. Dr. McKinley confirmed.

- C. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission to apply for and disburse, 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.
  3. Dual Credit Program Grant through PDE's Division of Instructional Quality in the amount of \$49,000 to expand SV's College-in-High School Course Program. Funds will be used to increase the number of courses offered and promote sequencing of courses; add an on-campus tour component to courses; and encourage enrollment of students who are experiencing educational instability, enrolled in career and technical education programs, low-income students, and historically under-served student groups.

Mr. DiTullio acknowledged that this is an amazing opportunity and that he encourages parents to look more into the dual credit program.

- D. **Conferences** – Approved the conference requests.

- E. **Athletic Uniform Disposal** – Approved the disposal of old, unusable athletic uniforms.
- F. **Field Trip Request** – Approved Ms. Brie Nassan, gifted education teacher, to take 11 students who qualified to compete in the PA Bar Association State Mock Trial Competition in Harrisburg, PA, March 24 and 25, 2023. Students will miss one day of instruction.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve health and safety plan, the School Links contract, grants disbursements, conferences, athletic uniform disposal and the field trip request. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION**

- A. **2023-24 MIU IV General Operating Budget** – Approved 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** – Acknowledged the local audit report for the 2021-22 school year.
- C. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- D. **Fiber Network Lease Agreement** – Approved the five-year service renewal agreement with Armstrong Utilities, Inc. for a district-wide network in the amount of \$2,000 per month.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Ms. Burtner for the work she does for audit report and for her service. Ms. Whittle shared her appreciation for the clean report and acknowledged that this would be Ms. Burtner’s last audit report as she is retiring. Dr. Vitale shared that Ms. Burtner will be retiring but has agreed to stay on to transition the new business manager.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to approve the 2023-24 MIU IV General Operating Budget, the audit acknowledgement, budget transfers, and the Fiber Network Lease Agreement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:
  - A. **Resignations** – *Classified* – Kevin Holman, Dana Osselborn
  - B. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Kevin Holman, Rachel Broskey, Holly Blizman, *Classified*, Jinky Lichtenwalter, *Classified Substitutes* – Elizabeth Steele, Beryl Augustine, Susan Novak, *Supplementals* – Jessica Scerbo, Jennifer Exler, Sarah Growth
  - C. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Rachel Johnson, Sarah Bertsch, Diane Powell, Kara Andres, Janice Plutnicki, *Classified* – Patricia Ball, ISG Angelo Lettiere
- 12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** –Ms. Lydia Horvath communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the March 6, 2023, public agenda.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 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