

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

May 2, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for Robert “Bob” Burnett who passed away on April 15. Mr. Burnett served for two years as the assistant principal of the Seneca Valley Senior High School in the mid-90s and will be remembered for his affable demeanor and genuine love to teach and coach. Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Mr. DiTullio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. **Roll Call** - Roll call by Annie Mersing, Substitute Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson. Ms. Leslie Bredl was absent.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

A. **Student/Staff Recognition** - Ms. Andreassi offered the following student/staff recognition:

1. Seneca Valley students were recently recognized by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing Program. These students were chosen for their aptitude and interest in IT and computing, solid leadership ability, good academic history, and plans for post-secondary education. The Western and Central PA affiliate of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is a collaborative effort by dedicated volunteers from Saint Francis University; Penn State University, New Kensington; University of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Mellon University, and All Clear Translations.
2. A host of awards were recently handed out to Seneca Valley students at the 2022 Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair. In addition to placement, several students earned scholarships and sponsor awards. PRSEF is open to all students in grades 6-12 from the 21 counties within Western Pennsylvania and Garrett County, Maryland. Each year, approximately 1,000 students from more than 100 schools participate.
3. Six Seneca Valley art students were recently announced as Gold Key winners in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, while eight students took home the Silver Key and 23 received Honorable Mentions. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards has grown to be the nation’s longest-running, most prestigious

recognition initiation for creative teens, and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers. The Pittsburgh Arts Region encompasses all of Allegheny, Beaver, and Butler counties and is facilitated by the Seneca Valley School District, Pittsburgh Art Affiliate.

4. The Seneca Valley School District is inviting the public to “take a trip down memory lane” as we host tours at Evans City Elementary/Middle School before its closure next month. After 84 years of educational excellence, the community can attend final walk-throughs of the building where visitors can reminisce as they stroll through the hallways, take photos and view memorabilia, old yearbooks and other keepsakes in the CIRC Lab at the school. Evans City School stickers and button pins will be available as keepsakes. Current Evans City Elementary/Middle School students and teachers will be serving as volunteer tour guides along with the Evans City PTO. No RSVP is required to join us for a tour:

- Monday, May 9, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 11, 4:30-6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 14, 2-4 p.m.
- Monday, May 16, 4:30-6 p.m.

B. **All-Star Club Winner, May 2022** - Ms. Valerie Damiani, Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) Administrative Assistant was honored as March’s SV All-Star Award Winner.

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

May	Mental Health Awareness Month
May 3	National Teacher Appreciation Day
May 2-12	Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Exams
May 2-13	Advanced Placement Exams
May 5	School Bus Driver Recognition Day
May 6	School Lunch Hero Day
May 7	SAT Testing, SHS 7:30 a.m.
May 9	School Board Regular Meeting SVIHS Auditorium 7 p.m.
May 11	National School Nurse Day
May 13	Act 80 (Professional Development) Day, No School for Students, Graduation Project Presentations
May 14	Prom - Grand March begins at 5 p.m., SVSHS
May 16-27	Keystone Exams
May 26	Graduation Day (May 27 is the Rain Date)
May 30	Memorial Day Holiday - No School for Students and Staff
May 31	End of K-6 Third Trimester and 7-12 Fourth Nine Weeks for SVAOC
June 3	Last Day of School K-11
June 6	Teacher In-Service Day

Mr. Peterson noted he was pleased to see the appreciation days listed above, especially for teachers and school nurses who have made a Herculean effort to support students over the past two years. Mr. DiTullio echoed Mr. Peterson's support of appreciation days and added bus drivers and school lunch workers also deserve credit for their efforts.

D. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Peterson noted that the Vo-Tech's budget has been approved and he recently attended a presentation about staff development. He further noted 135 Seneca Valley students attend Vo-Tech. The top programs attended are Automotive, Construction, Computer Graphics, Heavy Equipment Repair and Welding. Mr. Peterson volunteered to be the designee to approve the capital budget, replacing Mr. Nickel.

Mr. Jacobs added as the budget process is progressing, they are looking at where investments are made in programming and strategic planning is underway.

2. Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV - An update will be provided next month.

E. **Legislative Report** - Mr. DiTullio provided a legislative update as follows:

The House and Senate are adjourned now until after the primary election and will return to the Capitol on May 23.

The House of Representatives passed House Bill 2169, voucher legislation creating "Lifeline Scholarships." The measure passed with a vote of 104-98. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. Under the bill, parents of students in low-achieving schools can receive funds in the form of Lifeline Scholarships to attend a participating nonpublic school and for other expenses.

**Award of contract for services when no bids are received**

Senate Bill, now Act 18 of 2022, establishes provisions for school districts and other local authorities to award a contract for services when no bids are received. Under the new law, if the district or authority advertises and no bids are received, it must advertise a second time. If no bids are received within 15 days of the second advertisement, the entity may initiate negotiations for a contract for services with a provider. Prior to the execution of the contract, the entity must disclose at a public meeting the identity of the provider, the proposed contract price and a summary of the terms and conditions of the contract.

**Concurrent resolution to bar PDE's charter regulations**

With a vote of 107-92, the House passed a concurrent resolution disapproving the PA Department of Education's proposed regulations for charter and cyber charter schools and barring promulgation of the rules. Although the regulations were approved last month by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, the regulatory review process provides the House and Senate an opportunity to report a concurrent resolution

if they wish to disapprove a proposal. If the General Assembly adopts the concurrent resolution by majority vote in both chambers, it is presented to the governor. If the governor vetoes the concurrent resolution, as is expected with the charter regulations, the General Assembly has 30 days, or 10 legislative days, whichever is longer, to attempt to override that veto by a two-thirds vote in each chamber.

### **Right-to-Know Law**

House Bill 978 amends the Right-to-Know Law to exempt from public access information regarding an agency's financial institution, including account numbers, routing numbers, credit card numbers and PIN numbers. Such information may be redacted to protect the security of the agency's account information. House Bill 978 also clarifies that that an individual's personal financial information, tax information that is required by the state or federal government, as well as their contributions to health care or other benefits, retirement plans, investment options and contributions to charitable organizations is confidential and not a public document. The bill also exempts access to the number, names and ages of an employee's children. However, the bill does not prevent the disclosure of employer costs or aggregated data of employee costs related to benefits, employee benefit options or employer costs associated with employee benefits.

### **Passed by the House Education Committee**

- **School-based mental health services pilot grant program**

House Bill 2022 requires the PA Department of Education to establish a pilot program to award grants to school entities to provide supplemental mental health services to students that are in addition to the services provided by the school employees. Schools would contract with third-party providers to provide the services. These mental health specialists will work in consultation with existing school counselors, social workers and school psychologists. The program would end on June 30, 2027.

- **Mental health awareness model curriculum**

House Bill 2023 requires the PA Department of Education (PDE), in consultation with at least one organization addressing mental health issues, to develop or identify a model mental health curriculum to be made available for use by school entities. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, school entities may develop an age-appropriate mental health education program that could be incorporated into the school's existing curriculum for students in grades K-12. Schools may use the model developed or identified by PDE. The committee amended the bill to remove language calling for schools to provide four hours of training every five years on behavioral health awareness to professional educators.

- **Mental health instruction study**

House Bill 2024 requires the State Board of Education to conduct a study to determine whether public school entities are currently providing mental health instruction and the manner in which the instruction is offered. As amended by the committee, the study will also ask schools how many employees they have that provide instruction in mental health, and what resources or support would be needed to improve the instruction of mental health. The State Board would provide a report on its findings by November 30, 2023.

Department of Education Secretary Dr. Noe Ortega resigned his position with the commonwealth, effective April 29. Governor. Tom Wolf has named Eric Hagarty to serve as Acting Secretary. Hagarty most recently served as the governor's Deputy Chief of Staff responsible for implementing the governor's priorities and policies relating to education.

F. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Middle School Activities
5. Athletics
6. Food Service
7. Tax Collection Reports
8. Capital Projects Funds

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** - April 4, 2022
- B. **Action Meeting** - April 11, 2022

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

5. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Total: \$2,814,910.04

6. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Total: \$2,499,450.36

7. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

- A. **Board Policies** - Approve the following board policies:
  1. Policy 227, Substance Use/Abuse - revised, first reading.
  2. Policy 227.1, Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Athletic Programs, Extracurricular Activities, and Student Drivers - revised, first reading.
- B. **Board Meeting Dates** - Approve the July through December 2022 School Board Meeting dates.
- C. **Transportation Contract** - Approve the transportation contract for one family to transport their child to D.T. Watson during the extended school year July 6 - July 28, 2022.
- D. **Duquesne University School of Education Affiliation Agreement** - Approve the affiliation agreement with Duquesne University School of Education to provide

cooperating professionals for field placements, student teaching and internships for the five-year term from June 1, 2022 to June 1, 2027.

- E. **2022-23 K-6 Proposed Adjustments to Student Attendance Zones** - Approve the 2022-23 K-6 Proposed Adjustments to Student Attendance Zones. Dr. McCarty
- F. **Seneca Valley Custodial ESPA-PSEA-NEA Contract** - Approve the agreement with Seneca Valley Custodial ESPA-PSEA-NEA effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027.

Dr. McCarty provided information about redistricting as presented at a public meeting on April 25. Mr. Nickel asked for reconsideration of the plan due to its impact on families in one community consisting of ten students. Mr. Nickel requested two options for attendance zones be brought before the Board at the next meeting which would include an alternative plan allowing these ten students to attend Ehrman Crest Elementary School.

## 8. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**

- A. **Student Trip** - Approve the trip to Norfolk, Virginia, from April 28 to May 1, 2022 where students will have the opportunity to participate in an adjudication where their musicianship will be evaluated by world-class musicians. Students will also see the many unique sites of Virginia, support their band peers marching in the parade of nations, and create community within the orchestra program. Students will miss two days of school.
- B. **Conference Requests** - Approve the conference requests.
- C. **Grants**
  - 1. Grant permission to apply for and disburse the PPG Innovative Classroom Grant in the amount of \$1,000. Funds will be used to support STEM activities in a 6th grade science class at Haine Middle School. Ms. Sharon Kramer
  - 2. Grant permission to apply for and disburse the PPG Innovative Classroom Grant in the amount of \$1,000. Funds will be used to support Fly-Fishing Activity & Enrichment at Haine Middle School. Mr. Tim Cammisa

## 9. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION**

- A. **Budget Transfers** - Approve the budget transfers.
- B. **Change Orders** - Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest.
- C. **Professional Photography Contract Awards** - Award the following professional photography contracts for the 2022-23 through 2024-25 school years.
  - 1. Yearbook events and activities contract to Bill Sauers Photography
  - 2. K-12 portraits contract to Jostens

- D. **Lease Agreement with SVSD and Zelianople Borough** - Approve the lease agreement between Seneca Valley School District (SVSD) and Zelianople Borough for the lease of two baseball / softball fields.
- E. **Agreement with SVSD, Zelianople Borough, and SVNAA for Score Boards at CVE** - Approve the agreement with Seneca Valley School District (SVSD), Seneca Valley North Athletic Association (SVNAA), and Zelianople Borough for scoreboards and sponsorship signs at the baseball and softball fields.
- F. **Bid Awards** - Award the following bids for the 2022-23 school year.
  - 1. General Supplies
  - 2. Maintenance Supplies
  - 3. Print Supplies
- G **Depository/Treasurer** - Appoint NexTier Bank as depository and treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year.
- H. **Proposed 2022-23 Budget** - Approve the proposed 2022-23 budget in the amount of \$161,612,983 with no millage increase and authorize the budget to be made available for public inspection.
- I. **YMCA Corporate 25 Community Partnership** - Approve the Corporate 25 Community Partnership agreement between the Butler County YMCA and Seneca Valley School District to provide membership discounts and benefits for district employees.
- J. **Early Intervention Agreement** - Approve the lease agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for the operation of an Early Intervention program as established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act and under the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning at the District's Rowan Elementary School for the 2022-23 school year.

Mr. DiTullio commended the work of Ms. Lynn Burtner and Dr. Vitale on the budget and offered his thanks for their hard work.

- 10. **PERSONNEL** - Approve resignations, appointments, contracted service, leaves And retirement.
- 11. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account.
  - A. Ms. Laura Flaugh
  - B. Ms. Katja Krieger
  - C. Ms. Erin McClymonds

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT** was heard from Ms. Kayla Burgert and Mr. Trey Rose.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary