

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Seneca Valley Senior High Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

March 7, 2022

I. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for the following:

Please keep in your thoughts the family and friends of Ms. June Marshall, a beloved and retired Seneca Valley secondary teacher and administrator who passed away on Feb. 23. Ms. Marshall taught, mentored and volunteered her time at Seneca Valley for over three decades. A dedicated and gifted science teacher, colleagues decided many years ago to honor Ms. Marshall by naming the nature trail behind the 7-8 middle school in her name; her legacy will live on at Seneca Valley. She will be greatly missed.

We would also like you to keep in your thoughts the many Ukrainians who have been killed or injured during the ongoing Russian invasion.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Jancarlos Diaz Osorio, fourth grader at Rowan Elementary School, continued the "I Led the Pledge" board initiative by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

A. **Student/Staff Recognition**

1. Twenty-nine Seneca Valley Band students were selected by solo audition to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District Jazz Festival at Slippery Rock University February 18-19. The festival consisted of three auditioned jazz ensembles with Seneca Valley representing the most students of any district. The event concluded with a public concert at Slippery Rock University's Miller Auditorium.
2. Twenty-one Seneca Valley Band students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Band Festival at New Castle Area High School January 27-28.

3. Twenty-two Seneca Valley Choral students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Chorus Festival at Sharon High School Feb. 10 - 11. Based on audition results from this festival, 15 SV will be moving on to the PMEA Region I Chorus. The PMEA Region I Festival will be held at Butler Intermediate High School later this month. District 5 comprises of school districts from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties.

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

March 7	Start of Spring Sports
March 11	Release of K-6 Student Progress Reports
March 12	SAT Testing, Senior High School, 7:30 a.m.
March 13	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 14	School Board Regular (Action) Meeting – 7 p.m. SVHS Aud.

Mr. DiTullio noted that on Thursday, March 3, 2022, Dr. Vitale received the Distinguished Educator Award at the Tri-State Area School Study Council's 73rd Annual Banquet. The Council provides a wealth of comprehensive technical assistance, strategic planning, and employment assistance to school districts in the Western Pennsylvania region. Its membership includes over one-hundred districts and a team of leaders and consultants with backgrounds in education.

C. **Mental Wellness** - Dr. Roberts provided an update on mental wellness efforts throughout the District noting that it is essential that both the physical and mental health of our students are considered to support their learning:

Support for Students

- Multiple resources are available with a focus on easy accessibility.
- Students can access assistance on the SV website at www.svsd.net/help and on the home screen of the SV App for smartphones.
- School counselors post mental wellness information on counselors' Instagram pages that are frequently accessed by students.
- QR codes have been added across the secondary schools for quick access to counselors and crisis help in classrooms.
- Counselors are reinforcing that seeking help is normal and healthy.
- Learn, Explore, Act, Develop (LEAD) is our system for developing students' skills, including resilience and self-care.
- Youth Education Support Services (YESS) functions at all buildings to identify problems and eliminate barriers to learning.

Support for Staff

- Staff should be aware of their own capacity to help and seek help through the Employee Assistance program or Care Solace if they need support.
- Faculty and staff may not have all the answers to support students, but they are able to connect students with resources.

- Staff can use "calm down corners" or trauma-informed approaches to help students.
- An eight-hour youth Mental Health First Aid course will be offered to professional staff this summer. This program will also be a part of new staff induction.

Support for Parents

- The Care Solace program was the lead story in Raider Pride last week.
 - Self-service: caresolace.com/Seneca
 - Warm handoff referral from SV staff
- Our school staff, including counselors, nurses, and school psychologists, are trained to make referrals to Care Solace.
- Our school-based therapy program continues through a partnership with Glade Run Lutheran Services.
- On the SV website, a comprehensive view of mental wellness is presented under the Student Services menu heading.
- Josh Shipp, motivational speaker, will be visiting Seneca Valley on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. His message is that "Every child is one caring adult away from being a success."

D. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - No report
2. Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio noted that negotiations are underway for a new teacher contract, updates are forthcoming. Additionally, the IU budget is on the March 14, 2022 agenda for approval.

E. **Legislative Report** - Mr. Eric DiTullio provided an update noting that the General Assembly remains adjourned while the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives continue hearings to examine the 2022-23 state budget proposal.

On Thursday, March 10, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) will consider the State Board of Education's final-form proposed changes to Chapter 49 of the school code which is the regulations for certification of professional personnel.

Among some of the key changes, the proposal:

- Updates and aligns Chapter 49 with statutory changes and to match current practices.
- Requires teacher preparation programs to integrate professional ethics, structured literacy, and culturally relevant and sustaining education (CR-SE).
- Requires teacher preparation programs as well as continuing professional development programs to include instruction in structured literacy for candidates and educators who wish to earn/have a certificate in early childhood, elementary/middle, special education (PK-12), English as a second language and reading specialist.

- Requires induction programs and continuing professional development programs to include professional ethics and culturally relevant and sustaining education (CR-SE).
- Expands beginning teacher induction requirements from one to two years. Clarifies requirements for long-term substitutes to participate in the induction experiences for first-year teachers.
- Expands existing language regarding reciprocity with other states.
- Reflects changes under Act 39 of 2018 that revised requirements for candidates Career and Technical Education certificates.
- The proposed revisions do not change the age/grade spans for certificates except for new language added to include the statutory changes under Act 82 of 2018 for special education certificates.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 7: House Appropriations Committee budget hearing with PDE
- Thursday, March 10: Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with PDE
- Tuesday, March 15: House Education Committee hearing on teacher shortages
- Monday, March 21: IRRC hearing on PDE's proposed regulations for charter schools
- Tuesday, March 22: House Education Committee hearing on the cyber charter school application and renewal process

On February 23, 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court temporarily suspended the primary election calendar for seats in the General Assembly (State House and State Senate). This suspension was to allow for the challenges to be filed relative to the Final 2021 Legislative Reapportionment Plan.

F. Financial Reports

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **Work Session** - February 7, 2022
- B. **Regular Meeting** - February 14, 2022

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

5. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Grand Total: \$3,147,875.32
6. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - Grand Total: \$2,896,797.87
7. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
- A. **Board Policy** - Approve Policy 008, Organizational Chart, revised, second and final reading.
- B. **Kennywood Picnic** - Approve Friday, June 24, 2022 as Kennywood picnic date for 2022.
8. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**
- A. **Grant Disbursement** - Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
1. Living DoNATION Micro Grant from UPMC in the amount of \$500. Funds will be utilized by the Haine Middle School Community Outreach Club to learn about kidney health. Requested by Ms. Erin Wilcher, Haine Middle School Principal.
 2. Highmark Foundation School Grant in the amount of \$7,500 for health and wellness initiatives that promote a positive school climate. Specifically, funds will be used to create a “Chill Room” in Ryan Gloyer Middle School for students to have an inviting space to decompress from stress; learn and practice coping strategies; and utilize tools to improve mental and physical health. Requested by Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement, and Ms. Trisha Butschle, Assistant Principal.
 3. Student Mental Wellness Grant funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) in the amount of \$95,000. Funds will be used for the following: Requested by Ms. Annie Mersing and Dr. Jeff Roberts.
 - Youth Mental Health First Aid
 - Care Solace Services
 - Assessing Student Well-being
 - A community campaign to address local needs for mental health and supportive services, as well as increase awareness that our communities are committed to taking a proactive approach toward building a positive, supportive environment.
- B. **Student Adjudications** - Approve the following student adjudications.
1. #2021-22-04
 2. #2021-22-07
- C. **Student Trip** - Approve the Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon field trip to Souderton, Pennsylvania on March 11 and 12, 2022, under the supervision of Mr. David Reichard. Students will miss two days of classes.
- D. **Conference Requests** - Approve the conference requests.

- E. **Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC Client Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC to provide interpreting services for deaf and/or hard of hearing students.
9. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION**
- A. **Budget Transfers** - Approve budget transfers.
- B. **2022-23 MIU IV General Operating Budget** - Approve the 2022-23 Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV General Operating Budget in the total amount of \$3,354,178 with Seneca Valley's contribution being \$148,315.
- C. **NexTier Stadium Scoreboard Replacement Contract Award** - Approve Institutional Specialties Inc. through the government cooperative purchasing program, CO-STARS Vendor Agreement for the Scoreboard Replacement Project to be completed in the Summer of 2022 in the Amount of \$176,500, pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- D. **Duro-Last, Inc. Haine Re-Roofing Contract Award** - Approve Duro-Last, Inc. through the government cooperative purchasing program, The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), vendor agreement for the Haine re-roofing project to be completed in the summer of 2022 in the amount of \$177,720.78, pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- E. **Duro-Last, Inc. Ryan Gloyer Middle School Re-Roofing Contract Award** - Approve Duro-Last, Inc. through the government cooperative purchasing program, The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), vendor agreement for the Ryan Gloyer Middle School re-roofing project to be completed in the summer of 2022 in the amount of \$405,905.22, pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- F. **Waste Management Renewal Agreement** - Approve the renewal agreement with Waste Management of Pennsylvania for Waste removal services, pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- G. **Callery Borough Tax Collector Agreement** - Approve the Callery Borough Tax Collector resolution.
10. **PERSONNEL ACTION** - Mr. Jeff Widdowson - Approve the appointments, leaves, stipends, and retirements.
11. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the February 14, 2022 agenda.
- A. Ms. Karen O'Brien
 B. Ms. Jennifer Livorse
 C. Ms. Joy Weber

- D. Ms. Stephanie Lane
 E. Ms. Tatiana Brower
 F. Mr. Dan Weimer
 G. Ms. Carla Barnhart
 H. Ms. Julie Bloom
 I. Mr. Brian Epsey
 J. Ms. Erin Weber
 K. Ms. Tracey DeVos Frazier
 L. Mr. John Ciganik
 M. Ms. Julia Lingenfelter
 N. Ms. Nicole Ging
 O. Ms. Aubrey Hart
 P. Ms. Ned Bruns
 Q. Ms. Stacy Adams
 R. Ms. Beth Lauer
 S. Mr. Nick Brower
 T. Ms. Erin McClymonds
 U. Mr. Mark Bidoli
 V. Mr. Chuck Harbaugh
 W. Ms. Nicole Ging
 X. Mr. J. Victor Conrad
 Y. Ms. Lindsey Baker
 Z. Mr. John Jackanic
 AA. Ms. Rebecca Prible
 BB. Ms. Kelly Mediate
 CC. Ms. Breanna Callender
 DD. Ms. Jennifer Mayo
 EE. Ms. Jonelle Bowlby
12. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - There was no public comment.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary