

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING

Zoom - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

February 14, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Maddie Tripodi, first grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, continued the "I Led the Pledge" board initiative by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. <https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=uzge4kh285>
 - C. **Roll Call** by Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary, showed the following board members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle, Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson.

Others present included Dr. Tracy Vitale, Dr. Matthew McKinley, Dr. Sean McCarty, Ms. Kyra Bobak, Ms. Lynn Burtner, Ms. Linda Andreassi, Mr. Randy Miller, Dr. Marie Palano, Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Mr. Jim Pearson, Ms. Annie Mersing, Mr. Jason Young, and Mr. Matthew Hoffman.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognitions** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following student/staff recognitions.
 1. Seneca Valley Junior vocalists Allison Alexander and Elizabeth Hixon were selected to participate in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE). Honor Ensemble participants are selected through a rigorous process that includes a recorded video audition. This year, Seneca Valley was the only school district in the state of Pennsylvania that had two choral students qualify for such a prestigious honor. This year's National Honors Festival was held online Jan. 22-24. The event included several rehearsals with six distinguished conductors, as well as workshops with special guest artists and renowned clinicians.
 2. Daniel Spear, a graduating senior at Seneca Valley Senior High School, has been named one of more than 5,000 candidates in the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from the nearly 3.6 million students that applied and are expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2022. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.

3. Ten Seneca Valley students were selected for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District Orchestra in Sharon, Pa., Jan. 13-14. District 5 serves the music teachers and students of Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties.
 4. A record-breaking 22 vocalists from Seneca Valley were selected to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Junior High Chorus Fest on Jan. 21. Students prepared music in advance, worked with guest conductors for the day, and put on a wonderful concert that evening.
- B. **Seneca Valley All-Star Club Winner, February 2022** - Jim Mings, ABC Transit, Inc. Bus Driver, was honored as February's SV All-Star Award Winner.
- C. **Dates to Remember** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following dates to remember:

February	National Black History Month
February	2022-23 SV Kindergarten Registration now open at www.svsd.net
February 18	Snow Makeup Day for Jan. 27, school closure. School will be in session on Feb 18
February 21	President's Day; Act 80 Day - No School for Students
February 25	SVAOC Cyber Program - End of Second Trimester for K-6
March 2	In-Person End of Second Trimester for K-6
March 3-6	Seneca Valley All-School Musical: <i>Mamma Mia!</i>
March 7	First Day for all PIAA Spring Sports
March 7	Seneca Valley Work Session Meeting - 7 p.m.

- D. **Demographer Update Presentation** - Mr. Lorne Woods and Ms. Georgia Leonard of Davis Demographics presented an update on the demographic study which has been underway for the past few months. The study detailed district boundaries and attendance, research of relevant demographic information and data, and research of residential developments that may impact the district.
- E. **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
- F. **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Vitale provided an update as follows:

Butler County

- Comparing the seven-day period of Jan. 28 - Feb. 3 vs. Feb. 4 -10, Butler county is down 504 cases.
- PCR Rate = 14.4%
- Local epidemiologists and doctors are optimistic and have reported all good news

Seneca Valley

- Active student cases = 3
- Active staff case = 1

Dr. Vitale stated that the district is in a very good position to reduce mitigations and consider masks being "strongly recommended" or optional. Staffing levels, including bus drivers, are almost back to normal. More protective KN95 masks will be available for parents who would like to have them for their children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still calculates Butler County as being in a "high" transmission level, but we know this data is lagging about four to six days. We should continue to see better numbers moving forward.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Public comment was heard by the following constituents:
 - A. Mr. Nathan McCollough
 - B. Ms. Melissa Morrison
 - C. Mr. Eric Morrison
 - D. Ms. Erin McClymonds
 - E. Ms. Serenity Vincent
 - F. Ms. Aubrey Hart
 - G. Ms. Lindsey Douglass
 - H. Ms. Rebecca Prible
 - I. Ms. Chea Wilson
 - J. Ms. Shannon Mihalacki
 - K. Ms. Shaena McSwiggan
 - L. Ms. Virginia Scheutz

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approved the following meeting minutes.
 - A. Work Session - January 10, 2022
 - B. Regular Meeting - January 18, 2022

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Approved the treasurer's report.

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Approved the general fund bills totaling \$3,737,719.57

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$2,156,503.82

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve items 4, 5, 6 and 7 as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
 - A. Board Policies - Approved the following board policies.
 1. Policy 800.1, Electronic Signatures, second and final reading.
 2. Policy 008, Organizational Chart, revised, first reading.
 3. Policy 103, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students, revised, first and final reading. Ms. Bobak
 4. Policy 104, Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff, revised, first and final reading. Ms. Bobak

- B. **2022-23 School Calendar** - Approved the 2022-23 school calendar.
- C. **Local District Holidays** - Approved the resolution regarding local district holidays for the 2022-23 school year.
- D. **Care Solace Agreement** - Approved an agreement with Care Solace to provide mental health care coordination and support for students, staff and their families from March 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022 pending final solicitor review.
- E. **Student Adjudications** - Approved the following student adjudications:
 - 1. #2021-22-05
 - 2. #2021-22-06

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve administration items A, B, C, D, and E as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- F. **Masking Policy** - Masking policy to be updated in the school health and safety plan with **ONE** of the options below:

- 1. **Effective immediately (2/14/22)**, face masks will be strongly recommended but not required, indoors for students and staff in all schools during the day. **To avoid fluctuating between masking requirements, once the metric to discontinue the District's mask requirement has been met, masks will remain "strongly recommended but not required" until or unless the school board takes action to institute a new mask requirement.*

Mr. Jacobs stated that we are in a good place to approve option 1 at this time. Ms. Harrison agreed stating it would be difficult to find a reliable metric at this time and asked that parents report any positive COVID-19 tests to the school to maintain accurate data. Ms. Bredl supports finding a balance that does not compromise safety and believes a week grace period is needed for transition. Mr. Peterson agreed stating that public health is a balance of physiologic and emotional health and that there is value in waiting another week.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to approve administration item F1 as listed above. The motion failed on a roll call vote with four yes votes and five no votes.

- 2. **Effective 2/21/22**, should the 7-day incident rate per 100,000 people for Butler county, as defined by the CDC, be lower on 2/21/22 as compared to 2/7/22, regardless of the community transmission level for Butler County, face masks will be strongly recommended but not required. **To avoid fluctuating between masking requirements, once the metric to discontinue the District's mask requirement has been met, masks will remain "strongly recommended but not required" until or unless the school board takes action to institute a new mask requirement.*

Mr. DiTullio asked for an amendment to remove the "lower incident rate" language. Ms. Whittle and Mr. Widdowson agreed.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Whittle, to approve administration item F2 as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with eight yes votes and one no vote.

3. **Effective 2/28/2022**, should the 7-day incident rate per 100,000 people for Butler county, as defined by the CDC, be lower on 2/25/22 as compared to 2/7/22, regardless of the community transmission level for Butler County, face masks will be strongly recommended but not required. **To avoid fluctuating between masking requirements, once the metric to discontinue the District's mask requirement has been met, masks will remain "strongly recommended but not required" until or unless the school board takes action to institute a new mask requirement.*

No vote was taken on administration item F3 since item F2 was approved.

- G. **Seneca Valley School District Health and Safety Plan 2021-22** - Approved changes to the Seneca Valley School District Health and Safety Plan 2021-22.

Mr. Nickel noted that the mask requirement language will be added to the Health and Safety Plan. Dr. Vitale confirmed that the federal requirement for public transportation still requires masks to be worn on school buses until that mandate is lifted on March 18, 2022.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve administrative item G as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION** - Approved conference requests.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the conference requests. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION**

- A. **Budget Transfer** - Approved budget transfer.
- B. **Change Orders** - Approved the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
- C. **Capital Asset Protection, Inc. Security Contract** - Approved the security contract with Capital Asset Protection, Inc.
- D. **E.B. Peffer Company Agreement** - Approved the revised cleaning contract with E.B. Peffer Company.
- E. **Central Maintenance & Service Agreement** - Approved the revised cleaning contract with Central Maintenance & Service.
- F. **Consolidated Communications Agreement** - Approved a 5-year service agreement with Consolidated Communications, Inc. for Internet service (10 Gbps) in the amount of \$2,100 per month beginning July 1, 2022.
- G. **Amendment to Deed** - Approved the amendment to deed of right of way and construction easement between the Seneca Valley School District and Harmony Borough.

- H. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) 2022-23 Budget**
Approved the BCAVTS proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year in the amount of \$6,305,884.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve the business and finance items as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

11. **PERSONNEL** - Approved the appointments, leaves, sabbatical and retirements.
(Executive Session)

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve the personnel items as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the February 7, 2022 agenda.

- A. Mr. Mike Bontatibus
- B. Mr. Mark Bidoli
- C. Ms. Sandy Suski
- D. Ms. Tatiana Brower
- E. Mr. Nick Brower
- F. Ms. Stephanie Lane
- G. Ms. Erin McClymonds
- H. Ms. Meredith Wolfe
- I. Ms. Angela Disanto
- J. Ms. Angela Rekasie
- K. Ms. Lindsey Baker
- L. Ms. Sarah Cardosi
- M. Mr. Dan Weimer
- N. Ms. Erin Kenyon
- O. Ms. Lindsey Douglass
- P. Ms. Tracey Frazier
- Q. Mr. Kevin Strayhorn
- R. Ms. Rachel Cale
- S. Ms. Kristin Mihlfried
- T. Ms. Jennifer Mayo
- U. Ms. Amanda Temple
- V. Ms. Brandie Schandelmeier
- W. Ms. Nicole Sylves
- X. Ms. Amy Gilbert
- Y. Mr. Reed Bryant
- Z. Mr. Paul Fisher
- AA. Ms. Kelly Mediate
- BB. Ms. Ellie Kim
- CC. Mr. and Mrs. Parag Batavia
- DD. Ms. Beth Lauer
- EE. Mr. David Frankel
- FF. Ms. Lorrie Hurd
- GG. Mr. Dean and Ms. Carissa Palamides
- HH. Ms. Stacy Adams

II. Ms. Jayme Gordon
JJ. Ms. Laura Moad
KK. Ms. Rebecca Prible
LL. Ms. Megan Ashead
MM. Ms. Laura Donaldson
NN. Mr. John Ciganik
OO. Mr. Philip and Ms. Aubrey Hart
PP. Ms. Jennifer Colella
QQ. Ms. Christine Lawryk
RR. Ms. Dixie Smith
SS. Ms. Tanya Walden
TT. Mr. Justin Page
UU. Mr. David Zimmerman
VV. Ms. Madeline Nowak
WW. Mr. Justin Bayles
XX. Ms. Sue Hart
YY. Mr. Jeremy Bloom
ZZ. Ms. Shannon Mihalacki
AAA. Mr. Travis Karenbauer
BBB. Mr. Tyler Bintrim
CCC. Ms. Breanna Callender
DDD. Ms. Dixie Yakin
EEE. Mr. Nate West
FFF. Ms. Julia Benson
GGG. Ms. Susan McDowell
HHH. Mr. John Jackanic
III. Ms. Stephanie Hunter
JJJ. Ms. Shaena McSwiggan
KKK. Mr. Scott Callendar
LLL. Ms. Kristie Long
MMM. Mr. Joe Matachak
NNN. Mr. Keith DeWitt
OOO. Ms. Sylena Smith
PPP. Ms. Amanda Slovak
QQQ. Ms. Ashleigh Wisniewski
RRR. Ms. Tiffany Monz
SSS. Ms. Kari Zimmer
TTT. Ms. Melissa Harrison
UUU. Ms. Marge Bowser
VVV. Mr. Wayne Baker
WWW. Ms. Erin Weber
XXX. Mr. Brian Espey
YYY. Ms. Julie Bloom
ZZZ. Ms. Carla Barnhart

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary