Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Zoom - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

February 7, 2022

- 1. CALL TO ORDER by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.
 - A. Moment of Silence The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> Annabelle Alexander, fourth grader at Haine Elementary School, continued the board initiative, "I Led the Pledge," by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=u7mbk6q6ux
 - C. Roll Call by Lisa Mislan, 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. Frederick Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle, Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson. Mr. Nickel was absent.

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, Mr. Jim Pearson, Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, and Mr. Matthew Hoffman.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Student/Staff Recognition

The Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber (PNRC) recently celebrated the people and businesses in our community who have stepped up and served others this past year by recognizing their efforts as 2021 Community Champion Award Honorees. We are proud to share that the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) was chosen as one of the award winners for this wonderful honor. According to PNRC, SVF provided leadership and structure when people needed it the most. SVF is committed to providing the gift of hope and promise of excellence to the students and staff of Seneca Valley School District. Through SVF's efforts, the District is provided with the extras that set SV apart from other schools in the region. While its traditional focus is Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), early literacy and global citizenship, SVF has been critical in helping the district ensure its student's and staff's basic needs were met over the past two years. Under the leadership of Executive Director Dr. Tracy Vitale and Director of Development Ms. Annie Mersing, SVF connected resources during the pandemic; delivered food and household products to vulnerable families; helped to create a memorable senior year for both the class of 2020 and 2021; and boosted staff morale by hosting food truck days at each of the district's nine schools. "The SVF is grateful to be recognized by the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber," said Ms. Mersing. "Our efforts, whether supporting the district in its

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COVID-19 response or funding excellence in academics, helps set Seneca Valley apart from other districts in the region. Having these efforts acknowledged by such a prestigious chamber is quite an honor."

- 2. With a score of 47,026 an over 6,000-point lead the Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon team placed first and took home 45 medals at the most recent regional competition held at Collegiate Academy on Jan. 8. The students competed in eight events: art, music, literature, mathematics, economics, social science, science and essay. The next competition will be the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) Regional Competition at Clarion Limestone February 11-12.
- B. <u>Dates to Remember</u> 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 7-11	National School Counseling Week
February 14	School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
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

C. Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) Proposed Budget

Dr. Regina Hiler presented the 2022-23 proposed Butler County Area VocationalTechnical School (BCAVTS) operating budget. Ballots were mailed to each school board member to cast their vote. The ballots are due back to the BCAVTS by April 4.

The budget shows an increase of \$230,595 from last year with the Seneca Valley School District's portion rising by \$58,751. There are approximately 142 Seneca Valley students currently enrolled at the Vo-Tech.

Mr. Jacobs added that Seneca Valley's portion is up approximately 9% but we are up about 30% in the number of kids we are sending to the Vo-Tech. Of that 9%, about 6% is because we are sending more children. The other 3% is closer to the cost increase. The Vo-tech operating budget is up about 3.7% with payment to districts up around 3%. Anything we pay above that, as a district, is related to increased participation relative to the other districts.

- D. <u>Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) Advocacy</u> Ms. Heather Scott, PSBA Advocacy Ambassador, spoke to the importance of Board Director participation and advocacy with legislators and how members can impact relationships, resources and outcomes. The Spring Advocacy Day is scheduled for April 25, 2022, in Harrisburg.
- E. Care Solace Dr. Roberts provided an overview of the agreement between the Seneca Valley School District and Care Solace which will help us address student, staff and family member mental health needs. Dr. Roberts first noted that our school counselors work in three domains: academic, career exploration and development, and social/emotional. Because they are not certified mental health counselors, referrals would be made to agencies such as Care Solace which is a mental health care coordination service. This service can quickly find quality care matched to unique needs regardless of

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circumstances and will make finding help easy with follow-up to ensure satisfaction. The service could be live by the beginning of March. Dr. Roberts added that what sets Care Solace apart from other providers is that they are available 24/7/365 and are multilingual.

F. Agency Reports

- 1. Vo-Tech No additional report other than the budget, which Mr. Peterson and Mr. Jacobs are recommending board members approve.
- 2. Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV (MIU IV) Mr. Eric DiTullio noted that the MIU 14 budget was approved and recommends that Seneca Valley Board Members approve it, as well.
- 3. Western Pa. Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Update Mr. Timothy Hester provided an update as follows:
 - Re-classification happens every two years.
 - Seneca Valley will stay in the same classification, 6A.
 - Three schools are dropping down so the football schedule has not been completed.

G. <u>Legislative</u> - Mr. Eric DiTullio provided the following update:

- Senate Bill 324, now Act 1 of 2022. The new law, which is effective immediately, is intended to help keep students who are either experiencing homelessness or are in foster care on track to graduate high school. Public school entities must designate a point person for the student who will review past transcripts and provide support and resources needed to help the student graduate on time.
- House Bill 253, now Act 2 of 2022. Effective immediately, this law establishes a task force on the opioid abuse epidemic's impact on children. The bill was amended in the Senate to distribute \$225 million from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account for hospitals and retention and recruitment of healthcare workers.
- House Bill 2146 (Congressional Redistricting Map) was vetoed by the Governor. The
 supreme court will now have a hearing on the issue scheduled for Feb. 18, which is three
 days past the date for candidates to circulate petitions and will most likely lead to a delay
 in the primary. The redistricting process has to be completed this year so the November
 General Election can take place since Pennsylvania has lost a Federal House Seat from
 the 2020 Census.
- Pennsylvania House and Senate Redistricting final map was approved on Friday by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission. This new map is different from the preliminary map passed in December and changes the representation of Butler County from a consolidated three districts to four. Two of the districts will still cross county lines in Lawrence and Mercer Counties. The previous map from 2012 had Butler County being a part of seven districts and representatives overlapping in the five counties of Armstrong, Beaver, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango.

Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Investigation

• On Monday, January 31, the PSERS Board was presented with the final internal investigation report on risk share and Harrisburg properties. The investigation was completed by Womble Bond Dickinson. The investigation took nearly a year to complete.

- The final report found no criminal action and states, "We found no evidence of any kickbacks or any illegal payments. We found no evidence of theft. We found no evidence of self-dealing. We found no evidence of false statements or misleading statements in financial transactions."
- The report and all exhibits, a total of 288 pages, is available on the PSERS website.
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) an Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigations are still, as far as we know, ongoing, and have not produced any criminal or civil charges.

H. 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
- I. <u>COVID-19 Update</u> Dr. Vitale provided an update, first noting that the Pennsylvania and Butler County COVID-19 cases are down significantly.

Butler County:

- The difference in confirmed cases from Jan. 28 Feb. 2 as compared to Jan. 21 27 is down by 466 cases.
- The Incident Rate is down to 455.
- The PCR Positivity rate is down to 22.9% (PA PCR Positivity Rate is at 18.4%).
- The Butler Health System is reporting that staffing issues are resolving and they are back to performing non-emergency surgeries.

Seneca Valley:

- Active student cases = 13
- Students quarantined = 16
- Active staff cases = 4

Vaccination Status:

- 74% of SV staff members have voluntarily reported being fully vaccinated.
- There is no vaccination or reporting of vaccination status requirement.

SV Zip Codes

- From Feb. 5 7, 76 cases were reported.
- On Feb. 4, 12 cases were reported
- On Feb. 3, 27 cases were reported

According to the CDC thresholds, Butler County is still in the High range of community transmission, but this rate is rapidly declining.

Faculty & Student Vaccination Rates as of 2/1/22

CATEGORY	VACCINE COUNT	TOTAL COUNT (21-22)		21-22 POSITIVE CASES	20-21 POSITIVE CASES	TOTAL POSITIVE
SVSD STAFF	639	864	74.0%	190	105	286
STUDENTS	VACCINE COUNT	TOTAL COUNT (21-22)		21-22 POSITIVE CASES	20-21 POSITIVE CASES	TOTAL POSITIVE
CVE	102	806	12.7%	156	24	180
ECE	56	580	9.7%	98	6	104
HES	93	871	10.7%	103	25	128
Rowan	130	554	23.5%	133	27	160
ECMS	61	483	12.6%	95	13	108
HMS	78	583	13.4%	109	40	149
RGMS	384	1194	32.2%	193	86	279
IHS/SHS	740	2315	32.0%	339	178	517
DISTRICT STUDENT	1644	7386	22.3%	1226	399	1625

Timeline for Easing Pandemic Mitigation Efforts in the School Environment

The Board deliberated several options as shown below.

	Pandemic Mitigation Efforts in the S	
Current Mitigation Strategy	Proposed Changes to Mitigation Strategy	Recommended Timeline
CAFETERIA: Elementary and Secondary – layered prevention strategies such as additional spaces for eating funch may be utilized to maximize space between students if the needs of the school community, such as levels of community transmission and local vaccination coverage, necessitate doing so. Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, may be used in cafeterias where the environment does not accommodate for physical distancing. Disposable food service items will be used when feasible and to the extent possible.	Cafeteria protocols to be updated as outlined below: Maximizing space between students while eating will remain a priority; however, additional spaces will no longer be required to be utilized to accommodate for increased distance between students. Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, will no longer be utilized as a mitigation strategy unless or until a rationale for doing so is deemed appropriate. The use of reusable food service items will be restored, and disposable food service items will be used as needed.	Action on 2/14/22, effective 2/15/22
individuals while in any district building	Masking policy to be updated as outlined below: February 14, 2022: Face masks will be required of all individuals while in any district building during the school day while Butler County's level of community transmission is HIGH as defined by the CDC. When Butler County is in the Substantial, Moderate or Low transmission levels as defined by the CDC, face masks will be strongly recommended but not required. To avoid fluctuating between masking	The two options may be presented as one motion, or the school board may choose to vote on one or the other. Action on 2/14/22, effective 2/15/22 Please note, the data reported is a lagging indicator.

<u>Timeline for Easing Pandemic Mitigation Efforts in the School Environment</u>

Current Mitigation Strategy	Proposed Changes to Mitigation Strategy	Recommended Timeline
	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. Effective 2/28/2022, should the 7-day incident rate per 100,000 people 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. Proposed additional language: Teachers/Professional Staff may request parents/guardians wear a mask during in person meetings, etc.	
IDENTIFYING AND RESTRICTING NON- ESSENTIAL VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS: The district will limit non-essential visitors and volunteers associated with external groups or organizations as much as possible. Adults may utilize a contactless drop-off area for forgotten lunches, instruments	The district will begin to permit more in- person visitors to our schools. Virtual meetings will remain an option by request.	Action on 2/14/22, effective 2/15/22
etc. to eliminate direct contact with staff and students. Visitors must have a scheduled appointment to enter a district building. Any visitor arriving without an appointment for a non-emergent situation will not be granted access to the building. Records will be kept of any persons permitted to enter the building, their reason for being there, and the locations of the building they visit		
of the building they visit. DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING: Layered prevention strategles like the utilization of temperature screening stations at various entry points throughout the district may be operationalized if the needs of the school community, such as levels of community transmission and local vaccination coverage, necessitate doing so.	Temperature screening stations will no longer be utilized.	Action on 2/14/22, effective 2/15/22
RETURNING ISOLATED OR QUARANTINED STAFF, STUDENTS OR VISITORS TO SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: District will coordinate with the state health department to define appropriate procedures and timelines for re- admittance to school following isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19: Staff/student may return to school with a document from PCP or medical provider giving clearance or after completing the required isolation or quarantine period,	No changes necessary in this section of the plan. Please note, should the school board approve a motion that makes masks recommended but not required, the letter will be modified as needed to inform parents/guardians of the exposure and the recommended quarantine guidance.	Parent/Guardian letter/communication will be modified in accordance with any changes to the mask requirement. Letters modified, effective 2/15/22

<u>Timeline for Easing Pandemic Mitigation Efforts in the School Environment</u>

	Current Mitigation Strategy	Proposed Changes to Mitigation Strategy	Recommended Timeline
0	Individuals with a confirmed case of		
	COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days. If		
	after 5 days, you have no symptoms or		
	the symptoms are resolving (without		
	fever for 24 hours), you may return to		
	school and should wear a mask for an		
	additional 5 days when around others.		
	Parents/Guardians should contact the		
	school nurse to confirm a return date to		
	school before coming back to in-person		
	instruction.		
1	To report a positive COVID-19 test, please		
	use the forms found on the COVID-19		
	page of our website or by clicking this		
	link.		
	For staff who are exposed to COVID -19		
	and are unvaccinated - or are more than		
	six months out from their second mRNA		
	dose (or more than 2 months after the		
	J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted - CDC		
	now recommends individuals quarantine		
	for 5 days followed by strict mask use for		
	an additional 5 days.		
	Students who are exposed to COVID-19		
	and have completed a Pfizer-BioNTech,		
	Moderna or Johnson and Johnson		
	vaccination series do not need to		
	quarantine after coming into close		
	contact with someone with COVID-19,		
	but should wear a mask for 10 days after		
	the exposure. This differs from guidance		
	for adults.		
•	Staff/students who are exposed to		
	COVID-19 and have received their		
_	h		
	booster shot - or are within six months of		
	receiving their primary vaccine series (or		
	less than 2 months after the J&J vaccine)		
	 do not need to quarantine following an 		
	exposure, but should wear a mask for 10		
	days after the exposure.		
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Timeline for Easing Pandemic Mitigation Efforts in the School Environment

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Current Mitigation Strategy	Proposed Changes to Mitigation Strategy	Recommended Timeline
Athletes are not required to wear masks during activity. During non-activity periods, the distance between student athletes will be maximized to the extent feasible. Players'/students' bags/equipment are to be kept separate. Student athletes will bring their own water bottle/container. Sport equipment will be cleaned routinely. Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily. If a positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed, contact tracing will be conducted as required and with the assistance of PADOH. Continued modifications to training and competitions may occur if additional mitigation strategies are warranted. As per the Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Face Coverings in School Entities, each teacher, child/student, staff, or visitor working, attending, or visiting a School Entity shall wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on September 7, 2021 and shall remain in effect until otherwise terminated. To view the order, click here.	 During non-activity periods, the distance between student athletes will be maximized to the extent feasible. Players'/students' bags/equipment are to be kept separate. Student athletes will bring their own water bottle/container. Sport equipment will be cleaned routinely. Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected daily. If a positive case of COVID-19 is diagnosed, contact tracing will be conducted and parents/guardians will be notified of the recommended guidance. Continued modifications to training and competitions may occur if additional mitigation strategies are warranted. A face covering is not required when a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors. 	Recommended Timeline
The following is an exception to the face covering requirement in section 2 of the		
order. A face covering is not required when a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors. Should the state discontinue the face covering order, the district will revert to the face covering language/requirement as per the approved Health and Safety Plan on August 23, 2021. The motion approved by the Seneca Valley School Board on Aug. 23, 2021, states: "face masks will be required of all individuals while in any district building during the school day while Butler County is in Substantial or High transmission levels as defined by the CDC. When Butler County is in the Moderate or Low transmission levels as defined by the CDC, face masks will be recommended but not required."		

Ms. Harrison noted that the plexiglass could come down soon. She added that most people who want to receive the vaccination have done so and this is the best way to avoid getting COVID-19. Our zip code numbers are also down substantially; therefore, we should be able to remove the mask mandate soon.

Mr. Peterson stated that Omicron is not as pathogenic as the other variants, which gives us some leeway on lightening up on the mitigation efforts. In addition, we must pay attention to the

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psychological impacts of COVID seen in recent studies. He added that we would need to be able to again pivot quickly when and if necessary.

Mr. Hester noted that virtual options should remain for staff or parents that would prefer that type of setting over in-person meetings.

Mr. DiTullio recommends the N95 mask for anyone who wants to continue wearing a mask.

Mr. Jacobs stated that he would prefer a decision be made without a qualifying metric attached.

Ms. Bredl noted that the priority has always been to provide a safe in-person environment for students and staff and that we should keep an eye on the SV zip codes as part of the decision-making process. She added that it is time to consider "off ramps" and to do so in a safe manner to avoid any unintended consequences.

Mr. Widdowson supports a measured process done in a safe manner.

Ms. Whittle agreed with watching the SV zip codes vs. all of Butler County. She believes masks add value, but we can start looking forward diligently.

It was decided that a survey at this time would not be necessary.

3. ACTION AGENDA

- A. <u>Public Comment</u> Public comment was heard by Ms. Lindsey Baker
- B. <u>Personnel</u> Approved the resignation, appointments, leaves, sabbatical, retirement, and memorandums of understanding.

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Work Session January 10, 2022
- B. Regular Meeting January 18, 2022

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

6. GENERAL FUND BILLS

Grand Total: \$3,737,719.57

7. CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS

Grand Total: \$2,156,503.82

8. ADMINISTRATION ACTION

- A. **Board Policies** Approve the following board policies.
 - 1. Policy 800.1, Electronic Signatures Approve board policy 800.1, second and final reading.
 - 2. Policy 008, Organizational Chart Approve board policy 008, Organizational Chart, revised, first reading.
- C. <u>2022-23 School Calendar</u> Approve the 2022-23 school calendar.
- D. <u>Local District Holidays</u> Approve the resolution regarding local district holidays for the 2022-23 school year.
- E. <u>Care Solace</u> Approve 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. Dr. Roberts
- F. Review Seneca Valley School District Health and Safety Plan 2021-22
 Board deliberation.
- 9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION** Approve conference requests.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. <u>Budget Transfer</u> Approve budget transfer.
- B. <u>Change Orders</u> Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
- C. <u>Capital Asset Protection, Inc. Security Contract</u> Approve the security contract with Capital Asset Protection, Inc. Mr. Young
- D. <u>E.B. Peffer Company Agreement</u> Approve the revised cleaning contract with E.B. Peffer Company.
- E. <u>Central Maintenance & Service Agreement</u> Approve the revised cleaning contract with Central Maintenance & Service.
- F. Consolidated Communications Agreement Approve 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.
- 11. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the January 18, 2022 agenda.
 - A. Ms. Erin McClymonds
 - B. Mr. Dan and Ms. Sheri Swope
 - C. Mr. Phil and Ms. Aubrey Hart
 - D. Ms. Stephanie Lane
 - E. Mr. Dan Weimer

- F. Mr. Dale Benedum
- G. Ms. Jessica Faust
- H. Ms. Kelly Scott
- I. Ms. Diane Bookwalter
- J. Ms. Amy Gilbert
- K. Ms. Jenny Monahan
- L. Mr. Jim Garrison
- M. Ms. Ellie Kim, Mr. Ethan Kronthal, Ms. Allison Johnston
- N. Ms. Sarah Cardosi
- O. Ms. Kimberly Matthews
- P. Ms. Lesley Bruns
- Q. Mr. Mark Bidoli
- R. Mr. Douglas Williams
- S. Ms. Sarah Richards
- T. Ms. Chea Wilson
- U. Ms. Mia Compomizzi
- V. Ms. Stephanie Stroud
- W. Mr. Joe Matachak
- X. Mr. Ben Jezovnik
- Y. Ms. Holly Badger
- Z. Ms. Megan Smith
- AA. Ms. Brandie Schandelmeier
- BB. Ms. Jennifer Knier
- CC. Ms. Angela Disanto
- DD. Ms. Lindsey Baker
- EE. Ms. Sandra Ray
- FF. Mr. Chris Chiusano
- GG. Mr. Brandon McKenzie
- HH. Ms. Jolene Jaecke
- II. Ms. Katie Koller
- JJ. Ms. Jennifer Mayo
- 12. **ADJOURNMENT** With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Whittle to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with everyone present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Nickel absent.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary