



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING

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

MINUTES

March 8, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, at 7:11 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Sarah Choi, a third grader at Evans City Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, *I Led the Pledge* by reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.”
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson Jr., Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson.

Others present included Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary; Dr. Sean McCarty, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary; Ms. Kyra Bobak, Human Resources Director; Ms. Lynn Burtner, Business Manager; Ms. Linda Andreassi, Director of Communications; Mr. Gerald Miller, Special Education and Gifted Director; Mr. Randy Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Dr. Marie Palano, Supervisor of Analytics and Federal Programs; Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Supervisor of Gifted Education and Student Services; Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement; Mr. Andrew Teti; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following recognitions.
 1. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the United States Department of Education recently announced that Seneca Valley Senior High School had five students selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Seniors David Choi, Faith Condrick, Zachary Garcia, Kathleen Monahan and Avani Salunkhe now have the chance to be named a United States Presidential Scholar. Students are chosen for outstanding performance on the ACT Assessment or the College Board SAT; and/or nomination by the school.

2. Seneca Valley Choir seniors Ethan Bannon, Nicholas Folino, and juniors Alex Mortier and Jonah Smeltzer, in addition to Seneca Valley Band senior Lizzie Sylves were accepted to participate in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-East Honors Ensemble March 4-6. Mr. Bannon, Mr. Folino, Mr. Mortier and Mr. Smeltzer represented the SV Choral department as a part of the All-East Mixed Chorus. Miss Sylves represented the SV Band department as a wind player in All-East Orchestra. Students participated in a "virtual weekend" experience that included keynote speakers, masterclasses with professional musicians, rehearsals with their conductors as well as opportunities to learn and network with colleges and universities of various types and participate in mock auditions.

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

March 12	K-6 Report of Student Progress release
March 13	SAT Testing, Senior High School, 7:30 a.m.
March 14	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 18	End of 7-12 SVAOC Third Nine Weeks
March 20	Spring begins
March 23	End of 7-12 Third Nine Weeks
March 27	Passover begins
March 31	7-12 Report Card release
April 1-2 and 5-6	Spring Break, no school
April 17	ACT Testing, Senior High School 7:30 a.m.

C. **Financial Reports** – The following reports were provided in the backup materials.

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Athletics
5. Tax Collection Reports
6. Capital Projects Funds

D. **COVID-19 Update** – Dr. Vitale presented a COVID-19 update as follows:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) COVID Early Warning Dashboard has been updated and Butler county remains in the "moderate" range.

- **PCR Positivity Rate** (most recent seven days, February 26 - March 4) is 5.2% (up slightly from 4.8% the week prior).
- **Incidence Rate** (most recent seven days, February 26 - March 4, per 100,000 residents) is 70.8 (up from previous week at 60.7)
- **Difference in confirmed cases** (most recent seven days vs. previous seven days) is up by 19, we were down by eight in the previous seven days.

- **Butler County Daily COVID rate** [Pennsylvania Data \(pa.gov\)](#) The 14-day rolling average is 32.8 (this number has flattened and has remained in the low 30s for about a month). However, we track this data on an internal spreadsheet for another “view” of the data. Unfortunately, it is not how the state tracks COVID cases for their transmission level thresholds. Therefore, refer to the second bullet above on “incidence rate.”
- **Zip Code COVID Cases** [Pennsylvania Data \(pa.gov\)](#) Only three new cases reported today at noon for the entire weekend across all seven of our school district zip codes.
- **SV COVID Dashboard** – Since we came back to school four days a week, we are seeing a slight uptick in cases. Currently, there are 22 active student cases and 128 students in quarantine across the District. There are three active staff cases and nine in quarantine.
 - Keep in mind that while we are in “moderate” we are not bound to the PDE building closure thresholds. Therefore, we have removed the “building count toward a closure.” This category will only be tracked by the dashboard if we go back to “substantial.” [COVID-19 / SV COVID-19 Dashboard \(svsd.net\)](#)
- Please do not send your children to school if they are sick or if someone in your home is awaiting the results of a COVID test.
- **Vaccinations** – Seneca Valley has been allotted vaccines from the state for all District employees and contractors for the District. Dr. Vitale thanked Greenville Area, Sharon City, West Middlesex Area, Sharpsville Area, Commodore Perry, Shenango Area & Hermitage Area school districts for sharing their extra slots with Seneca Valley. In addition, many teachers researched and found vaccination appointments in other areas. Starting this Friday, for the next two weeks, we will be vaccinating at a central site on weekends and weeknights. Because of this, there may be some staffing shortages and we must prepare for this.

Mr. DiTullio thanked Dr. Vitale and the administration that worked over the weekend to make sure education workers can get the vaccine if they choose.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved the following meeting minutes.
 - A. **Work Session** – February 1, 2021
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – February 8, 2021
 - C. **Special Meeting** – February 17, 2021
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approved the treasurer’s report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approved the general fund bills totaling \$3,639,649.71
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$1,867,308.81

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve the minutes, treasurer’s report, and bills. 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 209– Student Health Examinations, revised, second and final reading – Dr. Roberts
 2. Policy 247 – Hazing, revised, second and final reading – Ms. Bobak
 3. Policy 249 – Anti-Bullying, revised, second and final reading – Ms. Bobak
 4. Policy 426 – Complaint Process, revised, second and final reading – Ms. Bobak
 5. Policy 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries, revised, second and final reading – Ms. Bobak
 6. Policy 917.1 – Weapons, new, first reading – Dr. McKinley
 7. Policy 252 – Dating Violence, new, first reading – Ms. Bobak
- B. **Revised Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan** – Approved the revised phased reopening health and safety plan.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve the board policies and revised phased school reopening health and safety plan. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **MIU IV Intergovernmental Agreement** – Approved the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Intergovernmental renewal agreement for the 2021-22 school year. – Mr. Jerry Miller
- B. **Grant Disbursement** – Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the 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 wellness rooms in the Sr. High School and Ryan Gloyer Middle School for students to have a suitable 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.
- C. **Point Park University Concurrent Enrollment Agreement** – Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with Point Park University. – Dr. McKinley
- D. **2021-22 Student/Teacher Calendar** – Approved the 2021-22 student/teacher calendar.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the MIU IV Intergovernmental Agreement, grant disbursement, Point Park University Concurrent Enrollment Agreement, and the 2021-22 student/teacher calendar. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- E. **Five-Day, In-Person Instruction** – Students in grades K-12 will have the option to return to in-person instruction five days per week beginning the week of March 22 with the first Friday in-person being March 26, 2021. Live streaming will continue for those students who may need it. During this week, the week of March 8, and through the week of March 15, teachers will be receiving vaccinations through the Intermediate Unit in Grove City and throughout other locations in the area. Because of this, we suspect potential staffing shortages during that time. If Seneca Valley experiences staff shortages due to vaccinations or new COVID cases, the district administration is authorized to move to a remote (asynchronous) instruction day in any building that may be impacted. Parents will be notified; however, it may be on short notice.

Dr. Vitale stated that we need to be sure we are being very deliberate about this next step in trying to get all children back five days a week noting that it is not feasible for this week. We do not know how many employees will be impacted by side effects from receiving the vaccine and need to avoid facing a staff shortage.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the five-day, in-person instruction motion. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **MIU IV General Operating Budget** – Approved the 2021-22 Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV general operating budget in the total amount of \$3,443,512 with Seneca Valley's contribution being \$145,973.
- C. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School 2021-2022 Budget** – Approved the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School budget for the 2021-22 school year in the amount of \$6,075,289.
- D. **Change Orders** – Approved the construction change orders for the new K-6 elementary school at Ehrman Road.
- E. **Audit for 2019-20 School Year** – Acknowledged the local audit report for the 2019-20 school year.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve budget transfers, MIU IV General Operating Budget, Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School 2021-22 budget, change orders and audit for the 2019-20 school year. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Mr. Jeff Widdowson – Approve resignations, appointments, leaves, and retirements
- A. **Resignations** – *Classified*: Denise Spangler, Caitlin Galbraith; *Supplemental* – Denise Spangler
 - B. **Appointments** – *Psychologist*: Latitia Lattanzio; *Professional Substitute*: Ronald Noonan; *Classified*: Larry Bell, Stephanie Bush, Ryan Healey; *Classified Substitutes*: Luke Barnes, Natalie Miller; *Supplementals*: Mollie Gallagher, Hannah Hugo, Michelle Couch, Lauren Hackett, Marlesse Hames, Megan Meeder, Lisa Tyson, Jane Leo, Joe Laukaitis, Mike Conlon, Nicole Lollo, Catherine Lochner-Trejchel, Ginger Kutesch, Dan Dickey, John Cashdollar, Craig Gehm, Anastasia Williams, Morgan Peaco, Tracy Richards, Chris Eden, Steve Strelick, Ezekial Stroupe, Jason Groom, Tracy Richards, Jen North, Ron Butschle, Margarat Marciniak, Halley Alexander, Paul Blinn, Grant McCarthy, Ashley Turici, Nichole Schauer, Megan Kelly, Kyle Martini, Olivia Olson, Steve Strelick, Dylan Loeffler, Dean Leventopoulos, Michael Stebbins, Kevin Wildrick, George Williams, Mark Perry, Eric Grove, Brett Poirier, Katie Wise
 - C. **Leaves** – *Administration* : Lauri Pendred; *Professional*: Tara Peterson, Jacqueline Larson, Kayla DeLallo, Corrin DoVidio, Katie Rosatelli; *Classified*: Sheli Baker, Beth Brethauer, Kristine Hart, Nichol Mignanelli
 - D. **Retirements** – *Professional*: Joyce Andreone, Andrea Adrian, John Fetchko, Tammara Gill, MaryAnn Graziano, David Wilson, Kathy Mahony; *Classified*: Susan Brinker, Larry Foster

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the resignations, appointments, leaves and retirements as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

12. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from the following.
- A. Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Shelley Milanovich – Staying in Cohort
 - B. Ms. Stephanie Lane – Five days in-person instruction and mask mandate
13. **MISCELLANEOUS** – Mr. DiTullio recapped the recent PSERs meeting noting that the fund balance increased from \$60.5 billion to \$64.2 billion and the unfunded liability is decreasing. Also, the liability withdraw has been sent back to legislature for clarification.
14. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Whittle, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and other items.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary