



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

MINUTES

April 12, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence in memory of the lives lost due to COVID-19, and in reflection of those who are mourning loved ones, recovering from the illness or have been negatively impacted during this time.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Felix Arevalo, a first 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. Mislán, Board Secretary, showed the following 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.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Seneca Valley All-Star Club Member** – Michelle Eppinger, Special Education Job Coach Paraprofessional – Ms. Andreassi announce this month’s All-Star Club Member, Ms. Michelle Eppinger, special education job coach paraprofessional. A few months ago, Ms. Eppinger went to senior high school administrators with concerns that some students who have additional needs were not being met due to the pandemic. From there, she decided to organize the Hygiene Helpers program. This program has staff donate basic hygiene items such as shampoo, soap and deodorant to SV students in need. Ms. Eppinger takes these donations and creates packages that are placed in discreet locations around the school or she delivers them directly to students’ homes. Ms. Eppinger continuously checks inventory, collects products and updates staff with the progress to date. SV SHS Assistant Principal Amanda Mallin added, “She has led the SHS staff in collecting donations for the Hygiene Helpers program, and this concept has already spread across the secondary campus. Leslie Bredl expressed interest in helping or participating. Ms. Eppinger will pass along information to the board secretary to share with the board.
 - B. **Winter Sports Update** – Ms. Lewis provided a winter sports update as follows and commended all the athletes’ dedication, leadership and hard work, especially during this most difficult year.

Boys Swimming and Diving -

Gavin Blazer, Sophomore

- 200 Freestyle Relay – PIAA 4th place and school record
- 400 Freestyle Relay – PIAA runner-up, WPIAL champion and school record

Kevin Donaldson, Junior

- 200 Freestyle Relay – PIAA 4th place and school record
- 400 Freestyle Relay – PIAA runner-up, WPIAL champion and school record

Zach Lozowski, Junior

- 400 Freestyle Relay – PIAA runner-up, WPIAL champion, and school record

Daniel Simoes, Junior

- 200 Individual Medley – PIAA runner-up, WPIAL champion, and school record holder
- 100 Freestyle – PIAA runner-up and school record holder
- 200 Freestyle Relay – PIAA 4th place and school record
- 400 Freestyle Relay – PIAA runner-up, WPIAL champion and school record

Haihan Xu, Sophomore

- 100 Breaststroke – PIAA 7th place and school record holder
- 200 Freestyle – PIAA 4th place and school record holder

Girls Swimming and Diving

Kendall Craig, Akron University recruit

- 200 Medley Relay – PIAA 5th place and school record holder

Ria Ditez, Junior

- 200 Medley Relay – PIAA 5th place and school record holder

Peri Gaguzis, Sophomore

- 200 Medley Relay - PIAA 5th place and school record holder
- 500 Freestyle - PIAA 6th place

Eddie Sawyer, Ohio University recruit

- 200 Medley Relay - PIAA 5th place and school record holder
- 100 Breaststroke - WPIAL champion and school record holder

Wrestling

Tyler Chappell

- PIAA 3rd place and WPIAL champion
- FloWrestling currently ranks Tyler #11 nationally in his 106 lb. weight class

Dylan Chappell, Bucknell University recruit

- PIAA runner-up for 3rd consecutive year and three-time WPIAL champion
- Career record holder for pins with 75
- FloWrestling currently ranks Dylan #18 nationally in his 132 lb. weight class

Alejandro Herrera-Rondon, University of Oklahoma recruit

- Three-time PIAA and WPIAL champion
- Named outstanding wrestler at PIAA AAA Championships
- Career record holder with 175 wins
- FloWrestling currently ranks Alejandro #1 nationally in his 152 lb. weight class

School board members and administration congratulated the athletes for their leadership, integrity and time-management skills. Parents and coaching staff were also recognized for their hard work and support of the athletes. Ms. Lewis and Mr. Fuhrman were thanked for their dedication to the student athletes.

C. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following recognitions:

1. Senior Sophia Kunkel was recently recognized as a Gold Key winner in the 2021 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for the Northeast Region. Miss Kunkel won in the novel writing category for the prologue and first chapter of her book “Starless Skies and Broken Dreams.” Additionally, Julia Lingenfelter, a junior, was awarded two honorable mentions for her personal essay and memoir “The Apple Tree” and for her poetry titled “Julia.” The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the nation’s longest-running, most prestigious educational initiative supporting student achievement in the visual and literary arts.
2. Claire Reynolds, a Seneca Valley senior, was recently announced as a Gold Key winner in the 2021 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for the Pittsburgh Regional Competition. Miss Reynolds won for her piece titled “Calm through Chaos.” Seneca Valley Silver Key recipients included seniors Connor Campbell, Tess Enders, Jocelyn McNany and Emilee Neuman. Additionally, more than a dozen honorable mentions were handed out to SV students and all were recognized during a virtual ceremony held last month.
3. Mimi Skowronski, a Rowan Elementary School fourth grader, recently applied for and was chosen to appear in “Inside Moves” a national TV commercial filmed by Dick’s Sporting Goods that celebrates women leaders. Miss Skowronski, who is a football player with the Seneca Valley Jr. Football Team, is seen several times throughout the commercial with her male teammates. But that is not all she does. Miss Skowronski shared with us that she is also a devoted wrestler who recently took several first-place awards at a regional wrestling competition that led her to compete in the Girls Wrestling State Championships earlier this month.

4. Junior Meera Rathod was recently accepted into the 2021 FBI Pittsburgh Teen Academy. As a selected participant, Miss Rathod will gain a better understanding of the FBI and what it takes to keep America safe, highlighting the various positions and career paths that work together to help them in their mission to uphold the U.S. Constitution. Miss Rathod will be offered insight into a number of topics and specialties, including the importance of making good choices when using online communication platforms, understanding which federal law violations the FBI investigates, requirements of all FBI applicants, and the FBI's domestic and international roles.

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

April 12	Ramadan Begins
April 17	ACT Testing, Senior High School, 7:30 a.m.
April 19	Board Meeting, SVIHS Auditorium and Zoom 7 p.m.
April 22	Earth Day

- E. **Student Presentation Regarding Mascot**

Seniors Benaifer Sepai, Zach Donaldson, Avani Salunkhe, Gargi Rane, and juniors Vivian Palmer and Claire McCafferty presented their voluntary student project to the board for the Board's consideration.

Mr. DiTullio thanked the students for their research and noted the students' outstanding presentation skills. Mr. Peterson stated that the presentation was compelling and well-articulated. Zach Donaldson stated that the group believes a new mascot should be a community-wide decision, which is why they did not make a recommendation in their presentation. Dr. Vitale added how impressed she is with the student presenters and that the board will take serious consideration to this proposal.

- F. **Seneca Valley New K-6 School Naming Survey Results** – Ms. Andreassi presented the results of the new K-6 school naming survey results noting that Ehrman Crest received the most points. The next step will be to take a vote at next week's meeting.

- G. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Fred Peterson Jr. stated all schools have approved the budget. As of March 8, the Vo-Tech is in-person five days. All staff wanting to be vaccinated have been. The water issue has been addressed and everything is back to normal. The next meeting is May 6, 2021.
2. I. U. IV – Mr. Eric DiTullio stated that an agreement is forthcoming with the secretary and paraprofessional group. Also discussed was the vaccination clinic held at the IU which ran smoothly. Extra doses were given to another location. The plan is to move forward with a possible in-person convention. If there are more than four candidates, the convention may need to be virtual.

- H. **Legislative Report** – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported on House Bill 605 which would protect schools from opportunistic lawsuits alleging exposure to COVID-19. The

Department of Health changed the COVID-19 restriction requirements to more align with the CDC.

The Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) is under investigation by the FBI due to a 2020 miscalculation.

Mr. Nickel spoke briefly about Senate Bill 540 and 542 noting that SB 540 is about mapping funding for special education actual costs. Senate Bill 542 looks to reflect the districts actual special education population.

Financial Reports

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

I. **Foundation Update** – Ms. Mersing provided the following update from the Seneca Valley Foundation:

A recent gift card drive, "Have a Heart Campaign," raised almost \$4,000. This project will continue as long as there is a need.

Four new trustees have been appointed: Dr. Jeff Roberts, Mr. Steve Fortunato, Mr. Michael Ozdinec and Mr. Scott Phelps.

The Annual Gift of Hope Golf Classic is planned for Thursday, August 5, 2021, at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines will be followed. The Foundation is seeking sponsors and auction donations. Additional information can be found at <https://www.svsd.net/GolfClassic>.

Other Foundation-related information in this section of the Seneca Valley website includes Raider Crate, African-American Male Leadership Group and funding for outdoor learning spaces.

If interested, donations can be made to the General Fund and you can follow on Twitter @svsdfoundation.

Ms. Mersing thanked everyone for their ongoing support.

J. **COVID-19 Update** – Dr. Vitale provided an update, as follows, and asked that the public continue to watch the Seneca Valley COVID-19 Dashboard for ongoing changes:

There are currently 25 active student cases and no active staff cases. Since vaccines

were offered, we have seen a significant decline in staff cases. However, we are now seeing an uptick in cases among children, most without hospitalizations.

As of today, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) has now opened the vaccines to every Commonwealth resident, ages 16 years of age or older. Important items of note:

- If you are assisting your child ages 16+ to get an appointment, please note that minors (ages 16-17) must have a parent/guardian signature on the consent form upon arrival at the vaccine clinic. Your child will not need to have a parent/guardian show up physically to the appointment but will need to have the signed consent with them in paper form.
- A child that is 18 years of age or older would not need written consent from a parent/guardian.
- Children ages 16-17 are not approved by the FDA to receive Moderna or J&J, only Pfizer.
- Pfizer vaccines will be made available at the Butler Hospital Clinic.

Butler County reached its second week of substantial transmission, but we will not be changing instructional models at this point.

Because we must now follow the Attestation, students must separate six feet when masks are down, regardless if vaccinated. Experts are concerned about variants.

The Dashboard will track “active cases counting towards closure.” Once in substantial for two consecutive weeks, closures are required if there are a certain number of cases and depending on the size of the building.

Medium elementary buildings: Four to six cases would require a closure of two to three days. Seven or more cases would require a closure of a minimum of five days.

Large secondary buildings: Six to ten cases would require a closure of two to three days. Eleven or more cases would require a closure of five days.

Dr. Vitale asked that if students are feeling ill or experiencing any symptoms to remain at home – and to utilize the livestreaming option - if they or someone in their home is awaiting COVID test results.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approve the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** – March 1, 2021
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – March 8, 2021
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approve the treasurer’s report.

- 6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approve the general fund bills totaling \$4,395,095.63
- 7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approve the construction fund bills totaling \$2,300,958.22
- 8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** – Mr. Jim Nickel
 - A. **Adelphoi Education Agreement** – Approve the agreement with Adelphoi Education, Inc. to provide alternative education services for the 2021-22 school year.
 - B. **Kennywood Picnic** – Approve June 25 as Kennywood picnic date for 2021.
 - C. **Board Policies** – Approve the following board policies.
 - 1. Policy 917.1 – Weapons, new, second and final reading – Dr. McKinley
 - 2. Policy 252 – Dating Violence, new, second and final reading – Ms. Bobak
 - 3. Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events, revised, first reading – Ms. Andreassi
 - 4. Policy 911 – Broadcasting of School Events, revised, first reading – Ms. Andreassi
 - 5. Policy 203 – Communicable Diseases and Immunization, revised, first reading – Mr. Roberts
 - 6. Policy 822 – Automated External Defibrillator, revised, first reading – Mr. Roberts
 - D. **School Name** – Name the new K-6 school in Cranberry Township “_____.”

Mr. Nickel noted that as we think about the name for this new building, we should listen to our constituency and would support the name with the most votes.

Mr. DiTullio added that building initials of ECE and ECM could continue on and would also support Ehrman Crest.

- 9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION** – Ms. Susan Harrison
 - A. **Transition Services Agreement** – Approve the Transition Services Agreement between the Seneca Valley School District and Cares of Western PA to provide services for one student. – Mr. Miller
 - B. **Memorandum of Understanding** – Approve the memorandum of understanding with the Education Support Professionals Association to allow adjusted work schedules during the instructional recess of the summer of 2021.
 - C. **Grant Disbursements** – Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following.

- 1. Walmart Local Community Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for professional development of CVE staff utilizing the Leader in Me’s 7 Habits of Happy Kids platform. The program promotes a positive school environment by integrating leadership and the whole-child approach into every function of the school. Continued training in this program will give CVE a path to the goal of increasing student-achievement by providing students with a safe and positive environment for growth. Students who are versed in the Leader in Me will develop a skill set to overcome personal circumstances, while also understanding the importance of interpersonal relationships, and respecting others’ wants and needs. Requested by Ms. DeeAnn Graham, Dr. Tina Francis and Ms. Annie Mersing.
- 2. Arconic Foundation Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to host a Raider Robotics Rally in the summer of 2022 which will allow the SV F.I.R.S.T. Team (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and S.W.E.E.T. (Seneca’s Women Engineering Exploration Team) to lead the community on an exciting adventure with hands-on activities, an introduction to Java programing and a firsthand look into the worlds of the FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge Team. Requested by Mr. Steve Fortunato and Ms. Annie Mersing.
- 3. Highmark Foundation School Grant in the amount of \$7,500 for Leader in Me (LIM) Core 1 training for the staff at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.

- D. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.
- E. **Senior High School Book Donation or Disposal** – Approve donation or disposal of books from the Senior High School.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION** – Mr. Mike Jacobs

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **Change Orders** – Approve the construction change order for the new K-6 elementary school at Ehrman Road.

Mr. Peterson noted the low number of change orders and low cost, and thanked Mr. Randy Miller.

- C. **Early Intervention Agreement** – Approve the renewal agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for an Early Intervention classroom housed at Rowan Elementary for the 2021-22 school year.
- D. **Bid Awards** – Award the following bids for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - 1. Copier Paper Supplies
 - 2. General Supplies
 - 3. Maintenance Supplies
 - 4. Print Supplies
- E. **Josh Shipp Presentation Agreement** – Approve the speaker’s agreement for Josh

Shipp to present at Seneca Valley on October 20, 2021. The event will focus on the key role that parents and all adults play in the future success of children. The cost will be shared with the Butler Early Learning Council and Butler Area School District. – Mr. Roberts

- F. **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement** – Approve the 2021-22 PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement.
11. **PERSONNEL** – The following personnel items were discussed in executive session held prior to this meeting:
- A. **Resignation** - *Classified* - Christine Haslinger, Irene Young
 - B. **Appointments** - *Classified* - Laura Myers, Patricia DiVito; *Professional* - Esther Subramaniam; *Internship* - Dr. Amy Wanchisn; *Supplementals* - Rosemary Piso, Kiera Librera, Molly Brunner, Joan Widdowson, Tracy Richards, Diane Powell, Brittney Voettiner, Carey Carvelli, Kristi Dietz, Lauren Hackett, Christine Roe, Mackenzie McGuire, Andrew Parker, Victoria Hinchee, Christopher Titus, Nichole Schauer, Dena Marnik
 - C. **Leaves** - *Professional* - Amanda Horwat, Kate Oliver, Genevieve Morgan, Melissa Cipollone, Amanda Lesney, Eric Cupp, Mark Macedonia, Torrie LaMantia, Kelly Vu, Emily Thornton, Christina Wawrzyniakowski, John McFeeley; *Classified* - Teresa Greno, Susan Link, Laura Moad, Robin Sedlak, Rosa Doherty, Christina Utter, Dennis Cole
 - D. **Retirement** - *Classified* - Laurie Melberg
 - E. **Memorandum of Understanding**
 - F. **Sabbaticals** - Tara Schenck, Noele Reynolds, Elizabeth Allen-Boyle, Alan Witt, Melissa Bonicky

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the resignation, appointments, leaves, retirement, memorandum of understanding and sabbaticals. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Widdowson abstaining.

12. **COMMUNICATION** – Communications were received from the following:
- A. Ms. Nicole Sylves – Livestreaming option
 - B. Ms. Kari Zimmer – Note of thanks and new K-6 building
 - C. Ms. Stephanie Lane – Vaccines
 - D. Mr. Paul Woods – Note of thanks to Dr. Vitale and Mr. Jim Pearson
 - E. Mr. Larry Chappel and the SV Wrestling Team and Boosters – Note of thanks to the Athletic Department
 - F. Ms. Katie Schwerin – Class of 2020 Prom

- G. Mr. Mark Gartner – Reading assignments concern
 - H. Ms. Charlene Mottiqua – Redistricting after new K-6 school is complete
 - I. Mr. and Mrs. Tony Livorse – Clarification of learning models and level of community spread
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to – and after - this meeting to discuss personnel and other items.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary