



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING

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

MINUTES

February 8, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, at 7:02 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** – Nate Young, a second grader at Rowan 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. Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson was absent.

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. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following recognitions.
 1. The Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) recently recognized nearly 50 Seneca Valley students as District and Regional finalists in this year’s PMEA festival competitions. During this time of the school year, PMEA holds both district and regional-level festivals as steppingstones to the All-State festival and conference. PMEA is planning a full multi-day online experience for All-State students that will culminate with a professionally produced virtual performance by each All-State ensemble. Students were recognized in band, choir and orchestra.
 2. Seneca Valley Senior High School students in the gifted program were named winners in a virtual mock trial competition recently hosted by Penn State University. SV’s two teams placed second and third out of 14 teams from across the state and senior Ella Pologruto received best attorney overall out of 150 students who

participated. The two-day tournament enabled students to present a civil case based on a wrongful death lawsuit. Over the course of the competition, students participated in four separate trials.

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

February	National Black History Month
February 12	Vacation Day – No School for Students
February 15	President’s Day

C. **Legislative Report** – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported on Governor Wolf’s budget address, given on February 3, 2021, stating that the education budget would be a 21.6% increase over last year which includes \$8.13 billion for the basic education subsidy. If passed, this would net Seneca Valley approximately \$314,000. The budget also includes an increase of \$200 million for special education. PlanCon, a program which reimburses school districts for construction projects, would come out of moratorium and receive funding of \$200 million. Transportation funding would be increased to \$622.4 million, a 2.75% increase. The Pennsylvania School Employee Retirement System (PSERS) budget would provide an additional \$32 million. Additionally, the governor estimates that school districts would receive \$229 million from projected savings gained from proposed charter school funding reform.

Funding for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program would remain stagnant at \$99 million and teacher professional development would remain flat at \$5 million.

The governor’s proposed budget contains the largest tax increase in Pennsylvania history, raising the income tax rate to 46%. The budget has been opposed by the house and senate. Because of this, a flat or moderate increase is likely.

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

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 a COVID-19 update as follows.

Data as of Friday, February 5, 2021 shows Butler County’s PCR Positivity Rate from the most recent seven days, January 29 – February 4, is down to 7.4%, from 8.6% the week prior. This is one of several thresholds that must be met in order to move to moderate. The most recent seven-day report for Incidence Rate, per 100,000 residents, is 117.1. This is down from the previous week of 138.9. We were 17 cases short of meeting this threshold; therefore, we remain in substantial because both of these thresholds must be met.

As of last Friday, the 14-day rolling average was 64.6, the lowest since November 11. This data is not considered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) to move us to moderate, but it is an important data point that we track. We also track cases within the Seneca Valley zip codes. Across these seven zip codes, there were only 12 cases reported on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

We are not at a point where we can recommend that secondary students, grades 7-12, return four or five days a week. We will be monitoring any impact of Super Bowl get togethers.

Elementary returned to four days a week because we have learned that ages 10 and under are not transmitting the virus at the same rate as teenagers, ages 12 and up. We hope that by returning in a phased approach, we can break up transmission. Dr. Anthony Fauci recently stated that schools must watch community numbers. We are working on getting 65+ year olds vaccinated. So far, 56 Seneca Valley employees have been vaccinated or have appointments to be vaccinated.

Mr. DiTullio noted that the community should rely only on information directly communicated from the District or the Board, and not hearsay within the community.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved the following meeting minutes.
 - A. **Work Session** – January 11, 2021
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – January 19, 2021
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approved the treasurer’s report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approved the general fund bills totaling \$2,208,514
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$2,430,874.90

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 and Mr. Widdowson absent.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
 - A. **Board Policies** – Approved the following board policies.
 1. Policy 212 – Reporting Student Progress, revised, second and final reading – Dr. McKinley
 2. Policy 217 – Graduation Requirements, revised, second and final reading – Dr. Palano
 3. Policy 218.4 – Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault, revised, second and final reading – Dr. McKinley
 4. Policy 247 – Hazing, revised, first reading – Ms. Bobak
 5. Policy 249 – Anti-Bullying, revised, first reading – Ms. Bobak
 6. Policy 426 – Complaint Process, revised, first reading – Ms. Bobak
 7. Policy 824 – Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries, revised, first reading – Ms. Bobak

Mr. Peterson asked how a student might enter a Title IX program and if staff are fluent in this process. Ms. Bobak confirmed that she is the Title IX Coordinator and that the information is detailed in handbooks and on the Seneca Valley website. Dr. Vitale added that Mr. Hoffman provided training to the entire Leadership Team, which includes building principals, on this process.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the board policies as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Widdowson absent.

9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania Employee Leasing Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania to lease the services of SV Speech Therapist Maggie Lockovich for the term of January 4, 2021 – June 30, 2021.
- C. **Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC Client Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC to provide interpreting services for deaf and/or hard of hearing students.
- D. **BC3 College Within the High School (CWHS) Partnership Agreement** – Approved the College Within High School (CWHS) Partnership Agreement between the Seneca Valley School District and Butler County Community College from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Mr. DiTullio commented that the College Within High School Program helps reduce college costs as students can take some college courses while still in high school.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the conference requests, Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania Employee Leasing Agreement, Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC Client Agreement and BC3 College Within the High School (CWHS) Partnership Agreement. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Widdowson absent.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Budget Transfer** – Approved budget transfer.
- B. **Tax Collector Compensation Resolution** – Approved the resolution establishing tax collector compensation for the years 2022 through 2025.
- C. **Change Orders** – Approved the construction change orders for the new K-6 elementary school at Ehrman Road.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the budget transfer, tax collector compensation resolution and change orders. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Widdowson absent.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Personnel items were discussed in an executive session held prior to this meeting.
- A. Appointments – *Director* – Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Dr. Mallory Eyles; *Supervisor* – Ashley Pattison; *Professional Substitute* – Krisztina Beni; *Classified* – Stephanie Bush, Nicole Matson, Ryan Healey, Brian Dittmer, Michael Williams
 - B. Leaves – *Professional* – Kelly Vu, Matthew Martin, Erin Sypien, Sarah Corona, Natalie Green, Lora Nickel, Emily Burkley, Katherine Langley, Carrie Ehrenberger, Valerie Danner, Torrie LaMantia; *Classified* – Brenda Mazinski, Dana Osselborn, Zackary Magill
 - C. Retirements – *Professional* – Susan Dinger, John Motyl; *Classified* – Stephen Campos
 - D. Memorandum of Understanding – Approved MOU with Seneca Valley Education Support Professionals
 - E. Sabbatical – Julie Blackburn

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Whittle, to approve the appointments, leaves, retirements, memorandum of understanding, and sabbatical as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Widdowson absent.

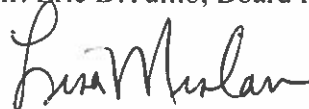
12. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from the following.

- A. Mr. and Mrs. Livorse – Benefits of Cohort model
- B. Mr. and Mrs. Tresky – Staying in Cohort
- C. Ms. Kristie Long – Staying in Cohort
- D. Ms. Julie Jones – Snow days and remote learning
- E. Ms. Bonnie DeAngelis – Staying in Cohort
- F. Mr. Tim Repp – Return to five days, in-person instruction
- G. Ms. Erin Donahue – Adding 7th and 8th grade to 4 and 1 model
- H. Mr. and Mrs. Silvester – Adding 7-12 grades to 4 and 1 model
- I. Ms. Stephanie Lane – Return to five days, in-person instruction
- J. Ms. Michelle Tresky – Staying in Cohort
- K. Mr. Mike Capizzi – Staying in Cohort
- L. Mr. Mike Mortier – Staying in Cohort

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Peterson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary