

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

I H S Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

June 7, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.
 - 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** – Mr. DiTullio led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Jeff Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Ms. Kathy Whittle 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, Communications Director; Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletic Director; Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement; Attorney Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Linda Andreassi announced the following:
 1. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) recently announced that Seneca Valley Seniors David Choi, Zachary Garcia and Ananya Rao are National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners. The Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of some 16,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. National Merit Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.
 2. Seneca Valley Juniors Veronica Pimenova and Daniel Spear were recently recognized by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) as part of their Awards for Aspirations in Computing. Veronica was selected as a 2021 Central and Western Pennsylvania Affiliate Winner and Daniel was chosen as a 2021 Central and Western Pennsylvania Affiliate

Honorable Mention recipient. Awardees are chosen for their aptitude and interest in IT and computing, solid leadership ability, excellent academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

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

June 8	Release of Final Report Cards/Reports of Student Progress
June 14	SV Summer School begins
June 14	School Board Regular Meeting
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	Father's Day
June 25	Seneca Valley Picnic Day at Kennywood Park
July 4	Independence Day
August 2	School Board Work Session Meeting
August 5	SV Foundation's Gift of Hope Golf Classic - Cranberry Highlands Golf Course
August 9	School Board Regular Meeting

- C. Drug Testing Results Annual Report** – Dr. Matthew McKinley presented the annual drug testing report noting that initial drug testing was not performed, due to COVID-19. Random drug testing was conducted throughout the year, however, when we were taking part in in-person learning. Dr. McKinley added that drug use among students increased during the school year. The random testing showed an increase in the positivity rate from .42% last year to 3.6% this year. The national average is 3.3%. One reason that the national average did not climb is because many schools were not in-person. Of the 15 positive tests, 14 were for marijuana and one was for alcohol. Additionally, four follow-up tests were positive. Starting in July, the district will resume normal testing of student athletes, students involved in activities and student drivers. Random tests will be conducted when the school year begins in the fall. Dr. McKinley closed by thanking the board for their support of this program.

D. Agency Reports

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Mike Jacobs stated that the last audit report was clean. In addition, Mr. Gordon Marburger is not seeking re-election in Mars. Mr. Bill Halle has taken over as the Treasurer of the Vo-Tech. The remediation of the water system is complete, and all testing is within tolerable levels. At next month's meeting, the Superintendent of Record will transfer from Dr. Tracy Vitale to Dr. David Foley in the South Butler School District. Mr. Jacobs closed by thanking Dr. Vitale for leading the Seneca Valley School District this past year as well as at the Vo-Tech.

Mr. Fred Peterson added that the awards ceremony was held with 289 students earning certificates.

2. I. U. IV – Mr. Eric DiTullio stated that the HVAC project was awarded and that it came in under budget. The MIU IV Board of Directors election and ballots were also discussed at the last meeting. Mr. DiTullio will share additional information regarding the voting ballots when he hears back from Mr. Wade Killmeyer from the I.U. The ballots are due to the I. U. by June 15, 2021.

E. **Legislative** – Mr. Eric DiTullio and Mr. Jim Nickel will provide an update at our next meeting on June 14, 2021.

F. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Middle School Activities
5. Athletics
6. Food Services
7. Tax Collection Reports
8. Capital Project Funds

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public comment was heard by Ms. Lindsey Baker, Ms. Morgan Baker, Mr. Margy Riggle, Ms. Connie Ketler regarding the dismissal of a middle school cross country coach.

4. **ACTION ITEMS** – Mr. Eric DiTullio

A. **Labor Contract** – Approved the labor contract between the Seneca Valley Educational Support Personnel (SVESP) and Seneca Valley School District effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

B. **Minutes** – Approved the following meeting minutes

1. Work Session – May 3, 2021
2. Action Meeting – May 10, 2021

Mr. Peterson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the labor contract and minutes as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Ms. Whittle absent.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Ms. Lynn Burtner

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Ms. Burtner
Grand Total \$3,335,387.61

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Ms. Burtner
Grand Total \$2,596,241.52

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** – Mr. Jim Nickel

A. **Jason G. Wehrle Memorial** – Approve the Silver Linings Project proposed by the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) to memorialize the late Mr. Jason G. Wehrle, an SVF Trustee and former SV School Board Director. A repeated sentiment of Mr. Wehrle was that he always looked for the good in situations – the silver lining. The project will fund the installation of three silver benches to line the courtyard of the Senior High School so that students, staff and the community can be reminded of the positive outlook Mr. Wehrle so firmly believed. The project will be at no cost to the district.

- B. **Head Start Agreement** – Approve the renewal lease agreements with Butler County Children’s Center, Inc. DBA Early Learning Connections for the operation of a Head Start program at Rowan Elementary for the 2021-22 school year. – Dr. McCarty and Ms. Burtner
- C. **PreK Counts Agreement** – Approve the lease agreement with Butler County Children’s Center, Inc. DBA Early Learning Connections for the operation of a PreK Counts program at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. McCarty
- D. **PSBA Voting Delegate** – Appoint Mr. Eric DiTullio as voting delegate for PSBA Delegate Assembly meeting on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION** – Ms. Sue Harrison

- A. **2021 Graduates** – Approve the list of Seneca Valley graduates for 2021.
- B. **Conference** – Approve conference.
- C. **Club Status** – Approve club status for the Bass Fishing Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Mr. Matt Durst, RGMS teacher.
- D. **Center for Community Resources Agreement** – Approve the Student Assistance Program agreement for the 2021-22 fiscal year with Butler County Human Services Center for Community Resources (CCR).
- E. **Pittsburgh Art Region Agreement** – Approve the affiliate partner agreement with Young Artists & Writers, Inc. for administration of a Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional program for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
- F. **DePaul School for Hearing and Speech Agreement** – Approve the DePaul School for Hearing and Speech agreement for professional services for the 2021-22 school year.
- G. **Grants**
 - 1. Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the Isabelle P. Rucker Fund and NCTM grant in the amount of \$3,000 for enhancing student mathematics learning through the use of tools and technology.
 - 2. Accept the Highmark Foundation grant in the amount of \$7,500 for Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) to be used towards health and wellness initiatives that promote a positive school climate.

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

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **Act 1 Resolution** – Approve the 2021-22 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution per Act 1, Taxpayer Relief Act.
- C. **Act 511 Taxes** – Approve re-enactment of the following Act 511 taxes:

1. Flat Rate Occupation Tax – \$10
2. Earned Income Tax – 1%
3. Real Estate Transfer Tax – 1%

- D. **Summer Actions** – Authorize the administration to approve the following:
1. Year-end budget transfers
 2. Outreach Partnership of Technology (OPT) agreements
 3. June and July bills
- E. **2021-22 Budget** – Adopt the annual budget for 2021-22 in the amount of \$145,712,582 with a 2.56 mill (2%) millage increase.
- F. **Liability Insurance** – Approve the sanction of the following groups to work on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District and intention to provide that the District’s liability insurance covers these groups for the 2021-22 school year: PTA, PTO, SV Boys’ Lacrosse, SV Indoor Track and Field, SV Ice Hockey, SV Inline Hockey, SV Slow Pitch Softball, SV Bowling, SV Competitive Cheer, SV Ultimate Frisbee, JROTC, After Prom Committee, Booster Groups, Seneca Valley Foundation, and all Board approved student clubs.
- G. **Booster Group Resolution** – Approve the Booster Group Recognition resolution for the 2021-22 school year.
- H. **Ticket Prices** – Approve athletic ticket prices for the 2021-22 school year as follows: football reserved seating \$8.00/entry; football pre-sale adult general admission \$6.00/entry; football pre-sale student general admission \$4.00/entry; all football tickets at the gate \$6.00/entry; all other sports adult general admission \$5.00/entry; all other sports student general admission \$3.00/entry.
- I. **Facilities Rental Fees** – Approve the facilities rental fees for the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- J. **Insurance Premiums** – Approve insurance premiums for 2021-22 provided by First National Insurance Agency.
- K. **Equipment Disposal** – Approve disposal or donation of the following:
1. Two obsolete commercial pizza ovens
 2. Swim equipment
 3. Swim timing equipment
- L. **Change Orders** – Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Mr. Jeff Widdowson – Approve resignations, appointments, leaves, contract renewal, stipend, retirement, and memorandum of understanding.

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

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A. **Masks**

1. Ms. Joy Rostan
2. Ms. Carroll Trull
3. Ms. Stephanie Lane
4. Mr. Ty Bintrim
5. Ms. Erin McClymonds

B. **Note of Thanks** – Ms. Debbie Schettler

C. **Critical Race Theory**

1. Mr. Bill Schmidtke
2. Ms. Lindsey Douglass

D. **Raider Mascot**

1. Mr. Zach Donaldson
2. Ms. Claire McCafferty

E. **Tour of New Highmark Facility in Zelenople** - Ms. Courtney Smetanka

13. **MISCELLANEOUS** - Mr. DiTullio noted that a resolution will be voted on next week, June 14, 2021, to retire the Native American imagery from use in the district.
14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Ms. Whittle absent.
15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel, student discipline and real estate matters.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, School Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, School Board Secretary