

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING

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

MINUTES

April 19, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:13 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** – Aayla Shorr, a second grader at Connoquenessing Valley 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. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following recognitions:
 1. The Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Early Invention (EI) Classroom at Rowan Elementary School was recently chosen by the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) Autism Initiative to present at this year's National Autism Conference scheduled virtually for later this summer. This team consists of Lainy Kolonay, EI School Psychologist; Carly Weaver, EI Teacher; Chelsey Eskay, Speech and Language Therapist; Deb Eshelman, Occupational Therapist; and Paraprofessionals MaryBeth Winters and Kathy Bittner. The Team will discuss the individualized approach to assessment, program selection, instructional practices, staff training and implementation fidelity. The PaTTAN Autism Initiative shared that they are very excited to have the opportunity to highlight MIU IV EI efforts and success providing students with high quality early intervention.
 2. Two Seneca Valley students earned awards at the 82nd annual Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF) held virtually March 24-25. Freshman Shivani Umesh won a sponsor award from Young Women in Biology for her investigation on the effect that diet has on coronavirus infections globally by conducting a meta-analysis of accumulated data. Junior Nick Nedzesky brought home two sponsor awards from the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Medical Society, as well as a scholarship award from Penn State

University for his work investigating the role that glycerol has on biofilm formation. Mr. Nedzesky conducted his lengthy experiment in the SV Biotechnology Research Lab, both in person and virtually as the year progressed. Each year, approximately 1,000 students from more than 100 schools participate in PRSEF.

- 3. Seneca Valley Juniors Sydney Thompson and Nick Nedzesky were both awarded an Honorable Mention in the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) High School Essay Contest. Thirteen students were awarded prizes, including Miss Thompson and Mr. Nedzesky. Their recognition also included a \$100 prize. Each year, SACP hosts an essay contest that requires students to respond to a science-related prompt dealing with a current event. Schools in the Greater Pittsburgh area, including 39 Pennsylvania counties, 10 Ohio counties and 25 West Virginia counties, participated.

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

April 22	Earth Day
May 3	Board Meeting, SVIHS Auditorium and Zoom 7 p.m.

C. **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

D. **COVID-19 Update** – Dr. Vitale provided an update stating first that Butler County is back in the moderate range of COVID transmission, as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), with a PCR rate of 7.6% and an Incidence Rate of 97.4. To return to moderate, we had to be under 10% PCR and under 100 Incidence Rate for two consecutive weeks and to come off of the Attestation restrictions.

The Seneca Valley Dashboard reflects 13 active student cases and one active staff case. With recent vaccination clinics, we have seen a significant reduction in adult COVID cases. Student cases have inched up over the past couple of weeks. The closure chart is not just a recommendation if we have two weeks of substantial transmission.

We should soon be hearing more about the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, which was put on pause. Some staff had side effects from the J&J vaccine, but nothing serious.

- 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public comment was heard from Mr. Tom Nesbitt, from the Zelenople Historical Society, who provided a historical summary of how our district became the Seneca Valley Raiders. Mr. Nesbitt was one of the students who, in 1964, voted on the name for Seneca Valley High School team name, mascot and colors. Because Indians settled in

the area, the group wanted to use the name, "Indians." However, a nearby school was already called the Indians so the name Raiders was chosen. Evans City students then voted for Valley High and Zelenople students voted for Seneca High; they combined it, and this is how Seneca Valley Raiders came to be named. As someone who voted on the name, and because he feels the naming is historically significant, he would like to see it remain the same.

Dr. Vitale thanked Mr. Nesbitt for historical perspective, as well as his professional tone and respectful language on the subject matter.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** – March 1, 2021
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – March 8, 2021
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Approved the treasurer's report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approved the general fund bills totaling \$4,395,095.63
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$2,300,958.22

Ms. Whittle motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the meeting minutes, treasurer's report, general fund bills and construction fund bills. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

- A. **Adelphoi Education Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Adelphoi Education, Inc. to provide alternative education services for the 2021 - 22 school year.
- B. **Kennywood Picnic** – Approved 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.
 2. Policy 252 – Dating Violence, new, second and final reading.
 3. Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events, revised, first reading.
 4. Policy 911 – Broadcasting of School Events, revised, first reading.
 5. Policy 203 – Communicable Diseases and Immunization, revised, first reading.
 6. Policy 822 – Automated External Defibrillator, revised, first reading.
- D. **School Name** – Named the new K-6 school in Cranberry Township “Ehrman Crest.”
- E. **Settlement Agreement** – Approved the Settlement Agreement & Release for the settlement of the due process complaint filed with the Office of Dispute Resolution at Case No. 24452-20-21KE.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Adelphoi Education Agreement, Kennywood Picnic date, board policies, school name and settlement agreement. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**

- A. **Transition Services Agreement** – Approved the Transition Services Agreement between the Seneca Valley School District and Cares of Western PA to provide services for one student.
- B. **Memorandum of Understanding** – Approved 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** – Granted 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 I training for the staff at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.
- D. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- E. **Senior High School Book Donation or Disposal** – Approved donation or disposal of books from the Senior High School.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the transition services agreement, memorandum of understanding, grant disbursements, conferences and senior high school book donation or disposal. 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. **Change Order** – Approved the construction change order for the new K-6 elementary school at Ehrman Road.
- C. **Early Intervention Agreement** – Approved 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** – Awarded 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** – Approved 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.
- F. **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement** – Approved the 2021-22 PSBA Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the budget transfers, change order, early intervention agreement, bid awards, Josh Shipp presentation agreement and Pennsylvania School Board Association Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

11. **PERSONNEL** – Approved appointments, leaves and retirement.

- A. **Resignation** - *Supplemental* - Andrea Adrian
- B. **Appointments** - *Professional* - Esther Subramaniam, Christine Estvanik;
Supplementals - Christopher Guandolo, Gabriella Reynolds, Abby Wetzel, William Crummy, William Allen, Ronald Evans, Carol Wilson, Cindy Speck, Chad Robertson, Susan Berlin, Kimberly Magill, Wendy McQuiston, Kayla DeLallo, Darla Ramirez-Lightner, Christine Estvanik
- C. **Leaves** - *Professional* - Molly Brunner, Laken Baker, Hannah Hendershot, Lilia Pries, Nina Grinnell, Scott Rupik
- D. **Retirement** - *Professional* - Theodore Neill

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

12. **COMMUNICATION** – Communications were received from the following:

Covid Vaccine and Protocols

A. Ms. Stephanie Lane

Note of Thanks and Act of Kindness Opportunity

B. Ms. Jamie Thompson, CVE PTO

Raider Mascot

C. Ms. Angela Deutsch-Ferrari

D. Ms. Laurel Davis-Delano

E. Mr. J. Victor Conrad

F. Mr. Chandler Carranza

G. Ms. Isabella Petitta

H. Ms. Katie Smith

I. Mr. Michael O'Donnell

J. Ms. Rachel Graper

K. Ms. Angie Denham

L. Ms. Kari Zimmer

M. Ms. Deanna Brown

N. Ms. Maria Brown

O. Ms. Kelly Scott

P. Mr. Brian Connellan

Q. Ms. Elena Barricella Geil

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

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