



# Seneca Valley School District

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

I H S Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

May 3, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 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** – Riley Sannes, third 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. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: 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. Ms. Leslie Bredl was absent.
  
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognitions** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following student and staff recognitions:
    1. It is with our deepest appreciation that we congratulate the following 2020-2021 Seneca Valley School District Retirees for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the School District and its students. This group represents a combined 557.5 years of service:
      - i. Andrea Adrian – Senior High School/SVAOC Spanish Teacher – 26 Years
      - ii. Joyce Andreone – Rowan Elementary Third Grade Teacher – 25 Years
      - iii. Susan Brinker – Rowan Elementary Building Paraprofessional – 21 Years
      - iv. Stephen Campos – Senior High School Classroom Paraprofessional – 7 Years
      - v. Wendy Carson – Rowan Elementary Music Teacher – 24 Years
      - vi. Sandra Courson – Central Office Secretary – 19 Years
      - vii. Susan Dinger – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary Music Teacher – 20 Years
      - viii. Patricia DiVito – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary Personal Care Assistant Paraprofessional – 21 Years
      - ix. John Fetchko – Intermediate High School Chemistry Teacher – 30 Years
      - x. Jennifer Fiorenzo – Senior High School Cafeteria Cook – 12 Years

- xi. Larry Foster – District Delivery Driver – 33.33 Years
- xii. Max Gandy – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Maintenance – 32 Years
- xiii. Tammara Gill – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Mathematics Teacher – 21 Years
- xiv. MaryAnn Graziano – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Health and Physical Education Teacher – 31.8 Years
- xv. Kathy Mahony – SV Academy of Choice Business Teacher – 22 Years
- xvi. Julie Mann – Haine Middle School Sixth Grade Teacher – 28.5 Years
- xvii. Carla Mantick – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Classroom Paraprofessional – 16.5 Years
- xviii. Kathleen Masters – Senior High School Personal Care Assistant Paraprofessional – 6 Years
- xix. Laurie Melberg – Intermediate High School Cafeteria Cook – 5 Years
- xx. Gerald Miller – Director of Special Education – 12.5 Years
- xxi. John Motyl – Ryan Gloyer Middle School/SVAOC Health Teacher – 29 Years
- xxii. Deborah Schettler – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary Cafeteria Manager – 12 Years
- xxiii. Patricia Smith – Central Office Secretary – 23.75 Years
- xxiv. Jacalyn Sokoloski – Senior High School Cafeteria – 14 Years
- xxv. Robin Williams – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary Secretary – 29.12 Years
- xxvi. David Wilson – Ryan Gloyer Middle School/SVAOC Health & Physical Education Teacher – 30 Years
- xxvii. Kathy Wilson – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Science Teacher – 31 Years

The Board and Administration expressed their sincere appreciation to all retirees for their many years of service. Ms. Joyce Andreone, Ms. Susan Brinker, Ms. Susan Dinger, Ms. Pat DiVito, Ms. Kathy Mahony, and Mr. Jerry Miller all spoke words of gratitude to the District and expressed how much they will miss their students and colleagues.

- B. **Seneca Valley All-Star Club Member** – Kurt Ford, Maintenance at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, was recognized as the newest member of the Seneca Valley All-Star Club. Mrs. DeeAnn Graham and Dr. McCarty noted that Kurt's unwavering dedication to the District, and every student, as well as his willingness to go above and beyond when never being asked to do so, is greatly appreciated by all.
- C. The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon Team once again earned the title of Pennsylvania Decathlon Champions! With a total score of 33,513 points, these stellar students placed first in their division against the top high schools from Western, Central and Eastern PA at the (virtual) United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) Pennsylvania State Competition. Each high school competed with a team of nine students in eight events: art, music, literature, social science, economics, mathematics, science and essay. All subjects are related to the 2020-21 theme: The Cold War. The national competition takes place April 30.

- D. The National Honor Society (NHS) announced that Simren Jayaraman, a senior at Seneca Valley Senior High School and member of NHS, has been selected as an NHS Scholarship semifinalist. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership and character. Miss Jayarman was chosen from nearly 10,000 applicants and will receive a \$3,200 scholarship toward her higher education.

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

May 4	National Teacher Appreciation Day
May 9	Mother's Day
May 10	Board Meeting
May 12	National School Nurse Day
May 15	Grand March and Prom, Livestream and Broadcasted on SVTV
May 21	Last Day of Instruction for Seniors
May 28	Graduation Day
May 31	Memorial Day Holiday - No School for Students and Staff
June 4	Last Day of School for K-11
June 7	Staff In-Service Day

- F. **Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health Update** – Presenters included Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Director of Student Services; Ms. Jennifer Shipe, School Counselor at Haine Middle School, Department Chair; Ms. Bridget Miller, Assistant Principal at Evans City Middle School; Ms. Jessica Philips, Health Teacher at Ryan Gloyer Middle School; Ms. Lisa Graham, School Counselor at the Intermediate High School, LEAD Coordinator. An update was provided on the following initiatives at Seneca Valley:

- Elementary Social and Emotional Learning
- Youth Education Support Services (YESS)
- Signs of Suicide (SOS)
- Life Skills Training (LST)
- Mindfulness
- K-12 Proactive Planning
- Mental Health Therapy Options K-12
- Employee Assistance Program
- In-School Therapy for Students

Mrs. Graham confirmed that teachers, parents, peers, administrators and school counselors are able to make referrals to the YESS team to identify students and connect them with appropriate services.

- G. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Fred Peterson Jr. reported that an incident occurred at the Vo-Tech and a third-party has been authorized to further investigate.

2. I. U. IV – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that a new, five-year support contract was passed. Additionally, due to COVID-19, the convention will not happen, rather a mail-in ballot approach will take place. Ballots, including candidate bios, will arrive in the next week or two. Each District's ballot is weighted differently, based on size.

H. **Legislative Report** – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported on the following Senate Bills.

- Senate Bill 312 would allow reasonable fees to be charged by school districts for commercial requests. If passed, some costs could be recouped.
- Senate Bill 552 would allow agencies to petition the Office of Open Records for relief from vexatious requestors. A vexatious requestor is defined as those using the Right-to-Know Law with malicious intent to harass an agency thus wasting taxpayer resources.
- Senate Bill 83 created a pilot program for Pennsylvania universities to provide firefighter training to interested high school students.

Mr. DiTullio also noted that the Pennsylvania School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) board met to discuss the nine-year return rate that was certified at the December 2020 meeting. An error was discovered in the data used by the outside consultant when calculating the return rate. This error led to shared risk, under Act 5, being triggered. This will affect all staff hired after July 1, 2011. An additional .5% will be withheld from this groups' paychecks and put into their retirement fund. Those hired after July 1, 2019, will have an additional .75% withheld from their pay and deposited into their retirement fund. If it were not for the temporary COVID-19 dip, shared risk would not have been impacted.

Mr. DiTullio asked the PSERS board to consider the following data points:

- June 30, 2020 Standard & Poor's (S&P) return of -9.84% was used to calculate return which triggered shared risk.
- July 30, 2020, the S&P rate of return decreased to -1.9%, an 80% improvement.
- August 30, 2020, the S&P rate was up 5.1%, a 150% improvement.
- December 31, 2020, the S&P was up 12.53%, a 227% improvement.

Additionally, in November 2020, the board passed a revised asset allocation which will increase the PSERS rate by 6%, an impact of 1.25 million dollars to the District.

I. **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

- J. **COVID-19 Update** – Dr. McCarty reported that Butler County is back in the moderate level of COVID-19 transmission with a PCR rate of 7.4% and an Incident Rate of 90.5%. This is our first consecutive week back in moderate. We need to stay in moderate for two consecutive weeks in order to come off of the restrictions of the Attestation.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Mr. Eric DiTullio
- A. **Work Session** – April 12, 2021
- B. **Action Meeting** – April 19, 2021
4. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Ms. Burtner
5. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Ms. Burtner  
Grand Total: \$3,979, 242.45
6. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Ms. Burtner  
Grand Total: \$1,720,275.51
7. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** – Mr. Jim Nickel
- A. **Board Policies** – Approve the following board policies:
1. Policy 904 – Public Attendance at School Events, revised, second and final reading. - Ms. Andreassi
  2. Policy 911 – Broadcasting of School Events, revised, second and final reading. – Ms. Andreassi
  3. Policy 203 – Communicable Diseases and Immunization, revised, second and final reading. – Dr. Roberts
  4. Policy 822 – Automated External Defibrillator, revised, second and final reading. – Dr. Roberts
- B. **Transportation Contract** – Approve the transportation contract for one family to transport their child to Provident Charter School during the 2021-22 school year. – Mr. Jerry Miller
- C. **Student Adjudication #2020-21-01** – Approve student adjudication #2020-21-01.
8. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION** – Mr. Mike Jacobs
- A. **Change Orders** – Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School at Ehrman Road.
- B. **Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) Reroofing Contract Award** – Approve Duro-Last, Inc. through the government cooperative purchasing program, TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) vendor agreement for the CVE re-roofing

project to be completed in the summer of 2021 in the amount of \$70,254.80, pending solicitor review of final agreement.

- C. **Field Lighting Project** – Approve the proposal from Tower Engineering to prepare electrical design/engineering services for the field lighting project on the secondary campus, pending solicitor review. 2015 bonds to be utilized.
- D. **Restroom and Locker Room Facility** - Approve the proposal from Eckles Architecture to design a restroom and locker room facility adjacent to the softball field, pending solicitor review. 2015 bonds to be utilized.
- E. **Bid Authorizations** – Authorize the administration to seek bids for the following summer 2021 projects:
1. Field lighting at softball and baseball fields
  2. Curb and sidewalk repairs, district wide
  3. Intellisite added to Ryan Gloyer Middle School, upgrade door access system
  4. Secondary campus signage upgrades, directional, informational and location
  5. Bleacher bracing, deck support brackets to the Senior High School bleachers
  6. CVE door hardware replacement
  7. Boiler and boiler room for SHS. Currently the Intermediate High School (IHS) boilers serve both the IHS and SHS
  8. Re-roof Rowan Elementary School through TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) vendor agreement
- F. **Professional Photography Contract Awards** – Award the following professional photography contracts for the 2021-22 school year.
1. K-12 portraits contract to Jostens
  2. Yearbook events and activities contract to Bill Sauers Photography
- G. **Depository/Treasurer** – Appoint NexTier Bank as depository and treasurer for the 2021-2022 school year.
- H. **Proposed 2021-22 Budget** – Approve the proposed 2021-22 budget in the amount of \$145,712,582 and authorize the budget to be made available for public inspection.
- I. **Board Secretary** – Appoint Lisa Mislán as Board Secretary effective July 1, 2021 for a term of four years.

Mr. Randy Miller confirmed that the secondary campus signage would include only directional and location information. Additional "Welcome to Seneca Valley" digital signage is not included in this bid authorization.

9. **PERSONNEL** – Mr. Jeff Widdowson – Approve resignation, appointments, leaves and retirements.
10. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from the following.

**Curriculum Content**

- Mr. Benjamin L. Jezovnik

**Drug Testing**

- Mr. Charles Moury

**Raider Mascot**

- Ms. Sarah Vargas
- Ms. Colleen Tanner
- Ms. Diane Setzenfand

**Facemasks and National Autism Conference**

- Ms. Stephanie Lane

**African American History Course**

- Ms. Margaret Shutak

11. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.
12. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.
13. **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 Mislán, Board Secretary