

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Teleconference Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

**May 4, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. James Nickel – President called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Ashlynn Kazmarek, grade 1 at Haine Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, “I Led the Pledge,” by opening up the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

<https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=utx9xsanyr>



- C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by 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. Frederick Peterson, Jr., Ms. Kathy Whittle, Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson, Mr. James Nickel.

Others present included Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary; Dr. Sean McCarty, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary; Dr. Marie Palano, Director of Analytics and Federal Programs; Mr. Jeffrey Roberts, Supervisor of Gifted Education and Student Services; Mr. Sean VanScoyoc, Information Technology Director; Ms. Kyra Bobak, Human Resources Director; Ms. Lynn Burtner, Business Manager; Ms. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director; Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Mr. Gerald Miller, Special Education Director; Mr. Jim Pearson, Transportation Director; Ms. Annie Mersing, Advancement Director; Mr. Jeff James, Supervisor of Safety and Security; Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletics Director; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; Ms. Elizabeth Williams, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Nurse; Ms. Carol Gallagher, Intermediate High School Secretary; Ms. Cheryl Zorich, Intermediate High School English Teacher; Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, Superintendent Intern;

## 2. INFORMATION REPORTS

### A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Linda Andreassi announced the following student/staff recognition.

1. The following are the 2019-20 Seneca Valley Retirees. We thanked them for their combined 253.5 years of service and dedication, and we wished them well.
  - a. Amy Cain – Haine Elementary School Secretary – 17 Years
  - b. Tony DelPrete – Intermediate High School Counselor – 18 Years
  - c. Carol Gallagher – Intermediate High School Secretary – 24 Years
  - d. Karen Kaiser – Rowan Elementary School First Grade Teacher – 22.5 Years
  - e. Terri Keller – Haine Elementary School Second Grade Teacher – 18 Years
  - f. Warren Mitchell – Intermediate High School Custodian – 26 Years
  - g. Harrison Moon – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Custodian – 19 Years
  - h. Cynthia Rape – Evans City Elementary/Evans City Middle School Cafeteria – 31 Years
  - i. Daryl Seitz – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Guidance Secretary – 18.5 Years
  - j. MaryAnn Stewart – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Learning Support Teacher – 24.5 Years
  - k. Kathy Williamson – Intermediate High School Learning Support Teacher – 15 Years
  - l. Cheryl Zorich – Intermediate High School English Teacher – 20 Years

Mr. Nickel recognized and thanked the retirees for their hard work and dedication to the Seneca Valley School District over their many years of service.

2. Seneca Valley students in Dan McKosky's video production classes brought home six awards from Robert Morris University's (Virtual) Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC) Student Video Festival held in early April. Over 500 students from Western Pennsylvania participated in the contest. This event provides students with the ability to interact with other students and see clips from productions from across the region.
3. Junior Kaitlyn Moore, and sophomores Rachel Spear and Veronica Pimenova, were recently recognized by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). Miss Moore and Miss Spear were selected as 2020 Central and Western Pennsylvania Affiliate Honorable Mention recipients of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. Miss Pimenova was named a 2020 Central and Western Pennsylvania Affiliate Rising Star recipient of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing.
4. Seneca Valley High School Math League team placed first in the region and 16th out of 34 high schools in the state. Individually, junior David Choi tied for 18th place in the state and Rachel Spear tied for 24th place in the state.

5. Ryan Gloyer Middle School Nurse Elizabeth Williams has been selected to receive the Advancing Excellence in School Nursing Award in the Transformation category by the Highmark Foundation. In addition to the recognition, Ms. Williams will receive a \$1,500 award to put toward professional development or the purchase of health-related supplies for students. More information will be made available via a press release by Highmark on May 6.

Dr. Vitale thanked Ms. Williams for always being an advocate for the children and the Seneca Valley School District. She noted how very deserving Ms. Williams is of this honor, having also been part of the Seneca Valley COVID-19 Task Force since early February 2020.

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

May 4	Board Meeting
May 5	National Teacher Appreciation Day
May 6	National School Nurse Day
May 10	Mother’s Day
May 15	Instructional Day for K – 12 Students ( <i>no longer an Act 80 Day</i> )
May 22	Last Day of Instruction for Seniors
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday – No remote/online instruction for students and staff
May 28	Graduation Celebration
May 29	Graduation Celebration

**C. Financial Reports**

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

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public comment regarding graduation and prom was heard by Ms. Roberta Love and Ms. Allison Stebbins, and included suggestions on graduation plans for 2020.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved the April 20, 2020 minutes.
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approved the treasurer’s report
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approved the general fund bills totaling \$2,043,892.10
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$212,205.50.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve the minutes, treasurer’s report, and bills as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

A. **Board Policies** – Approved the following board policies.

1. #314 – Physical Exam Admin Employees, revised, third and final reading  
– Ms. Kyra Bobak
2. #414 – Physical Exam Professional Employees, revised, third and final reading  
– Ms. Kyra Bobak
3. #514 – Physical Exam Classified Employees, revised, third and final reading  
– Ms. Kyra Bobak

B. **2020 -21 Return-to-School Task Force** – Authorized the administration to establish a “Return-to-School Task Force” comprised of administration, labor union representatives, teachers, school board members (2), parents and students to explore options and develop plans for instruction delivery and school operations for Fall 2020.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the board policies and Return-to-School Task Force as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

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

A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.

B. **PDE Lease** – Acknowledged receipt of the PlanCon Part K, “Project Refinancing”

C. **Depository/Treasurer** – Appointed NextTier Bank as depository and treasurer for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

D. **Proposed 2020-21 Budget** – Approved the proposed 2020-21 budget in the amount of \$139,998,325 with no millage increase and authorize the budget to be made available for public inspection.

Ms. Burtner noted a 2.67% increase in the 2020-21 expenditure budget with only contractual increases and no millage increase. Also, she noted that it is difficult to prepare revenue projections at this time with no guide given regional shutdowns and family challenges, but that there will likely be a reduction in revenue in fiscal year 2020-21. Hard copies of the proposed budget will be sent to any resident who requests one. Mr. Nickel highlighted that this is only a proposed, not a final budget. The final budget is to be approved on June 9, 2020. Mr. DiTullio stated that the 2.67% increase in expenses is not that far above the 2.4% inflation we saw in February. In addition, the rate of our pension plan is 25% of this increase. He also noted that the Seneca Valley administration has always done a good job when planning and is always fiscally responsible. Ms. Burtner noted a significant decrease in earned income tax and real estate transfer tax because of the economic slowdown. Mr.

Peterson questioned if we'd be able to continue feeding into the 2020-21 school year. Ms. Burtner answered that it is unsure at this time, given government shortfalls, if we will have those funds available moving forward; however, it is our plan to continue feeding as we are currently. Mr. DiTullio noted that, so far this year, the District has provided over 78,000 meals at no taxpayer cost.

- E. **Drug Testing Fee** – Approved a fee of \$30 (no increase) for drug testing for the 2020-21 school year.
- F. **Haine Elementary School Re-Roofing Contract Award** – Approved Duro-Last, Inc. vendor agreement for the Haine Elementary School re-roofing project to be completed in the Summer of 2020 in the amount of \$236,365,59; pending solicitor review of final agreement.

Ms. Whittle motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve budget transfers, PDE lease, depository/treasurer, proposed 2020-21 budget, drug testing fee, and HES re-roofing contract as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Approved appointments, leaves, and retirement as follows.

Appointments – *Classified* – Laura Myers, Angela Bivens; *Supplementals* – Margaret Lockovich, Karen Rebholz, Wanda Reynolds, Diane Powell, Susan Himic, Amy Brush, April Christopher, Adria Herlihy, Janet Tallerico, Molly Brunner, Jennifer Shipe, Melissa Mitro, Lindsay Mysliwec, Sinead Reeb, Lauren Hackett, Hannah Hugo, Caitlyn Kourakos, Carey Carvelli, Rosemary Piso, Christine Mills, Kristi Dietz, Amanda Bondi, Joseph Ehmann, Dana Fisher, Laken Baker, Audrey Buban, Katie Wolford, Christine Roe, Jeanne Probst, Joan Widdowson, April Stadtmiller, Sarah Hackenberg, Maria Landolina, Tamara Mauk, Brenda Mazinski, Patricia Divito, Catherine Lusty, Pamela Volz, Ann Wise, Ann Raisley, Sarah Wolfson, Diane Dunlap, Christina Dugan, Tracy Semega, Sandy Turner, Tara Sproat, Alicia Scopellite, Katherine Langley, Crystal Cypher, Larry Deal, Jennifer Exler

Leaves – *Routing Specialist* – Carolyn Klaum; *Professional* – Abigail Russell; *Classified* – Lisa Recce, Elizabeth Marthens, Mary Rasmussen, Kimberly Martin, Heather Sullenger, Lori Parker

Retirement – *Classified* – Cynthia Rape

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the appointments, leaves, and retirement as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with 8 in the affirmative and one abstinence.

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

- A. Ms. Angela Dawson – Graduation plans
- B. Mr. Bill Dawson – Graduation plans
- C. Charlee Dawson (Student) – Graduation plans
- D. Ms. Bonnie Woodard – Graduation plans
- E. Ms. Melissa Carryer – Graduation plans
- F. Ms. Lori Pontzius – Graduation plans

- G. Ms. Amy Cheski – Graduation plans
- H. Ms. Georgia Ging – Graduation plans
- I. Ms. Laura Kurywchak – Graduation plans
- J. Ms. Amy Crawford – Graduation plans
- K. Hayley Cramer (Student) – Graduation plans
- L. Mr. and Ms. Jason Clark – Graduation plans
- M. Ms. Diane Smith – Graduation plans
- N. Mr. and Ms. Glenn Hansen – Graduation plans
- O. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Grosick – Graduation plans
- P. Mr. Robert Bittner – Graduation plans
- Q. Mrs. Michelle Bittner – Graduation plans
- R. Mr. and Ms. Jeff Grassell – Graduation plans
- S. Mr. Ken Rochford – Graduation plans
- T. Ms. Trisha Fronczak – Rowan/Haine Teacher Parade
- U. Ms. Tammy Tappe – Zoom platform
- V. Mr. Andrew Marshall – TRU Medical PPE
- W. Rev. David Felts – PA Society Sons of the American Revolution

- 12. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried on a roll call with those present voting in the affirmative.
- 13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and budget items.

Mr. James Nickel, School Board President

Ms. Annie Mersing, School Board Secretary