

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Video Conference - 7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

April 20, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. James Nickel, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Jayson Paterson, a first-grade student at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (“CVE”), recorded the Pledge of Allegiance. This recording was played to continue the board meeting initiative, *I Led the Pledge*.

<https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=ua46n5k94d>



- 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. 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; Ms. Kyra Bobak, Human Resources Director; Ms. Lynn Burtner, Business Manager; Ms. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director; Dr. Marie Palano, Director of Analytics and Federal Programs; Mr. James Pearson, Transportation Director; Mr. Jeffery Roberts, Supervisor of Gifted Education and Student Services, Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Mr. Gerald Miller, Special Education Director; Ms. Annie Mersing, Advancement Director; Ms. Patty Ball, Educational Support Professionals President; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; and a press representative.

## 2. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

1. Seneca Valley School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 21st year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Seneca Valley answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music programs. This award recognizes that Seneca Valley is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children.
2. Keely Lisco, a Seneca Valley senior, was recently announced as a national gold medal and a national American Visions Award winner in the 2020 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition. Miss Lisco won for her mixed media piece titled "Over the Mountains." Senior Emma Burd won a national silver medal for her ceramics and glass piece titled "Sloth." Additionally, three other Seneca Valley students had their artwork adjudicated in New York City on March 16 after winning Gold Keys in the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition. In addition to Miss Lisco and Miss Burd, regional Gold Key winners included Kayla Moon, Cierra Denny and Taylor Healy. There were also 19 silver key winners and 21 honorable mentions from Seneca Valley in the annual competition that featured over 1,600 entries from across the region.
3. Seneca Valley School District has two students who were recently announced as 2020 Carson Scholars and two who have renewed their status. Seneca Valley sophomore Nicholas Nedzesky and junior Faith Condrick are two of 477 students across the nation who received a \$1,000 college scholarship award and the coveted honor of being named a Carson Scholar. In addition, 912 students have renewed their Carson Scholar status, including sophomore Kate Lipscomb and senior Coryn Ferguson. Miss Lipscomb and Miss Ferguson and the other previous winners have maintained high academic standards and a strong commitment to their communities and are being named 2020 Recognized Carson Scholars for their efforts.
4. Three Seneca Valley students finished first at a computer programming competition held at Carnegie Mellon University on March 7. Teams worked for three hours solving eight challenging programs. Seneca Valley Senior Sam McCune and juniors David Choi and Vincent Horvath completed six of the programs correctly, leading them victory. The competition had 27 teams from local high schools and from Maryland.
5. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced that a team of students from the Seneca Valley School District has been selected as the PennDOT District 10 winner for its third Innovations Challenge. Mentored by

Seneca Valley Senior High School Gifted Support Teacher Dean Walker, team members include Ty Brinkley, Darius Zalnasky, Sydney McMurray, Brady McConnell and Kathleen Monahan. The winning regional team's innovation was "Litter Gitters," which are specialized trash receptacles that would be installed at strategic locations where motorists could dispose of trash that has accumulated in their vehicle. Regional winners will now move on to compete in Harrisburg for the state championship.

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

April 22	"Proud and Strong" Yard Sign Delivery to SV Seniors, 2-4 p.m.
April 22	Earth Day
April 23	Ramadan Begins
May 4	Board Meeting

**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

**D. Scholarship Plans and Procedures – Dr. Matthew McKinley spoke about the procedures for awarding scholarships. Recipients will be contacted to discuss how the monetary awards will be exchanged. The Ruth Varner Otto Scholarship will be awarded, and recipient announced, on May 18, 2020. No ceremony will be held. The school can be used for photo opportunities and a slide show will be produced.**

**E. Student Food/Continuous Feeding Program – Dr. Vitale spoke about the District's Continuous Feeding Program. Seneca Valley has always participated in the Federal Lunch Program of free or reduced meals, normally feeding about 1,100 children. We continue, today, to feed remotely with four feeding sites. At its inception, 200 children were being fed. As of today, we are feeding 2,152 children. Any child under the age of 18 qualifies with online sign up available. For breakfast, the Federal Program provides \$2.20 per child while the state provides 10 cents per child. For lunch, the Federal Program provides \$3.41 per child while the state provides 10 cents per child. Labor is not included in these costs, but rather, paid for through the District's cafeteria fund. We are confident that we can continue to feed all children through the last day of school, June 5, 2020, without having to ask the District for additional funding.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.**

4. **MOTION TO SUSPEND SCHOOL BOARD POLICY –**

- A. Motion to suspend any applicable Seneca Valley School District policies in order to authorize the conduct of this regular meeting of the Board of School Directors via telephone/video conference in consideration of the public health concerns and governmental directives arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Notice of the conduct of this meeting via telephone/video conference previously has been posted at the District Administration office and to the District website with information to allow public access to and public comment during the meeting.
- B. Approve the suspension of Seneca Valley School District policies as applicable to student attendance, grading, promotion and graduation requirements (including, Policy No. 204 (Attendance), Policy No. 212 (Reporting Student Progress), Policy No. 215 (Promotion and Retention) and Policy No. 217 (Graduation Requirements) and to authorize the Superintendent to establish alternative procedures and requirements for attendance, grading, promotion and graduation requirements in relation to the completion of the 2019-20 instructional year to the extent necessitated by the mandated school closure associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve the motions to suspend school board policies A and B. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –** Approved the following meeting minutes:

- A. **Work Session –** March 2, 2020
- B. **Regular Meeting –** March 10, 2020

6. **TREASURER’S REPORT –** Approved the treasurer’s report.

7. **GENERAL FUND BILLS –** Approved the following construction fund bills:  
Grand Total: \$2,470,607.62

8. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS –** Approved the following construction fund bills:  
Grand Total: \$1,187,153.96

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve meeting minutes, treasurer’s report, general fund bills and construction fund bills. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION –** Mr. Eric DiTullio

- A. **Adelphoi Education Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Adelphoi Education, Inc. to provide alternative education services for the 2020 - 21 school year.

- B. **Board Policies** – Approved the following board policies:
1. #314 – Physical Exam Admin Employees, revised, second reading  
– Ms. Kyra Bobak
  2. #414 – Physical Exam Professional Employees, revised, second reading  
– Ms. Kyra Bobak
  3. #514 – Physical Exam Classified Employees, revised, second reading  
– Ms. Kyra Bobak
- C. **MIU IV Board Member** – Approved the nomination of Mr. Eric DiTullio as a  
Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Board Member for the term of July 1, 2020 through  
June 30, 2023.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the Adelphoi Education Agreement, board policies, and MIU IV Board Member nomination. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **INSTRUCTION ACTION** – Ms. Susan Harrison

- A. **Advance Placement Account** – Approved the transfer of \$30,000 from the Seneca Valley Advanced Placement account to Total Registration, a contracted third-party vendor who processes and manages Advanced Placement (AP) expenses, for the purpose of covering potential AP exam cancellation requests from Seneca Valley students.
- B. **Continuity of Education** – Approved Continuity of Education plan to be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and posted on the district website.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve Advanced Placement Account transfer and Continuity of Education Plan. The motion carried on a roll call with those present voting in the affirmative.

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

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **McCurley-Houston Change Order** – Approved the Change-Order from the Electrical Contractor (McCurley-Houston) on the Aquatic Facility Project. This change order is due to the District accepting Alternate #3 bid for a steel roof structure (which resulted in a \$420K bid day savings) in lieu of the base-bid, wood beam roof structure. The contract documents does have an attachment detail for attaching the light fixtures to the wood structure. However, the drawings did not have an attachment detail for attaching the light fixtures to the steel structure with non-corrosive hardware, clips, etc. This resulted in a change order from the Electrical Contractor (McCurley-Houston) of \$21,472.00

- C. **Bid Awards** – Awarded the following bids for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - 1. Copier Paper Supplies
  - 2. General Supplies
  - 3. Maintenance Supplies
  - 4. Print Supplies
  
- D. **Cafeteria Worker Incentive** – Approved financial recognition for cafeteria workers for onsite COVID-19 meal preparation. Additional time and a half for three days (less than \$3,000) and a \$600 stipend for employees who physically come into our building and work through the end of the school year (June 5, 2020), not to exceed \$30,000, to be paid on June 26, 2020.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve budget transfers, McCurley-Houston Change Order, bid awards, and cafeteria worker incentive. The motion carried on a roll call with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 12. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – The following personnel items were discussed in executive session held prior to this meeting:
  - A. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Christopher Anastas, Amy Brown; *Classified* – Tammy Tappe, Cafeteria; *Internship* – Kaitlin Remensky; *Supplementals* – Walberto Lopez-Aviles, Tucker Toepl
  
  - B. **Leaves** – *Psychologist* – Jaclyn Macioce; *Professional* – Sarah Smelscer, Amanda Fleming, Ashley Pattison, Stephanie Carney, Amber Hugus, Melinda Hickman, Taisia Papariella; *Classified* – Kimberly Martin, Barbara Gerginski, Troy Watson, Heather Sullenger, Heather Coulter, Tricia Bennett, Erica Sicilia; Tammy Tappe, Valerie Kirk, Irma Martinez, Judy Schall, Beth Lauer, Nicole Pint, Christina Utter, Christine Zacherl
  
  - C. **Sabbatical** – Melissa Bonicky
  
  - D. **Retirements** – *Classified* – Harrison Moon, Warren Mitchell

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve appointments, leaves, sabbatical, and retirements. The motion carried on a roll call with those present voting in the affirmative.

13. **COMMUNICATION** – Acknowledged communication received from Ms. Laura Kurywchak, Jakob Ring, W.L. Roenigk and student emails regarding grading.
14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.
15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel items.

Mr. James Nickel, School Board President



Ms. Annie Mersing, School Board Secretary