

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

MINUTES

February 3, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 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 in memory of Mr. Robert Shoemaker who passed away on Wednesday, January 29, 2020. Mr. Shoemaker retired from Seneca Valley in 1995 after 35 years of service. During his time in the District, Mr. Shoemaker was a classroom teacher and later became an administrator serving as Principal of Haine Elementary School.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Emily Thompson, a second-grade student at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (“CVE”), continued the board meeting initiative, *I Led the Pledge*, by reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.”
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. Annie Mersing, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Jr., and Ms. Kathy Whittle. Ms. Leslie Bredl and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson were absent.

Others present included Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools; 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. DeeAnn Graham, CVE Principal; Ms. Tina Francis, CVE Assistant Principal; Ms. Elizabeth Wimer, CVE Learning Specialist; Dr. Jackie Macioce, Psychologist; Ms. Chelsea Miller, CVE Grade 2 Teacher; Ms. Sarah Wolfson and Ms. Kristine Hart, CVE Paraprofessionals; Attorney Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; and a press representative.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Linda Andreassi announced the following student and staff recognition:
 1. Seneca Valley’s debut appearance at the University of Pittsburgh’s Mock Trial Tournament resulted in a third-place finish out of 49 schools from across the state. The two-day tournament was held Jan. 4-5 and enabled students on the SV Mock Trial Team to present their trial case regarding cyberbullying. The students made up two teams, one representing the plaintiff side of the case and the other the defense.

2. The Seneca Valley Raider Robotics FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Team finished their first-ever season with two trips to the semifinals and a second-place finish on Jan. 11 at Penn State University’s York Campus. According to Seneca Valley Robotics Coach and Applied Engineering and Technology Teacher Steve Fortunato, the team worked tirelessly to prepare for all three of their state-qualifying matches this year. This was SV’s first year starting an FTC team, which consists of ten students who signed up for an advanced experience opportunity. The FTC was created for students, grades 7–12, to compete in head-to-head competition, by designing, building and programming a robot to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Raider Robotics will be hosting a Robotics Night Open House on Tuesday, Feb. 25, for any student in grades 6-12 interested in the Seneca Valley Robotics program.

Mr. Steve Fortunato, along with five members of the SV Raider Robotics FIRST Tech Challenge Team, were welcomed by the Board to share their experience. Mr. Fortunato thanked the Board and Administration for caring about robotics. He further thanked his team members for their efforts and energy. The Board offered kudos to Mr. Fortunato and the students; recognizing them as ambassadors of the district and congratulating them on an amazing accomplishment.

3. Building on his commitment to prepare students with the computer and technology skills for in-demand jobs, Governor Tom Wolf recently announced that the Seneca Valley School District will receive \$35,000 in grant money as part of the PAsmart Targeted grants, a state-wide effort to expand computer science (CS) classes and teacher training. Seneca Valley was one of only a select number of Western Pennsylvania schools to receive the grant and the only one from Butler County. The grant will allow for expansion of Seneca Valley’s elementary club offerings by supporting and encouraging educators to present computer science related clubs beyond the graded curriculum. Additionally, as part of the grant requirements, six Seneca Valley teachers will participate in professional development training to learn how to make computer science concepts accessible, exciting and appropriate for the grade levels of students taught. Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement, and Mr. Jeff Roberts, Supervisor of Gifted Education and Student Services, partnered to submit the grant on behalf of the District.

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

February 10	School Board Meeting, Senior High Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
February 14	Snow Makeup Day #1/Vacation Day – No School for Students
February 17	President’s Day/Act 80 Day - No School for Students

- C. **Residential Developments** – Dr. Tracy Vitale provided an update of Cranberry Township residential developments as of December 2019 which included Park Place Phases 6 (revised), 7 and 8.

D. Agency Reports

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Fred Peterson, Jr. reported the Vo-Tech is in the final stages of hiring its new executive director, and he feels positive about the direction the Vo-tech is going.
2. I. U. IV – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported the Intermediate Unit is still trying to dispose of the Martha Street property.

E. Legislative Report – Mr. Peterson reported the following legislative developments at the state level:

1. Governor Wolfe is pushing hard to renovate school buildings via bond issuance and for charter school reform.
2. President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati has announced he will not seek re-election.
3. House Bill 283 – Open Records Request Reform has been sent to the senate and seems to have support. The bill will permit local and state agencies to charge additional search, review and duplication fees, as well as require requesters to indicate whether their request is for commercial purposes.

At the federal level, the budget is under legislative review.

F. 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approve the following meeting minutes:

- A. Work Session – January 6, 2020
- B. Regular Meeting – January 13, 2020

4. TREASURER’S REPORT – Approve the treasurer’s report.

**5. GENERAL FUND BILLS – Approve the following general fund bills.
Grand Total: \$4,460,057.63**

**6. CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS – Approve the following construction fund bills.
Grand Total: \$1,233,667.26**

7. ADMINISTRATION ACTION

- A. Board Policies – Approve the following board policies:

1. #103.1 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities, revised, first reading – Mr. Gerald Miller
2. #112 – Guidance Counseling, revised, second reading – Mr. Jeffrey Roberts
3. #113 – Special Education, revised, first reading – Mr. Gerald Miller
4. #113.2 – Behavior Support, revised, first reading – Mr. Gerald Miller
5. #222 – Tobacco Use, revised, second reading – Dr. Matthew McKinley
6. #440 – Responsibility for Student Welfare, revised, second reading – Mr. Jeff James

8. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approve conferences requests.
- B. **Student Trips** – Approve the following student trips:
 1. Trip to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada for 76 French-language students on February 26 – February 29, 2020 under the supervision of RGMS French Teacher, Mr. Andrew Russell at no cost to the district. Students will miss three days of instruction.
 2. Academic Decathlon trip to Edinboro University on February 7 – February 8, 2020 for nine students under the supervision of SHS Learning Support Teacher, Mr. David Reichard at no cost to the district. Students will miss one day of instruction.
 3. Chorus trip to Hickory High School for 17 students to participate in the regional chorus concert on February 26, 2020 under the supervision of Music Teacher, Mr. Aaron Magill at no cost to the district. Students will miss one day of instruction.

9. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **Bid Authorizations** - Authorize the administration to seek bids for the following:
 1. Asphalt Paved Parking (Extend exist/Gravel Lot/Upper lot extension) - Secondary Campus
 2. Main Switch Gear Replacement - Intermediate High School
 3. Storefront Replacement – Ryan Gloyer Middle School, Rowan, & CVE Dock Door
 4. HVAC Piping - Water filtration issues – Senior High School
 5. Roof Replacements – CVE, Haine, & RGMS
 6. Turf upper MS Practice Field – Athletics (current staging area for Aquatic Center)
 7. HCP/ADA Bleachers, Redo Floor, Paint walls, VB Sleeves inserts in SHS Gym – Athletics

10. PERSONNEL ACTION – Approve resignations, appointments, leaves and tenure. (Executive Session)

11. **COMMUNICATION** – Acknowledge the following communications:
 - A. Megan Oldenski
 - B. Jennifer Roush
 - C. Jodi Hassen
 - D. Mark Rice
12. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.
14. **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