

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

MINUTES

January 13, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Mr. James Nickel, President, at 7:05 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Stella Brody, a third-grade student at Evans City Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, *I Led the Pledge*, by reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.”
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. Annie Mersing, Board Secretary, showed the following members 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. Jeff Widdowson.

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; Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Ms. Marie Palano, Director of Analytics and Federal Programs; Ms. Lauri Pendred, Principal of Evans City Elementary School; Mr. Andrew Teti, Vice-Principal of Evans City Elementary School; 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. Band festival attendees were treated to a sea of blue and black at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Band Festival held Dec. 12-14. Seneca Valley alone made up 35 percent of the festival band. District 5 is made up of students from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Over 220 students auditioned for a band of 125 musicians.
 2. Haine Elementary School’s First Lego League (FLL) team, aka Haine Raiders, earned the top elementary score and was awarded the Elementary Excellence Award Trophy on Dec. 14 at the Western Pennsylvania FLL Grand Championship at Sewickley Academy. Students competed in four

- rounds of the robot game and in three presentations that included a robot design and project details. Haine Raiders also placed second in October at the Tenacious Tiger Tech Tournament and was named the Top Rookie Team in December at the A Galaxy Far, Far Away Tournament.
3. Seneca Valley is the only School District in Butler County to be awarded a Teacher in the Workplace Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The \$25,000 grant will enable teachers to visit local employers and learn the skills and industry trends to enhance their classroom instruction, student learning and career readiness. Seneca Valley teachers will be participants in a structured job-shadowing program during the summer, learning more from employers near our school district. After debriefing about the experience, the faculty will review their school curricula and make recommendations for adjustments that support developing 21st century skills that meet local employers' needs.
 4. Members of the Seneca Valley Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Raider Battalion placed first at the Western PA JROTC Air Rifle Competition hosted on Dec. 21 at Seneca Valley. Additionally, Seneca Valley cadets swept the top three individual scores. The shoulder-by-shoulder event included JROTC battalions from Albert Gallatin, Butler, Beaver and Valley high schools.

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

January 1 – 31	School Board Director Recognition Month
January 16	End of First Semester, Grades 5-12
January 17	Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students, School Safety Update for Secondary and Central Office Administrators
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Act 80 Day, No School for Students

- C. **Butler County Business Matters Real Estate Transaction Report - January 2020** – Dr. Tracy Vitale spoke about the real estate transaction report issued in the January 2020 edition of the Butler County Business Matters. The report shows a continued increase in real estate transactions in the district.

- D. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Middle School Activities
5. Athletics
6. Food Service
7. Tax Collections
8. Capital Projects Funds

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

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** – November 4, 2019
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – November 18, 2019
 - C. **Reorganization Meeting** – December 3, 2019
 - D. **Work Session** – December 3, 2019
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approved the treasurer’s report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approved the general fund bills.
Grand Total: \$1,734,681.39
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills.
Grand Total: \$557,001.66

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, 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.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

- A. **Board Policies** – Approved the following board policies:
 1. #112 – Guidance Counseling, revised, first reading – Mr. Jeffrey Roberts
 2. #222 – Tobacco Use, revised, first reading – Dr. Matthew McKinley
 3. #440 – Responsibility for Student Welfare, revised, first reading
– Mr. Jeff James
 4. #905 – Citizen Advisory Committee, revised, second reading
– Ms. Andreassi
 5. #910 – Community Engagement, revised, second reading – Ms. Andreassi
 6. #912 – Relations with Educational Institutions, revised, second reading
– Ms. Andreassi
- B. **School Bus Drivers** – Approved the list of new bus drivers since September 16, 2019 for ABC Transit and Valley Lines.
- C. **Student/Teacher Calendar** – Approved the student teacher calendar for the 2020-21 school year.

Dr. Vitale stated the Butler County Public Schools worked together to align their respective calendars to ensure all Butler County Vo-Tech students are on the same schedule.

- D. **Committee Assignments** – Approved School Board committee assignments for 2020.

- E. **YMCA Corporate 25 Community Partnership** – Approved the Corporate 25 Community Partnership agreement between the Butler County YMCA and Seneca Valley School District to provide membership discounts and benefits for district employees.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve board policies, school bus drivers, student/teacher calendar, committee assignments and YMCA corporate 25 community partnership. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Club Status** – Approved club status for the K-Pop Dance Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Senior High School Teacher, Mrs. Melanie Snavelly.
- C. **Grant Disbursement** – Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the PASmart Targeted Computer Science Grant in the amount of \$35,000 to expand STEM and computer science learning at the elementary schools. Requested by Mr. Jeff Roberts, Supervisor of Student Services and Gifted Education.
- D. **Student Trips** – Acknowledged the following student trips:
1. Orchestra Students to participate in the PMEA District Orchestra at Indiana University of Pennsylvania on January 17 – 18 under the supervision of Ms. Sarah Miller and Ms. Marlina Hasara. Students will not miss any days of school.
 2. JROTC Marksmanship Team to compete in the JROTC Service Regional Championship on February 13 – 16 which is the second round of the annual JROTC National Air Rifle Competition. This shoulder-to-shoulder competition is held at the Camp Gary Anderson Competition Center in Camp Pelly, OH and is at no cost to the District. Students will be under the supervisor of ISG Angelo Lettiere and Richard Coleman. Students will miss two days of school.
- E. **Edgenuity Agreement Renewal** – Approved the renewal of the agreement between Edgenuity and Seneca Valley School District to operate our cyber program to be paid in five equal installments over five years in the amount of \$2,616,975.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve conferences, club status, grant disbursement, student trips and the Edgenuity agreement renewal. The 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. **Athletic Fund Summary Revisions** – Approved revisions to the Athletic Fund Summary.
- C. **New K-6 Building Environmental Graphics Proposal Revisions** – Approved revisions to the environmental graphics proposal for the New K-6 Building.
- D. **Bond Refinancing Resolution** – Authorized the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation bonds, Series of 2020 in an aggregate principal amount not-to-exceed seventeen million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$17,800,000); covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity, redemption and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing a filing of required documents with the department of community and economic development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds.
- E. **New K-6 Building Storm Shelter Peer Review** – Approved the proposal from KFC Engineering through Cannon Design for peer review services (required by code) of the storm shelter for the new K-6 elementary and middle school building.
- F. **New K-6 Building Joint Permit Application (JPA) and Mitigation Credit Supply Agreement** – Approved the Joint Application for PA Chapter 105 Water Obstruction & Encroachment Permit and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, as well as the Mitigation Credit Supply Agreement with First Pennsylvania Resource, LLC for the new K-6 elementary and middle school building.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve budget transfers, athletic fund summary revisions, new K-6 building environmental graphics proposal revisions, bond refinancing resolution, new K-6 building storm shelter peer review, new K-6 building joint permit application (JPA) and mitigation credit supply agreement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – The following personnel items were discussed in Executive Session held prior to this meeting.
 - A. **Appointments - Professional Substitutes** – John Bowser; **Supplementals** – Ashley Watkins, Donna Schaefer, Susan Landry, Timothy Cammisa, Kelly Cahall
 - B. **Leaves – Professional** - Abigail Russell, Chessa Crum, Claire Barker, Stephanie Carney, Heather Perella; **Classified** – Patricia Scherz
 - C. **Employment Agreement** – Antionette Mersing

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve appointments, leaves and an employment agreement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

12. **COMMUNICATION** – No communication was received.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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 his meeting to discuss personnel items.

Mr. James Nickel, President



Ms. Annie Mersing, School Board Secretary