

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

MINUTES

March 2, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. James Nickel, president, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Dean Uplinger, a second-grade student at Haine Elementary School, 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, Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Jr., Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Mr. Mike Jacobs was 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. Kristen White, Haine Elementary School Principal; Ms. Tammy McKenry, Grade 1 Teacher at Haine; 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 seniors Nishant Jayachandran, Olivia Schultheis and Sean Scott, have been named finalists in the 65th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program held by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). These seniors are three of approximately 15,000 finalists and will now advance to the next level of the program where they will have the opportunity to earn a National Merit Scholarship and, ultimately, the Merit Scholar® title.

Nishant Jayachandra and Olivia Schultheis were greeted by the Board and congratulated for their achievements. Nishant and Olivia attributed much of their success to the support and care from SV teachers.

2. For the third time in a row this year, the Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon Team placed first in a regional Academic Decathlon Competition, this one held at Edinboro University on Feb. 8. As of February, Seneca Valley ranks first in total points for Decathlon teams all across the state. Each competition includes 10 events: art, music, literature, social science, economics, math, science, essay, speech and interview. The group will compete in the state competition later this month.
3. Four Seneca Valley students are gearing up to participate in a regional orchestra festival. Junior Jacklyn Ko and sophomores Erin Keppler, Aaron Sedlak and Lindsay Walls Rivera will be moving on to the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Western Region Orchestra Festival later this month. Additionally, Mr. Sedlak placed first chair in a section of 14 cellists. Students were chosen through audition and are led by Ms. Sarah Miller, secondary orchestra instructor.

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

March	Seneca Valley Kindergarten Registration
March 2	Read Across America Day
March 2-6	National School Breakfast Week
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 13	Report of Student Progress, Grades K-4
March 16	Act 80 Day, No School for Students
March 19	Spring Begins
March 23	End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 5-12

- C. Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School 2020-2021 Budget Presentation – Mr. Kurt Speicher and Dr. Regina Hiler presented to the Board a summary of the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School’s budget in the amount of \$5,952,479 for the 2020-2021 school year which shows an increase of 2.9% over last year’s budget. Dr. Hiler stated there are currently 119 Seneca Valley students attending vo-tech with the majority of them studying graphic design and welding. Dr. Hiler further stated that 94% of vo-tech graduates are either gainfully employed or continue on to higher learning. Mr. Speicher will be retiring on June 30, 2020 and Dr. Hiler will then replace him as Executive Director of the Vocational-Technical School. The Board thanked Mr. Speicher for his hard work and dedication to making the vo-tech thrive.**

D. Agency Reports

1. **Vo-Tech** – Mr. Fred Peterson, Jr. and Mr. Nickel deferred their vo-tech report in consideration of Mr. Speicher and Dr. Hiler’s presentation.
2. **I. U. IV** – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported the MIU IV is moving forward on disposing of the Martha Street property. He recommends the Board approve the MIU IV’s proposed budget for the 2020-21 school year which is on the action agenda for March 9, 2020. He stated there will be no presentation of the budget as there was no increase from the 2019-2020 school year.

- E. **Legislative Report** – Mr. Peterson reported on legislative developments at the State level including Governor Wolfe’s budget request to increase funding for public schools. Gov. Wolfe is also seeking charter school reform as well as calling for every PA school district to offer full-day kindergarten.

At the Federal level, the proposed budget from President Trump includes a \$5 billion cut to education which equates to a 7.8% decrease; however, he does call for an increase in special education and vocational-technical spending.

In recognition of National School Breakfast Week, Mr. Peterson commended Darlene Carmack, Food Service Director, and her staff for a job well done in preparing and serving nutritious breakfast meals to our students.

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. **ACTION AGENDA**

- A. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- B. **Personnel Action** – Approved resignations, appointments, leaves, contract, retirement and an agreement as discussed in Executive Session and listed below:
1. **Resignations** – *Professional* – Donald Holl; *Classified* – Michael Miller; *Supplemental* – Christopher Strangfeld
 2. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Jennifer Erin, Melissa Greene, Brittaney Lucas, Rebecca Rienow; *Classified* – Laurie Melberg, Alesia Oechslein, Sandra Suski, Erin Rigsby; *Classified Substitutes* – Ashwini Salunkhe; *Supplementals* – Mollie Gallagher, Megan Kelly, Olivia Olson, Dan Resetarits, Eli Grove, Michael Caccamo, Steve Streckick, Ron Butschle, Dean Leventopoulos, Michael Stebbins, Kevin Wildrick, George Williams, Mark Perry, Brett Poirier, Eric Grove; *SV Academy of Choice After-School Camps* – Stephanie Schultz, Bobbi Lyn Cooper, Jamie Allen, Grace Priya Rupik, Lora Nickel, Tammie Wylie, Amanda Bondi

3. **Leaves - Administration** – Amanda Mallin; *Director* – Celeste Foley; *Supervisor* – Jeff James; *Professional* – Meghan Costanza, Catherine Smolter, Jeanne Probst, James Mileski, Tracey Clarke, Susan Huber, Abigail Russell, Joshua Husband, Stephanie Carney,
 4. **Contract** – Lisa Mislan
 5. **Retirements** – Professional – Anthony DelPrete, Cheryl Zorich
 6. **Agreement** – Approve Separation Agreement with Seneca Valley School District and ESPA Union employee
- C. **Student Adjudication** – Approved student adjudication #2019-20-07 as discussed in Executive Session.
 - D. **Bid Authorization** – Authorized the administration to seek bids for the construction of the new K-6 Elementary and Middle School Building at Ehrman Road.
 - E. **Audit for 2018-19 School Year** – Acknowledged the local audit report for the 2018-19 school year.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve personnel action, student adjudication, bid authorization and audit for 2018-19 school year. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approve the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** – February 3, 2020
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – February 10, 2020
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Approve the treasurer's report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approve the following general fund bills:
Grand Total: \$2,023,913.89
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approve the following construction fund bills:
Grand Total: \$486,019.23
8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** – Approve the following board policies:
 - A. #103.1 – Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities, revised, second reading – Mr. Gerald Miller
 - B. #113 – Special Education, revised, second reading – Mr. Gerald Miller
 - C. #113.2 – Behavior Support, revised, second reading – Mr. Gerald Miller
 - D. #228 – Student Government, revised, second reading – Dr. Matthew McKinley

- E. #231 – Social Events and Class Trips, revised, second reading
– Dr. Matthew McKinley
- F. #234 – Pregnant Married Students, revised, second reading
– Dr. Matthew McKinley

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**

- A. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.
- B. **Student Trips** – Approve the Latin Student Trip to the PA Junior Classical League (JCL) Latin Club State Convention on May 24 – May 26, 2020 at Lock Haven University under the supervision of Ms. Sarah Deeds at no cost to the district. Students will miss one day of instruction.
- C. **MIU Intergovernmental Agreement** – Approve the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Intergovernmental renewal agreement for the 2020-21 school year.
- D. **Club Status** – Approve club status for the Seneca Valley Dungeons & Dragons Club (RGMS) at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Ryan Gloyer Middle School Teacher, Mike Manipole.
- E. **Grant Disbursement** – Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the Ignite 2020 Grant from Remake Learning in the amount of \$5,000 to host a series of “Raider Robotics Rallies” during the summer of 2020 for students in grades 7-12. The rallies will allow the members of the FIRST team to prepare for their competition season, as well as mentor and encourage an interest in robotics to middle school students. Requested by Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement, and Mr. Steve Fortunato, Applied Engineering and Technology teacher.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION**

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **MIU IV General Operating Budget** – Approve the 2020-21 Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV general operating budget in the total amount of \$3,611,283 with Seneca Valley’s contribution being \$143,344.
- C. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School 2020-2021 Budget** – Approve the 2020-2021 Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School budget for the 2020-21 school year in the amount of \$5,952,479.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Mr. Jeff Widdowson (Executive Session)

12. **COMMUNICATION** – Acknowledge communication received from Mr. Ryan Karasack.

- 13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 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 the meeting to discuss personnel, student discipline and real estate matters.

Mr. James Nickel, School Board President



Ms. Annie Mersing, School Board Secretary