

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium - 7 p.m.

### Minutes

**November 13, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Rowan Elementary School Kindergarten Class of Ms. Shelly Hess, continued the board initiative, “I Led the Pledge” by reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.”
  - C. **Roll Call** – by Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Jim Nickel, Mr. Fred Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle, and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Ms. Leslie Bredl was not in attendance.
  
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Our sincere gratitude to Mr. Jim Nickel and Ms. Kathy Whittle for their over 20 years of combined service as members of the Seneca Valley Board of Directors and for fostering an environment of collaboration. Both of them have served as tireless champions for our students and staff and their legacy will live on in the positive changes they have shaped and the indelible mark they have left on the District. We may be losing both as school board members, but I’m confident we are not losing them as friends or as advocates for the children of our school community.

Dr. Vitale shared that she recognizes the commitment that Mr. Nickel and Ms. Whittle have made. She also acknowledged the wisdom that they shared during their time as Board Members and that the mark that they leave will carry on forever.

Dr. McCarty commented that their focus has always been on the students and that it has been a privilege to work alongside each of them, appreciating all that they have done.

Dr. McKinley thanked them for working alongside the administration in a respectful manner. He wished them nothing but the best.

Dr. Palano thanked them for being the voice of the District and recognized how invaluable they have been during their time serving on the Board.

Ms. Bobak thanked each of them for their guidance, time, expertise and recognized that they lead from their hearts. She also commented on the number of lives that they have impacted and recognized their servant leadership.

Mr. Hoffman shared that he works with a lot of School Boards but none of them are as great as Seneca Valley's. He shared how proud he has been to work with each of them and thanked them for their service.

Mr. Hester shared that Ms. Whittle has always been 100% committed to her role as a board member and that she will be missed. He also commented that he has always respected Mr. Nickel, learning so much from him during their time on the Board together.

Ms. Harrison recognized the guidance that they brought to Board and that she appreciates all that they have done.

Mr. Jacobs recognized that this is bittersweet. He shared that Ms. Whittle is a natural encourager and that she will be missed. Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Nickel for welcoming him as a Board Member, spoke of his character and that he led with conviction.

Mr. Widdowson shared that both Ms. Whittle and Mr. Nickel shared so much wisdom, leadership and were always respectful.

Mr. Peterson appreciated the time and opportunity that he has had to work with them.

Mr. DiTullio commented that Ms. Whittle embraced each role that she has held during her time on the Board and that her commitment level was unmatched. He shared that Mr. Nickel guided and led during some difficult times, that he always made sure that everyone was heard and that it was an honor and privilege to serve on the Board alongside him.

**B. Dates to Remember**

November	
November 16	End of First Trimester for Students, Grades K-6
November 17	First Day of PIAA Winter Sports
November 22-27	Thanksgiving Break: District Holiday, No school for students and staff
November 30	Release of Reports of Student Progress, Grades K-6
December 4	School Board Reorganization Meeting, IHS Auditorium, 5 p.m.
December 20	SV's 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Holiday Event – SVIHS Cafeteria/Auditorium – 12:30 p.m.

**C. 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 made.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **Work Session** – October 2, 2023

B. **Action Meeting** – October 9, 2023

5. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$6,234,040.68

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,211,293.78

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the minute’s, 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**

A. **Board Policies** -

1. Approved board policy 122, Extracurricular Activities, first, final reading.
2. Approved board policy 122.1, Club Sports, first, final reading.
3. Approved board policy 123, Interscholastic Athletics, first, final reading.
4. Approved board policy 140.1, Participation of Charter School Students in Extracurricular Activities, first, final reading.
5. Approved board policy 204.2, Extracurricular Attendance Requirements, first, final reading.
6. Approved board policy 216.1, Supplemental Discipline Records, second, final reading.
7. Approved board policy 218, Student Discipline, first, final reading.
8. Approved board policy 702, Revenue Enhancement/Gifts to Schools/Facilities Naming Rights, first, final reading.
9. Approved board policy 707, Use of School Facilities, first, final reading.
10. Approved board policy 711, Athletics Facilities Advertising, first, final reading.
11. Approved board policy 819.1, Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response, first, final reading.

Mr. Peterson asked Ms. Lewis to confirm that there were no changes to academic requirements for Policy 123. Ms. Lewis shared that there were not.

- B. **Vo-Tech JOC Representatives** – Appointed Mr. Frederick Peterson, Jr. and Mr. Tim Hester as Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee (BCAVTS JOC) representatives.

Mr. DiTullio thanked Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Peterson for all that they have done for this committee over their time as the Vo-Tech JOC Representatives. He also thanked Mr. Hester for taking the seat alongside Mr. Peterson.

- C. **School Board Meeting Dates** – Approved the school board meeting dates January through June 2024.

Dr. Vitale shared that the School Board meetings will continue to be held on Monday evenings for 2024, but asked that the Board start to prepare to move the meetings to Thursday evenings starting in 2025.

- D. **ProCare Therapy Contract** - Approved the contract with ProCare Therapy to provide temporary support to staff employees pending solicitor review and approval.
- E. **Transportation Contract** – Approved the transportation contract for one family to transport their child to and from D.T. Watson retroactive October 16, 2023.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to approve the board policies, Vo-Tech JOC Representatives, School Board meeting dates, ProCare Therapy contract and the transportation contract. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

## 9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Clubs** – Approved the following clubs:
1. **FBLA Club (Future Business Leaders of America)** - Approved the establishment of a Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club at no cost to the District, and under the supervision of volunteer sponsors Ms. Maria Brooks, Ms. Erin Schollaert, and Ms. Kelly Skwartz, effective for the 2023-24 school year.
  2. **SHOUT Club (Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment)** - Approved the establishment of a Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment (SHOUT) Club at no cost to the District, and under the supervision of volunteer sponsors Mr. Ashley Porter and Ms. Melissa Bonicky, effective for the 2023-24 school year.
  3. **World Languages Outreach Community Club** - Approved the establishment of a World Languages Outreach Community Club at no cost to the District, and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Mrs. Christina Hollowood, effective for the 2023-24 school year.
- B. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- C. **Book Disposal** – Approved the sale, donation, or recycling of obsolete books from Ryan Gloyer Middle School.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to approve the FBLA Club (Future Business Leaders of America), SHOUT Club (Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment), World Languages Outreach Community Club, conferences and the book disposal. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **December Bills** – Authorized administration to pay December bills.
- B. **Supplies and Equipment Bids** – Authorized administration to seek bids for supplies and equipment for the 2024-2025 school year.
- C. **Joint Purchasing Agreement MIU IV** – Approved the Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for 2024-2025.
- D. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- E. **Budget Resolution** – Approved the budget resolution indicating that the district will not raise the rate of any tax for the supports of its public schools for the 2024-25 fiscal year by more than 5.3%, which is the Act I index for the district as established by the Department of Education.
- F. **Bank Account Authorization** – Authorized administration to open an account at the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund for Food Service.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to approve December bills, supplies and equipment bids, Joint Purchasing Agreement MIU IV, budget transfers, budget resolution and the bank account authorization. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

11. **PERSONNEL** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:

- A. **Resignations** – *Classified* – Gabriel Miller, Melissa Gaguzis, Amanda Anke, John Luna
- B. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Nicole Driscoll, Terri Sterzinger, Denyse Bruni, Pamela Krause, Julienne Anderson, Laura Peck, Jacob Daugherty, Steffany Adair, Timmi-Jo Pashuta, Matthew Nichol, Alex Klukaszweski, Melissa Aland, Toni Lynn von Rintelen, Jaden Miller, *Classified* – Amanda Randall, Tracie Matz, Virginia Walzer, Shana Morrison, Arron Jones, *Classified Substitutes* – Denyse Bruni, Virginia Walzer, Edward Bier, Lori Allen, *Supplementals* – Rob Naylor, Eric Semega, Tom Magill, Steve Campos, Michael Henry, Makinley Magill, Kevin Holman, Kylie Swann, Mike Conlon, Don Howard, Aaron Shafer, Drew Smith, Marlesse Hames, Joe DeCristoforo, Ashley Watkins, William (Bill) Mislán, Lisa Tyson, Lauren Hackett, Nicole Lollo, Lisa Ridenour, Ashley Porter, Melissa Bonicky, Maria Brooks, Kelly Skwartz, Erin Schollaert, Kalene Ireland, Victoria Hinchee, Courtney Strieby, Todd Winter, James Sutkowski, James Sutkowski, Michael Manipole, Karissa Lambert
- C. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Gianna Serignese, Melissa Cornibe, Melissa Cornibe, Lynne Rodrigues, Deborah Gray, Michael Flood, Corrine DoVidio, Joseph Logsdon, Melissa Cipollone, Kristin Schlemmer, Kyle Masson, Tyler Mesisca, Elana Kriess, *Classified* – Alden May, Shelby Grosclaude, Alicia Shao
- D. **Contract Renewal** – Heather Lewis

- E. **Addendums**
- F. **Retirements** – *Director* – Lynn Burtner, *Professional* – Janet Becker
- G. **Affiliation Agreement** – Approved affiliation agreement with Seneca Valley School District and Pennsylvania Western University.
- H. **Memorandum of Understanding** – Approved the MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to approve the resignations, appointments, leaves, contract renewal, addendums, retirements affiliation agreement and Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – No communication has been received since the School Board Meeting on November 6, 2023.

Ms. Whittle thanked Mr. Nickel for his service, sharing that he always made his decisions based on the best interest of the children. She shared that she appreciated him as a leader and that she is confident that they are leaving Seneca Valley School District a better place after their time served as board members. Ms. Whittle commented that she is proud of the decisions that the board made during her time, that they always made their decisions with respect and that she is a better person for serving on the board.

Mr. Nickel shared that he has been on the board for 12 years and that his time has been rewarding. He recognized the support he has received from fellow board colleagues and that the community should be aware of how privileged they are that Dr. Vitale leads this District. Mr. Nickel concluded saying that his time on the Board has been an honor.

- 13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing to come before the board, Ms. Whittle motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 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.

Ms. Kathy Whittle, President

Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary