



# Seneca Valley School District

## SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

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

### Minutes

**October 9, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.
  - A. **Moments of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Damian Kennedy, a second grader, Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC), 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, and Ms. Kathy Whittle. Ms. Leslie Bredl and Mr. Jeff Widdowson were not in attendance.
  
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently announced Seneca Valley Seniors Lucas Boyle, Alexander Kim and Shivani Umesh as Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. As semifinalists, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Kim and Miss Umesh will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 7,100 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. From over 16,000 semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the next level of the program where these students will have the opportunity to earn a National Merit Scholarship and, ultimately, the Merit Scholar® title. In addition, Seneca Valley seniors, Lydia Miller and Lihini Ranaweera, have been named Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Miss Miller and Miss Ranaweera were recognized by the NMSC for their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.
  - B. **Dates to Remember** - Ms. Linda Andreassi announced the following dates to remember:

October	National Principals Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 14	PSAT Testing – SV Senior High School
October 24	SV Grades 7-12 End of First Nine Weeks

October 25	The Power of Prevention: Insights into youth substance abuse & addiction by Dr. C. Thomas Brophy – 6:30 p.m. – SV Senior High School Auditorium
October 27	Professional Development (Act 80) Day, No School for Students
October 27	Pink Night – SV Raiders vs. North Allegheny Tigers – 7 p.m. – NexTier Stadium
October 28	ACT Testing – SHS
October 31	Halloween
November 4	SAT Testing – SV Senior High School
November 5	Daylight Savings Time
November 5	Seneca Valley Foundation’s Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run/Walk presented by Westinghouse – Secondary Campus – 9 a.m.
November 6	School Board Work Session – 7 p.m. – SVIHS Auditorium
November 6	Report Card Release, Grades 7-12

C. **All-Star Award Winner, October 2023** - Thomas Buchanan, Seneca Valley Senior High School Custodian, was recognized and presented the All-Star Award by Buildings and Grounds Director Mr. Randy Miller, and Athletics Director Ms. Heather Lewis. Mr. Miller shared that Mr. Buchanan is reliable, hardworking and an integral staff member. Ms. Lewis recognized that it takes a team to put together events for our students and community. Mr. Buchanan plays an important role in the setup for these events. Mr. Nickel recognized that many people and departments have roles in making things come together and that he is grateful that Mr. Buchanan and the other custodians take such pride in their role. Mr. DiTullio thanked Mr. Buchanan for all that he does for his children and the children in the district. Ms. Whittle also shared her appreciation to Mr. Buchanan. Dr. Vitale recognized that all staff members play apart in what takes place at SV, and she thanked him for continually going above and beyond in all he does.

D. **Student Enrollment** – Dr. Vitale reported on the student enrollment for years 2017/2018 – 2023/2024. The SVSD is up 37 students for the 2023-2024 school year and the district is growing at a reasonable rate.

Ms. Whittle shared that Ms. Mersing has a podcast on the school website about the Seneca Valley Foundation’s Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run/Walk. Ms. Whittle encouraged others to listen to it and to register to attend the walk/run.

E. **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** – September 11, 2023
- B. **Action Meeting** – September 18, 2023

5. **TREASURER’S REPORT**6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,689,067.02

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,211,500.14

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, 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 251, Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability, second, final reading.
- 2. Approved board policy 216.1, Supplemental Discipline Records, revised, first reading.

B. **School Resource Officer Agreements** -

- 1. Approved the School Resource Officer Agreement with Cranberry Township for service at Haine Middle/Elementary School, Ehrman Crest Middle/Elementary School, and Rowan Elementary School starting September 1, 2023, through the 2027-28 school year.
- 2. Approved the School Resource Officer Agreement with Zelienople Borough for service at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School starting September 1, 2023, through the 2027-28 school year.

C. **Student Adjudications** – Approved the following student adjudications:

- 1. #2023-24-04
- 2. #2023-24-05

D. **Transportation Contract** – Approved the transportation contract for one family to transport their child to and from D.T. Watson retroactive to August 22, 2023.E. **Therapy Dogs International** - Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Therapy Dogs International for credentialed volunteer therapy dog and handler teams to work in district schools under district policy #713– Therapy Dogs in Schools.

- F. **Future Ready Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Committee Members** – Approved the list of staff, parent/guardian, and community stakeholders to participate in the comprehensive planning process contingent upon their agreement to contribute and their commitment to actively engage in the process.

Mr. Jacobs shared that Mr. Peterson and himself sit on this board. Mr. Jacobs thanked Ms. Bobak and Dr. Palano and shared that he is encouraged to see the amount of participation by community members.

- G. **Hollins-Sims Independent Contractor Agreement** - Approved the independent contract agreement to provide professional development for administrators designed to equip educational leaders with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to promote a sense of well-being and foster inclusive and equitable school environments. To be paid for with ESSER funds.

Mr. DiTullio asked for additional clarification regarding the need for the MOU for Therapy Dogs International. Dr. Roberts explained that the policy reads that dogs need to be trained as a therapy dog and have liability insurance coverage. TDI requires their organization, and their handlers require the MOU, to arrange liability insurance coverage.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to approve board policies, school resource officer agreements, student adjudications, transportation contract, Therapy Dogs International, Future Ready Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Committee Members and Hollins-Sims Independent Contractor Agreement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

## 9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission for and to disburse: -
1. Building a Community of Learners through Professional Development grant in the amount of \$6,000 requested by Ms. Rose Piso. Funds will be used to support teachers in their professional development at Ehrman Crest.
  2. Heroes and Helpers Grant funded by Target in the amount of \$2,500. Funds will be utilized during Haine Middle School’s “Shop with a Cop” event where students are paired with a Cranberry Township Police Officer and provided with a gift card to purchase holiday presents.
- C. **Student Trip** – Approved the middle school ski trip to Samoëns, France on January 15, 2025, returning on January 22, 2025, at no cost to the district and under the supervision of Mr. Mickey Flood. Coinciding with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the students will miss four days of instruction.

Mr. DiTullio shared that he is excited to see both the Heroes and Helpers grant request and the student trip on the agenda.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to approve the conferences, grant disbursements and the student trip. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE** – Approved budget transfers.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve the budget transfers. 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** – *Professional* – Lora Grasso, *Classified* – Denyse Bruni, Kathryn Smith, Kayla White, Brenda Mazinski, Sadie Powell

B. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Frank Garland, Gina Biase, Jocelyn Gerwig, Brittany Johnson, Paige Hartle, Jessica McKenzie, Madison Speicher, Lauren Sowa-Doku, *Classified* – Madalyn Jamison, Kimberly Senka, Alexander Port, Sheri Popson, John Luna, *Classified Substitutes* – Lindsay Sherrets, Carolyn Parenti, *Internship* – Timothy Eiler, *Supplementals* – Joe Frank, Justin McCauley, Gary Brooks, Karen “Julie” Fornadel, Krystal Epps, Caitlyn Connelly, Ray Peaco, Megan Meeder, Lisa Wilson, Nancy Laslavic, Michael Caccamo, Theodore (Jake) Calvin, Braiden Beachel, Caden Leighty, Rob Hornick, Katie Smolter, Katie Wolford, Andrea Platt, Eric Semega, Katie Smolter, Eric Grove, Ray Peaco, Brett Poirier, Susan Gebhard, Jeremiah Friday, Jen Exler, Thomas Magill, Steven Miller, Megan Oldenski, Dyanna Boosel, Alison Doyle, Madelyn Cornman, Sarah Groth, Brian Carson, Kelly Watson, Dean Leventopoulos, Edward Senior, LaVarr Stephens-Howling, Lara Meyer, Jason Groom, Karissa Lambert, Thomas Donati, James Sutkowski, Christopher Titus, Victoria Hinchee, James Bull, Nicole Parson, Katherine Miller, Gabriel Miller, Tracy Semega

C. **Contracted Service** – Kristie Meiers

D. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Mackenzie Gaydosh, Michelle Steinmetz, Joseph Logsdon, Jacqueline Larson, Keith Chrestay, *Classified* – Steven Trempus, Heather Ruppert, Patricia Ball

E. **Stipend** – Dr. Anthony Babusci

F. **Memorandum of Understanding** – Approved the MOUs with Seneca Valley Education Association regarding Kay Hoch and Connie Wetzel.

G. **Retirement** – *Classified* – Ann Wise

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to approve the resignations, appointments, contracted service, leaves, stipend, Memorandum of Understanding and retirement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the October 2, 2023, public agenda:

- a. Kara Smith
- b. Mia Compozzi
- c. Erin McClymonds

- d. Nichole Popp
- e. Ashley Nardone

Mr. DiTullio recognized and thanked everyone who played a part in the Homecoming activities.

- 13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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