

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

Minutes

November 6, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was called to order with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Addison Dindinger, second grader, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, 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, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Jim Nickel, Mr. Fred Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle, and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Ms. Leslie Bredl and Ms. Susan Harrison were not in attendance.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Seneca Valley is pleased to share that 24 students, grades 10-12, were chosen through audition to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Education Association’s (PMEA) District 5 Honors Chorus at Westminster College. PMEA District 5 includes Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Students were led through this effort under the direction of Bobi-Jean Alexander and Claire Barker, choral directors.
 2. Seneca Valley robotic teams recently earned several awards at the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics competition held at Ehrman Crest Middle School on Oct. 28. Out of 24 teams that represented schools throughout western Pennsylvania, Seneca Valley’s First LEGO Lords team from Haine Elementary earned the first-place elementary school team trophy and the SV Crest Frogs team from Ehrman Crest Middle School earned the sixth-place trophy. *FIRST* LEGO League introduces science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to children ages 4-16 through fun and exciting hands-on learning. *FIRST* LEGO League participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today’s students and teachers build a better future together.
 3. We are pleased to announce that Seneca Valley has been named one of only four school districts from across the country as a 2023 Fall “Lighthouse

System” by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, the nation’s premier organization serving school district leadership across the country. Seneca Valley was chosen based on several indicators including social emotional-cognitive growth, cognitive growth model, technology-enhanced learning and community alignment.

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

November	
November 6-10	National School Psychology Week
November 6	Release of Report Cards, Grades 7-12
November 7	Election Day
November 9	Saving Lives & Stopping Predators: This is Alicia’s Story – Online Safety Parent Presentation – SHS Auditorium – 6:30 p.m.
November 10	Act 80 Day – No School for Students
November 11	Veterans Day
November 11-12	Remote Area Medical – Butler Intermediate High School
November 12	Diwali Begins
November 13	School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium – 7 p.m.
November 16	End of First Trimester for Students, Grades K-6
November 16	Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Open House & Program Showcase for students and parents – 6-8 p.m. at BCAVTS
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.

C. All-Star Award Winner, November 2023 – Kate Rawson, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) School Paraprofessional, was recognized and presented the All-Star Award by CVE Principal Mrs. DeeAnn Graham. Mrs. Graham shared that Ms. Rawson is kind, fun, caring and that she has left a lasting impact on the school community. Mr. Nickel took time to thank Ms. Rawson for all that she has done. Mr. Jacobs recognized her positive energy and recognized that it is because of people like her that make CVE the community that it is. Mr. Peterson and Ms. Whittle shared that she is valued and appreciated. Dr. Vitale commented that Ms. Rawson was meant to be a part of the District and the CVE family. She also wished her well on her retirement.

D. Agency Reports

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Jacobs reported that the finance committee met last week and that we will be receiving their budget in the next few months. Mr. Peterson reported that Jacob D’Appolonia, a Seneca Valley senior, was recently recognized as the Student of the Month. He encouraged all to attend the Open House that is being held on Nov. 16. He also shared that the students will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving buffet on Nov. 15, and that the culinary students are taking orders for their holiday cookie trays.

2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that they met on Oct. 25, and were presented recommendations on Central Office renovations. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 15.

- E. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that Senate Bill 84 (Protecting the First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religious Expression) and House Bill 1094, now Act 24 of 2023 (Advance Enrollment), are now going to the Governor for approval. Also, the House passed House Bill 1025 (Hate-Based Intimidation).

The House Education Committee held an informational meeting to discuss school transportation issues.

Mr. DiTullio also shared that the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) recently held their Delegate Assembly. Mr. DiTullio was the delegate elected from IUIV and Mr. Peterson was our District's delegate. All 2024 recommended Legislative Platform positions were adopted and the 2024 PSBA Governing Board Officers were announced.

Mr. DiTullio also reported on the Pennsylvania Public School Employee's Retirement System (PSERS) sharing that the starting fund balance on July 1, 2022, was \$71,152,000 and that in years 2035/2036, we will see a substantial decrease in the PSERS rate of over 47%.

F. **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. **ACTION AGENDA**

- A. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- B. **Student Expulsion** – Approved student expulsion #2023-24-06.
- C. **Student Adjudications** – Approved the following student adjudications:
1. #2023-24-07
 2. #2023-24-08
- D. **Paraprofessional Incentive Program** – Approved a paraprofessional incentive program to recognize our paraprofessional staff from Nov. 7, 2023, through the last day of the 2023-24 school year. The incentives are an effort to retain paraprofessionals and promote paraprofessional work for new applicants.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the student expulsion, student adjudications and the paraprofessional incentive program. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

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: \$1,075,521.02

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Board Policies** -

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

9. **INSTRUCTION**

A. **Clubs** – Approve the following clubs:

1. **FBLA Club (Future Business Leaders of America)** - Approve 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) -**
Approve 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 -** Approve 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** – Approve conference requests.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **December Bills** – Authorize administration to pay December bills.
- B. **Supplies and Equipment Bids** – Authorize administration to seek bids for supplies and equipment for the 2024-2025 school year.
- C. **Joint Purchasing Agreement MIU IV** – Approve the Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for 2024-2025.
- D. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- E. **Budget Resolution** – Approve 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 1 index for the district as established by the Department of Education.
- F. **Bank Account Authorization** – Authorize administration to open an account at the Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund for Food Service.

Mr. DiTullio raised a question regarding the budget resolution asking if it is being approved by the board earlier than normal. Ms. Kirk explained that it is on the agenda this month due to it being due back to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on Jan. 9, 2024.


11. **PERSONNEL** – Approve resignations, appointments, leaves, retirement, and affiliation agreement.
12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the Oct. 9, 2023, public agenda.
 - a. Daniel Weimer
 - b. Tisha Apel
 - c. Martin Gregorio

Mr. DiTullio shared about the Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run that was held on Nov. 5. He commented on how well it was done, that he loved seeing so many community members on campus and that it was great that Ryan's family was able to be in attendance.

Ms. Whittle echoed Mr. DiTullio's comments and shared that the Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run exceeded her expectations and that she loved seeing the community being brought together.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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