

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Minutes

September 11, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Ms. Kathy Whittle, President, called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.
 - A. **Moments of Silence** – The meeting was called to order with a moment of silence.
 1. In Memory of September 11, 2001.
 2. In memory of Mr. Frank Kostlich, who passed away on August 12. The late Mr. Kostlich taught health and physical education at Seneca Valley for 33 years before his retirement in 1998. In addition, he was a successful coach of the SV Raider Football Team for nearly 20 years, first as a defensive assistant and then defensive coordinator. His influence as coach, mentor and collaborator is a legacy that meant the world to him. Please keep in your thoughts his wife, Michelle, their children, grandchildren and extended family and friends.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Abby and Hannah Repp, third graders at 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: Ms. Leslie Bredl, 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.
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

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

September 10-16	Arts in Education Week
September 11	Patriot Day
September 15	Veteran Recognition Day, 5:30 p.m. NexTier Stadium West Fieldhouse
September 15	Rosh Hashana Begins
September 18	Regular School Board Meeting, 7 p.m. SVIHS Auditorium
September 19	National Information Technology (IT) Professionals Day
September 23	Autumn Begins
September 24	Yom Kippur Begins
September 25	Professional Development (Act 80) Day – No School for Students
September 29	Sukkot Begins

B. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Hester attended the meeting and reported that the Vo-Tech is off to a great start of the school year. They are working on an early bird teacher contract. In addition, there are currently 189 Seneca Valley students attending the Vo-Tech this year, and the program with the highest number of Seneca Valley students is welding.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the next meeting is on Sept. 27, and he will provide an update at the meeting on Oct. 2.

C. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the Senate reconvened in August, approved the reconciliation and the budget was approved.

The Senate recently returned for a one-day session, passing two bills which amend the fiscal code. Language to implement budget funds was amended by the Senate Appropriations Committee to House Bill 1300. Amendments to include funding for the Level-Up supplements or funds for a new stipend program for student teachers has been tabled. House Bill 1300 allocates \$20 million to counties to provide mental health services, as was included in the budget under House Bill 611, but there is not additional language what would direct additional funding to schools for mental health grants.

House Bill 1300 contains the following education related provisions: payment in lieu of taxes; school lunch and breakfast program reimbursements; ready-to learn block grants; special education funding for intermediate units; Career and Technical School funding; and PlanCon moratorium. House Bill 1300 does not contain school mental health grants. House Bill 611 included a \$100 million transfer of federal COVID-19 relief funding for school mental health grants. However, neither of the fiscal code bills passed by the Senate contained language which would allow the distribution of this mental health grant funding.

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. **ACTION AGENDA**

- A. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment made.
- B. **Personnel** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:

1. **Resignations** – *Professional Substitutes* – Hannah Perry, *Classified* – Sarah Schneider, *Supplemental* - Cheri Mihalik

2. **Appointments** – *Administrator* – Jessica Parker, *Professional* – Heather Kusick, *Professional Substitutes* – Mary Anderson, Josephine Angel, Madeline Beck, Kelly Casey, April Claus, Christina Coles, Barbara Cook, Erika Costanzo, William Duderstadt, Jennifer Erin, Michelle Follett, Bethany Geary, Richard Goehring, Ann Hahn, Karen Helmecci, Geralynn Hood-Holt, Patricia Jandrokovic, Laura Kellar, Nicole Laborie, Erin Laprade, Chris Leatherow, Shannon Lesack, Theodore Lindgren, Deborah Malley, Kimberly Maravich, K. Adele Marks, Beth Marraccini, Susan McDowell, Raymond McKenzie, Gabriel Miller, Karin Murra, Michael Nepsa, Amy Parkinson, Michael Pendred, Rachel Petelin, Emily Piccolino, Jenna Pournaras, Morgan Prokovich, Calynn Rosenbaum, Brandi Ruiz, Sarah Schneider, Nancy St. Clair, Claire Staudacher, Elizabeth Steele, Marybeth Strauch, Karli Szweda, Kaylyn Talton, Anissa Tekelenburg, Stephanie Vaughan, Douglas Williamson, Theresa Wolf, Deborah Zimmerman, Spencer Murray, *Classified* – Connie Wetzal, Kay Hoch, Jennifer Medici, Daniel Reconnu, Valerie Puhac, Jennifer Butterfield, Gabriel Miller, Denise Bruni, Ashley Haney, Jordan Anthony, Valerie Stephens, Stacey Allison, Linda Sherman, Lisa Fico, Melissa Preininger, Barbara Moldovan, Shabana Ahmadi, Stephanie Keebler, Lisa Recce, Elizabeth Kelly, *Classified Substitutes* – Denyse Bruni, Nicole Driscoll, Patricia Hayden, Emily King, Tara Krepp, Carolyn Parenti, Calynn Rosenbaum, Elizabeth Steele – *Supplementals* – Dan Acklin, Jade Maher, Elizabeth Salgado, Steve Fortunato, Stephen Wolf, Mary Boburczak, Jeremiah Friday, Stan Zimmerman, Andra Titus, Seth Verba, Mark Beighey, Jessica Kavanaugh, Susana Garcia, William Brewer, Claire Barker, Bobi-Jean Alexander, Connor Watkins, Marie McLachlan, Marie McLachlan, Haley Landolina, Courtney Strieby, Kara Andres, Rebecca Bosco, Maria Books, James Bull, Lorie Chesnut, Crystal Cypher, Larry Deal, Sarah Deeds, Lara DiFrischia, Matthew Durst, Jacqueline Eriksen, Katie Flanigan, Mackenzie Gaydosh, Marlesse Hames, Kristin Henry, Michael Henry, Susan Himic, Nicole Joyce, Tisha Konvolinka, Alex Krajniak, Traci Kuntz, Katherine Langley, Amy Lehman, Dean Leventopoulos, Meagan Loewy, Kenneth Macek, Rachelle Magnani, Lauren McClain, Sarah McKissick, Jennifer McMurray, Megan Meeder, Heather Melber, Lynn Miller, Rebecca Mutschler, Brieana Nassan, Jennifer North, Megan Oldenski, Amy Palaski, Camden Palmer, Andrew Parker, Michael Pelloni, Linda Plesniak, Elizabeth Porco, Matthew Pournaras, James Pyle, Sinead Reeb, Tracy Richards, Chad Robertson, Kayla Robinson, Christine Roe, John Roman, Erin Schollaert, Alicia Scopellite, Amy Seelbaugh, Jason Shorr, Heather Sibeto, Kelly Skwartz, Catherine Smolter, Michael Stebbins, Leigh Vagias, Larry Wendereusz, Jr., Kelly Weston, Jennifer Whitling, Kevin Wildrick, Courtney Williams, Katie Wolford, David Zelner, Xiaojing Zhang, James Ziegler, Susan Berlin, Karen Christopher, Valerie Damiani, Elaine Duggan, Bria Koch, Michele Russo

3. **Contracted Services** – Mila Shadel, Lindsay Peters

4. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Amy Brush, Megan Orloff, Leigh Vagias, Michelle Kostlich, Cheri Mihalik, Julie Kaufman, Joseph Koromaus, *Classified* – Susan Greco, Rhonda Schwartz, Lisa Recce

5. **Retirement** – *Classified* – Catherine Rawson

- C. **Student Adjudication** – Approved student adjudication #2023-24-01.
- D. **Student Expulsions** – Approved the following Student Expulsions:
 1. #2023-24-02
 2. #2023-24-03

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve personnel, student adjudication and student expulsions. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

It was acknowledged that Ms. Jessica Parker was on the personnel log for board approval. Ms. Jessica Parker was welcomed to Seneca Valley as the new Assistant Principal at Rowan Elementary School.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** – August 1, 2023
- B. **Action Meeting** – August 14, 2023

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

2022-2023 Grand Total: \$1,189,818.82
 2023-2024 Grand Total: \$2,858,693.90

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,566,622.34

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

- A. **Board Policies** –
 1. Approve board policy 713, Therapy Dog Policy, second, final reading.
 2. Approve board policy 212, Reporting Student Progress, first, final reading.
 3. Approve board policy 251, Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability, revised, first reading.
- B. **Altria Vaping Settlement Agreement** - Approve the settlement agreement with Altria in relation to the multi-district litigation involving the marketing of vaping products and authorize the Seneca Valley School District’s officers and legal counsel to execute such documents as required for and by such agreement.
- C. **Kennywood Picnic** – Approve Friday, June 21, 2024, as the Kennywood picnic date for 2024.
- D. **PSBA 2024 Officer Elections Slate of Candidates** - Elect the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) officers.
- E. **School Bus Drivers** – Approve the list of new bus drivers for ABC Transit and Valley Lines.

Mr. Peterson asked for more information and clarification regarding board policy 251, Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability. He was interested in learning how many students are currently being positively impacted by this policy and how the school is made aware of the needs of these children. Dr. Roberts shared that policies like this one need to be updated periodically. The goal with this policy is to provide the best educational experience consistently for each student. This policy also ensures that all students have basic school supplies, access to the internet and transportation. Currently there are about 100 students across the district that are considered homeless. Dr. Roberts reminded everyone that homelessness looks different, and it encompasses many different factors. The number of children affected in our District is changing every day. The staff will have a training in the upcoming weeks on what to look for, but once the school is made aware of a student experiencing homelessness, it is all hands-on deck to best support the student.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Student Trip** – Approve the Orchestra trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, April 11-14, 2024, under the supervision of Ms. Sarah Miller. Students will miss two days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the district.
- B. **The Bradley Center** – Approve the service agreement with The Bradley Center to provide alternative education placement services.
- C. **BC3 College Within the High School (CWHs) Partnership Agreement** – Approve the College Within High School (CWHs) Partnership Agreement between the Seneca Valley School District and Butler County Community College from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
- D. **LaRoche University Concurrent Enrollment Agreement** – Approve the concurrent enrollment agreement with LaRoche University from August 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
- E. **Pickle Ball Club (Middle School)** - Approve the establishment of a Middle School Pickleball Club at RGMS at no cost to the District, and under the supervision of volunteer sponsors Ms. Brenna Cosgrove Miller and Mr. Michael Conlon, effective for the 2023-24 school year.
- F. **Glade Run Lutheran Services Mental Wellness Services Agreement** – Approve the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide mental wellness services with 8 therapists for the 2023-24 school year.
- G. **Hoffman Academy Placement Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Hoffman Academy Placement Academy to provide education placement services for the 2023-24 school year.
- H. **Schoolwide Plan for Haine Elementary School** – Approve the 2023-24 Schoolwide Plan for Haine Elementary School.
- I. **Club Sport Status** - Approve club sport status for Fencing at no cost to the District.

Mr. DiTullio acknowledged the CWHs class options that students have in the district and thanked the administration for what they do to make this an option for students.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE** - Mr. Mike Jacobs

- A. **Act 32 Tax Collection Committee** – Appoint Dana Kirk as the voting delegate to the Butler County Tax Collection Committee on behalf of Seneca Valley School District. This appointment is effective immediately and shall continue until terminated by the Board.

11. **PERSONNEL**12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the August 14, 2023, public agenda:

- a. Rachel Petelin
- b. Deborah Malley
- c. Karen Helmecci
- d. Michele Semrau
- e. Michele Camilli
- f. Stephanie Vaughan
- g. Stanley Malyszka
- h. Tabatha Mill
- i. Colleen Tanner
- j. Kevin Strayhorn
- k. Michelle Zucatti
- l. Phil and Becky Shinsky
- m. Daniel Weimer
- n. Geralynn Hood-Holt
- o. Mark Bidoli

Dr. Vitale recognized that today is Patriot Day and thanked all the service men and women for their service.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing to come before the board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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