

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

Minutes

January 9, 2023

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Jeff Widdowson, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Vanessa Stott, a fourth grader at Haine Elementary School, continued the board initiative, “I Led the Pledge” by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Vitale recognized Ms. Stott as she is a paraprofessional in our district and thanked her for the important role she plays in our students’ lives.
 - C. **Roll Call** by Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson. Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Fred Peterson and Ms. Kathy Whittle were not in attendance

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. The Seneca Valley Instrumental Music program has a long-standing tradition of excellence at the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Festivals and this year was certainly representative of that success. This past November, auditions were held for the 2022 PMEA District 5 Honors Band. Over 200 students auditioned for a band of 125 musicians. Seneca Valley had 42 students selected this year, more than any other school. These students went on to participate in the three-day festival at Westminster College Dec. 8-10. District 5 comprises school districts from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. The Seneca Valley Band Directors at the secondary level include Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Sara Snyder and Brian Croach. More information on the students chosen were provided to the board members.

2. Recently, 23 outstanding students in grades 9-12 were chosen through an audition to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Education Association's (PMEA) District 5 Honors Choir at Westminster College. Each year, the PMEA in District 5 holds auditions for the Honors Chorus Festival and students within Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer Counties are eligible to audition. The Seneca Valley 9-12 choral department is under the direction of Mrs. Bobi-Jean Alexander and Mrs. Claire Barker. More information on the students chosen were provided to the board members.

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

January 1-31	School Board Director Recognition Month
January 9	SVAOC End of First Semester, Grades 7-12
January 11-13	Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Festival hosted by Seneca Valley, Grades 10-12
January 12	SV End of First Semester, Grades 7-12
January 13	Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – District Holiday – No School for Students or Staff
January 17	School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., Senior High School Auditorium
January 20	Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Jr. Festival hosted at Seneca Valley IHS, Grades 8-9
January 24	Report Card Release, Grades 7-12

With January being School Board Director Recognition Month, Ms. Andreassi shared about the important role that the School Board Members play and thanked them for ensuring our schools remain a pathway to opportunity for every student.

C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Michael Jacobs, reported that they met in December and shared that Mr. Peterson is the Vice President. He shared that in the meeting they discussed the IT issues that they experienced and have worked through them. There was not a meeting in December.
2. I.U. IV – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the IU was entering Fact Finding at the request of the IU teachers as part of their contract negotiation.

D. **Legislative** – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the new state legislature started on January 3, 2023, electing Mark Rozzi as speaker. Dr. Khalid Mumin has been elected to serve as Governor-elect Shapiro's Education Secretary. The State Senate has named their Education Committee assignments which include Doug Mastriano, Michel Brooks and Lindsey Williams. In addition, our district is now represented by two new state house members, Stephenie Scialabba and Aaron Bernstine. Mr. DiTullio has met both of these individuals and will be meeting with them again to discuss concerns with Pennsylvania School Employee's Retirement System (PSERS).

Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that he has met with the two new state house members and will be meeting with them again to discuss concerns with Pennsylvania School Employee's Retirement System (PSERS).

In addition, Mr. DiTullio reported on the Pennsylvania School Employee's Retirement System (PSERS) sharing that they last met on December 15 and 16, 2022. It was reported that the final interviews for Chief Investment Officer were on December 14, 2022, and that they officially hired Ben Cotton on January 4, 2023.

As the chair, Mr. DiTullio led a Finance and Actuarial Committee meeting, and they revived the Actuarial Valuation Results and Certification of the fiscal year 2023-2024 Employer Contribution Rate. For the first time since 2008-2009, they are seeing a decrease in the contribution rate by 3.57% to 34%. The rate was projected last year to increase to 35.69%. In 2016, the rate was projected to be 37.67%. Fully funded Actuarial Required Contributions allowed for this decrease. With the decrease, the annualized increased drops to under 2%, at 1.79% since Mr. DiTullio started serving on the board in 2017. There are 248,000 current and active members, down 9.2% from the 2009-2010 high of 282,000. The unfunded Accrued Liability has decreased \$1.5 in fiscal year 2021-2022 being the largest decline since fiscal year 2006-2007. The next meeting will be held on January 20, 2023.

Mr. Hester thanked Mr. DiTullio and the rest of the board members that he serves with, for all that they do for PSERS.

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

F. Presentation of Program of Studies - Dr. Matthew McKinley presented the Program of Studies (POS) for the 2023-2024 School Year. The presentation focused on the additions/changes in the Program of Studies and the Career Pathway emphasis.

Dr. McKinley recognized Dr. Babusci and Ms. Butchle on all of their work to also add this at Ryan Gloyer Middle School starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

New courses that have been added to the POS, include Introduction to Accounting, Dance Explorations, CHS Healthcare Concepts and Medical Technology and Special Education courses.

Changes to the Program of Studies including expanding partnerships are CHS Financial Accounting, CHS Managerial Accounting, CHS Diverse Voices in US History and CHS Narrative Film Production at Robert Morris University. In addition, AP/CHS Biology will be added.

SV is moving to five Career Pathways which include Arts, Communication and Media; Business, Management and Information Technology; Industry, Engineering and Technology; Health, Medical and Human Services; and Education, Public Safety and Law.

Dr. McKinley recognized the work of the IT Department for their efforts to make the online POS easier to navigate. Dr. McKinley demonstrated what students, staff and parents will see when they go to the website (www.svsd.net/POS).

Mr. Jacobs shared that as an accountant, he loves the new accounting classes that will be offered and that students can start their college career in “201” level classes because of what is offered at Seneca Valley for them. Mr. Jacobs asked if students could change their pathway and Dr. McKinley confirmed that a student can change their pathway every year if they would like. Students are able to continue to explore what they want, and the hope is that we can best guide them with this updated program.

Mr. Jacobs asked where we are as a district with block scheduling. Dr. McKinley responded with that we are currently on hold and will want to have conversations with the teachers regarding it at a later date.

Mr. DiTullio commented on how easy and simple the new look is to navigate. Dr. McKinley thanked him and shared that he will be sharing this with the teachers next week in a meeting.

Ms. Bredl commented on how user friendly this is and thanked Dr. McKinley for always evaluating courses and adjusting to the needs accordingly.

Mr. Widdowson thanked Dr. McKinley for all his work and demonstration.

3. ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Public Comment** There was no public comment.
- B. **Student Adjudications** - Approved the following student adjudications.
 - 1. #2022-23-15
 - 2. #2022-23-16
 - 3. #2022-23-18
- C. **Student Expulsion** - Approved Student Expulsion #2022-23-17.
- D. **Personnel** - Approved the following personal items that were shared in backup and were discussed in the executive session.
 - 1. **Resignations** – *Professional Substitute* – Owen Nash, *Classified* – Beth Lauer, Kimberly Maravich, Laura Myers, Shawna Lemke, Heather Michel and Rattana Cenedella.

2. **Appointments** – *Professional* – Sarah Groth, *Professional Substitutes* – August Landolina, Cassandra Hill, Heather Perricone, Connor Watkins, Robert Taylor, Miranda Reininger, *Classified* – Duane Stiefel, Tracy Reckless, John Luna, Jennifer Schlichtkrull, Michael Williams, *Classified Substitutes* – Jennifer Schlichtkrull, *Supplementals* – Carissa Miller, Rachelle Magnani, *Internship* – Cynthia Williams
3. **Leaves** – *Professional* - Amanda Horwat, Jessica Bear, Chris Clutter, Nichole Schauer, Jennifer North and Skylar Meier, *Professional Substitute* – Taylor Marsinetti, *Classified* – Susan McClure, Alexis Baney, Shawna Lemke, Ann Wise and Ku Kartini Tuan Yusoff.
4. **Stipends** – Cynthia Davenport, Dr. Lindsey Kisucky, Dr. Jaclyn Macioce, Dr. Kathleen Mahon and Claire Zovko.
5. **Retirement** – *Professional* – Donna Schaeffer

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve Student Adjudications, Student Expulsion, resignations, appointments, leaves stipends and retirement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **Work Session** - November 7, 2022
- B. **Action Meeting** - November 14, 2022
- C. **Reorganization Meeting** - December 5, 2022
- D. **Action Meeting** - December 5, 2022

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

6. GENERAL FUND BILLS

Grand Total: \$8,441,489.76

7. CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS

Grand Total: \$4,314,599.97

8. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Committee Assignments** - Approve School Board committee assignments for 2023.
- B. **Substitute Rate Extension** - Continue substitute rates across the following job classifications that began on October 11, 2022, until June 7, 2023. - Dr. Jeff Roberts
 - Any day-to-day teacher substitute that subs in a paraprofessional role in a **multiple support classroom** will receive \$175 per day.
 - Any day-to-day teacher substitute that subs as the teacher in a **multiple support classroom** will receive \$200 per day.
- C. **Board Policies** - Approve the following board policies:
 1. Policy 204 - Attendance, revised, first reading.
 2. Policy 233 - Suspension and Expulsion, revised, first reading.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Conferences** - Approve the conference requests.
- B. **Grant Disbursements** - Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
 - 1. Safety Equipment Grant funded by the PA Department of Education - Office for Safe Schools in the amount of \$49,997.60. Funds will be used for additional portable radios, additional ALICE online training, enhanced emergency management system and training and various safety initiatives throughout the district.
 - 2. TransformedED Teacher Innovation Fellowship Mini-Grant funded through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and in association with the Western PA AASA consortium in the amount of \$1,500. Funds will be utilized in the SV Center for Biotechnology to expand and enhance the technology used to research water chemistry.
- C. **Affiliation Agreement** - Approve the affiliation agreement with *Hope Squad* effective January 9, 2023.
- D. **Student Trip** – Acknowledge Mr. John Mabold, French teacher at RGMS, to take students to France, March 27-April 4, 2024, at no cost to the district.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE

- A. **Joint Purchasing Agreement** - Approve the Joint Purchasing Agreement Resolution for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.
- B. **Right of Way Agreement** - Approve the Right of Way Agreement between Seneca Valley School District and Penn Power for the electrical service to the new Restroom/Locker Room facility.
- C. **Change Orders** - Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest.
- D. **Budget Transfers** - Approve budget transfers.
- E. **LED Field Lighting Upgrades** - Approve Musco Lighting through the government cooperative purchasing program, (Keystone Purchasing Network) vendor agreement for the LED Lighting Upgrades for NextTier Stadium and Meyers Law Group Stadium, to be completed in the Summer of 2023 in the amount of \$492,427.00, pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- F. **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 2023-24 fiscal year by more than 4.1%, which is the Act 1 index for the district as established by the Department of Education.

Mr. DiTullio asked Ms. Burtner if she recalled a time recently that the district had raised the taxes this high. Ms. Burtner replied no, not recently.

- G. **ZFX Service Agreement** – Approve the service agreement with ZFX for the 2023 All School Musical

11. **PERSONNEL**

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the December 5, 2022, public agenda:

- a. Sarah Cardosi
- b. Leah Vassilaros
- c. Stephanie Lane

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 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
 Mr. Jeff Widdowson, Vice President, presided over the meeting.

Ms. Julia Benson, Board Secretary