

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

November 8, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for the victims of the recent I-79 school bus/truck accident.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Reese Abraham, Haine Elementary second grade student, continued the board meeting initiative, "I Led the Pledge" by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. SVTube Link: <https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=udzrad4pej>
 - C. **Roll Call** by Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson, and Ms. Kathy Whittle. Ms. Susan Harrison and Mr. Frederick Peterson were absent.

Other present included Others present included Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary; Dr. Sean McCarty, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary; Ms. Kyra Bobak, Human Resources Director; Ms. Lynn Burtner, Business Manager; Ms. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director; Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Director of Student Services; Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Dr. Marie Palano, Supervisor of Analytics and Federal Programs; and Mr. Matt Hoffman, Solicitor.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following recognitions:
 1. Twenty-one outstanding Seneca Valley singers recently qualified for the 2021 Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Honor Choir. Each year, the District 5 PMEA holds auditions for the Honors Chorus Festival. All students in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties are eligible to audition. The three-day festival culminated with an in-person concert in Orr Auditorium at Westminster College on Oct. 30.
 2. October may be over, but the impact of one group is far from done. The week leading up to SV's Pink Night football game on Oct. 29, Seneca Valley Band members held their annual campaign called "SV Band Gives Back." Their designated charity this year was Cancer Bridges in support of SV's very own athletic director Ms. Heather Lewis. By the end of the week, they raised over \$2,100, surpassing their goal. At the game, the band, along with SV Cheerleaders and the student section, also showed their support by donning

pink T-Shirts and ribbons. To learn more about Cancer Bridges, visit <https://cancerbridges.org/>.

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

November 8	Release of Report Cards, Grades 7-12
November 11	Veterans Day; no school for students
November 12	SVAOC End of First Trimester, Grades K-6
November 15	School Board Action Meeting 7 p.m.
November 17	In-Person End of First Trimester, Grades K-6
November 19	First Day of All PIAA Winter Sports
November 24 – November 29	Thanksgiving Break: District Holiday, No school for students and staff
November 28 - December 6	Hanukkah
December 6	School Board Reorganization Meeting, 5 p.m.

C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Mike Jacobs provided an update noting there will be some board turnover on the Joint Operating Committee (JOC). On November 18, the Vo-tech is holding an open house for parents and students at 6 p.m. Overviews and demonstrations of all programs offered at the Vo-tech will be presented. Given the increase in demand for programs, staffing is becoming a problem, especially within the welding program. There are currently 154 Seneca Valley students attending the Vo-tech.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio discussed the pilot referral incentive program noting that if a recommended candidate remains employed at the I.U. for 60 days, the employee who recommended them will receive a one-time \$500 incentive. Additionally, the HVAC system is coming along with only one change order. The project has stayed on budget and on time.
3. WPIAL Update - Mr. Timothy Hester reported that playoffs have started, and an update will be provided next week. Due to supply chain issues, the delivery of new footballs (typically provided during playoffs) is delayed. Also, the PIAA discussing re-alignment, there will be a vote in the next few weeks. Finally, on November 17, 2021, the WPIAL is sponsoring a Sportsman Summit. Approximately 700 student athletes are expected to attend.

D. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio provided a legislative update as follows:

A trial set to start this week in Harrisburg could change how Pennsylvania funds its public schools. The state Commonwealth Court trial is the result of a lawsuit filed in 2014 by six school districts, advocacy organizations and parents that blamed state officials and the General Assembly for not meeting their constitutional obligation to provide a “thorough and efficient” public education system.

The lawsuit seeks to have the court say that the current school funding system is unconstitutional and order the Legislature to create and maintain funding that gives students the resources they need to meet academic standards and prepares them for life after graduation.

The organizations bringing the lawsuit claim that Pennsylvania underfunds schools by more than \$4.6 billion, affecting over 400 of the state's 500 districts and 86% of students in the Commonwealth who attend those school systems.

Pennsylvania contributes a 38% share of education funding to public schools, according to Public Interest Law Center, nearly 10% less than the national average of 47%. The state ranks as 45th in the country in its percentage of education funding.

Because of the lack of state funding, advocates say, more of the burden falls on local taxpayers, driving a gap between wealthy and poor communities.

Senate Health and Human Services Committee Passed House Bill 764

House Bill 764 amends the Child Protective Services Law to place an employer's ability to hire an employee on a provisional basis on par with the 45-day provisional hiring window that is currently authorized for childcare providers.

House Health Committee Passed a Motion to Appeal the Mask Order Decision

With a 15-10 vote, the committee passed a motion to take action to appeal the October 21, 2021, decision of the Joint Committee on Documents to uphold the order of acting Health Secretary Alison Beam mandating masks in K-12 schools and childcare centers. The Health Committee disagrees with the decision made by the Joint Committee and the appeal would seek to put the matter before the Commonwealth Court.

Last month, the Health Committee sent a letter requesting a determination from the Commonwealth Joint Committee on Documents on whether the mask order is subject to the regulatory process and the Regulatory Review Act. The letter states that acting Secretary Beam violated the law "by issuing the Aug. 31 Order because the order is a 'rule' or 'regulation,' and Beam did not follow the rulemaking procedures that are required under the Commonwealth Documents Law and the Regulatory Review Act." The letter further states that the order "restricts the discretionary power of the Department of Health and is, thus, like a regulation. It mandates all individuals connected to a school entity to wear a face covering unless they qualify under one of the state exceptions...only when an agency's substantive regulations are properly enacted under the Commonwealth Documents Law, do they have the force and effect of law."

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. **Doctoral Research** - Ms. Kristen White to conduct doctoral research at Haine Elementary School focused on measuring interpersonal skills during the 2021-22 school year.

G. Bond Issuance - Ms. Alisha Reesh Henry, Managing Director, PNC Capital Markets and Mr. Christopher Brewer, Partner, Dismore & Shohl.

Ms. Alisha Reeshe Henry provided an update on the final phase of the Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School project with the following highlights:

- The Existing Aggregate Debt Service, which runs out to fiscal year 2034.
- A "spike year" is being addressed and eliminated in fiscal year 2024.
- The bond issuance will leave the debt service very aggressive with a term of roughly 13+ years. The bonds will sell at a premium.
- There will be no budgetary impact in the current fiscal year.
- Max debt service for this issue is seen in fiscal year 2035 at approximately \$11.2 million because of wrapping around existing debt. Total debt is level from 2025 through 2035.
- Interest rates have increased slightly.
- Annual debt ratio falling below 8% of the overall budget which is very manageable for a district of our size.
- Seneca Valley has an excellent, Aa1, bond rating from Moody's.
- Ms. Burtner, Business Manager, added that she is comfortable with our level of debt which positions us well for future needs.
- The bond issue is the final phase of a well-analyzed and planned financing project dating back to 2018.
- The true interest cost (TIC) is calculated at an all-in rate of 2.87%.
- Mr. Chris Brewer noted that the "not to exceed" amount is \$25 million, consistent with past practices and expecting the net to be \$20 million.
- Dr. Vitale noted the most frequently asked question she has received is, "Why would we ever borrow money?" If we were to not borrow, we would not be able to smooth out the tax rates. Such action is necessary for large districts such as Seneca Valley.

**SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROFORMA DEBT PROFILE**

Part 3: \$20,000,000 New Money (Dated: 2/1/2022)										
Original Par Bond Type Series	\$18,990,000 General Obligation Bonds Series of 2022 (Preliminary - New Money)						PROJECTED AGGREGATE DEBT SERVICE	YR OVER YR CHANGE	EXISTING AGGREGATE DEBT SERVICE	
	FYE 30-Jun	Principal 1-Apr	Coupon	Yield	Annual Interest	Less: Capitalized Int				Gross Debt Service
2022	-				126,483.33	(126,483.33)	-	10,101,425.00	-	10,101,425.00
2023	5,000	2.000%	1.520%	758,900.00	(758,900.00)	5,000.00	10,531,750.00	430,325.00	10,526,750.00	
2024	5,000	2.000%	1.520%	758,800.00	(379,400.00)	384,400.00	10,991,950.00	460,200.00	10,607,560.00	
2025	5,000	2.000%	1.520%	758,700.00	-	763,700.00	11,218,437.50	226,487.50	10,454,737.50	
2026	5,000	2.000%	1.520%	758,600.00	-	763,600.00	11,221,037.50	-	10,457,437.50	
2027	5,000	2.000%	1.520%	758,500.00	-	763,500.00	11,219,387.50	-	10,455,887.50	
2028	5,000	3.000%	2.050%	758,400.00	-	763,400.00	11,219,737.50	-	10,456,337.50	
2029	5,000	3.000%	2.050%	758,250.00	-	763,250.00	11,221,037.50	-	10,457,787.50	
2030	5,000	3.000%	2.050%	758,100.00	-	763,100.00	11,220,987.50	-	10,457,887.50	
2031	5,000	3.000%	2.050%	757,950.00	-	762,950.00	11,220,475.00	-	10,457,525.00	
2032	5,000	4.000%	1.980%	757,800.00	-	762,800.00	11,216,200.00	-	10,453,400.00	
2033	5,000	4.000%	1.980%	757,600.00	-	762,600.00	11,215,400.00	-	10,452,800.00	
2034	7,395,000	4.000%	1.980%	757,400.00	-	8,152,400.00	11,217,500.00	-	3,065,100.00	
2035	10,755,000	4.000%	2.020%	461,600.00	-	11,216,600.00	11,216,600.00	-	-	
2036	785,000	4.000%	2.050%	31,400.00	-	816,400.00	816,400.00	-	-	
TOTAL	\$18,990,000			\$9,718,483.33	(\$1,264,783.33)	\$27,443,700.00	\$155,848,325.00		\$128,404,625.00	

Purpose Call Provisions Enhancement Original Ratings Notes	Produce \$20,000,000 for Capital Projects: Capitalized Interest	Net of Capitalized Interest Based upon construction schedule, capitalized interest thru 10/1/2023
	TBD	
	Assumes None	
	Assumes Aa1	
Notes	Assumes no PlanCon Reimbursement.	

Refunding Status	CALL DATE ONLY; FORMERLY ADVANCE REFUNDABLE
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H. **Student Enrollment** - Dr. Vitale provided a report as of October 1, 2021 as follows:

Our enrollment is up. As a state, most Pennsylvania public school's enrollment is down which is associated with the age of Pennsylvanians. As our district grows, we have time to prepare for enrollment increases.

Also, additional residential developments are being approved in Cranberry and Jackson Townships as well as other boroughs and municipalities.

On October 1, 2020, there were 349 new students, while on October 1, 2021, we had 477 new students (gross totals). The totals fluctuate based on movement into and out of the district, state or country. We also track foster, cyber, home school and private school enrollments. We are transporting close to 8,000 students.

This year, 307 students withdrew vs. 370 student withdrawals last year.

October 1 Net Totals:

- 2019 - 7,274 students enrolled
- 2020 - 7,225 students enrolled
- 2021 - 7,382 students enrolled

We continue to grow at a pace that is manageable and one in which that allows us to plan.

I. **External Cyber and Charter Enrollment Update** - Dr. McKinley provided an update as follows:

May 1 External Cyber and Charter Enrollment Totals

- 2018 - 113 students enrolled
- 2019 - 109 students enrolled
- 2020 - 115 students enrolled
- 2021 - 196 students enrolled

On August 1, 2021, there were 112 students enrolled which is back to pre-pandemic enrollment. As of October 1, 2021, there were 125 students enrolled.

Dr. McCarty provided a Seneca Valley Academy of Choice enrollment update as follows:

- There are currently 234 full-time cyber students enrolled and 1,040 hybrid students (traditional + cyber class/es)
 - Grades K-4: 65 full-time cyber and 30 hybrid students
 - Grades 5-6: 25 full-time cyber and 58 hybrid students
 - Grades 7-8: 30 full-time cyber and 87 hybrid students
 - Grades 9-12: 114 full-time cyber and 865 hybrid students

J. **Cranberry Township Residential Developments** - Brandt Drive Apartments is under construction on Brandt Drive with 264 total units which will boost our enrollment.

K. **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Vitale provided a COVID-19 update as follows:

Seneca Valley

- Active student cases = 54
- Students in quarantine = 170
- Active staff cases = 7
- Total active cases = 61
- Total in quarantine = 171

Breakout by each building can be found on the district website:

<https://www.svsd.net/domain/2406>

Seneca Valley Zip Codes

- Over the course of three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), there were 32 cases
- The increase of cases from the previous day totaled 79

Butler County

- Seeing an uptick likely due to Halloween gatherings
- Confirmed cases, most recent 7 days vs. previous 7 days is up by 173
- Incidence rate is 266.2
- PCR positivity rate increased to 14.3
- 14-day rolling average = 83.4

Dr. Vitale thanked all the hardworking nurses, teachers and families.

Governor Wolf announced today that universal masking in schools will end on January 17, 2022 (two weeks after the holidays).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approve the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** - October 4, 2021
 - B. **Regular Meeting** - October 12, 2021
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Approve the treasurer's report.
5. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Approve the general fund bills totaling \$3,720,608.06
6. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - Approve the construction fund bills totaling \$4,057,890.80
7. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
 - A. **School Board Meeting Dates** - Approve school board meeting dates January through June 2022.
 - B. **Act 26 Memorandum of Understanding** - Approve the Act 26 Memorandum of Understanding between Seneca Valley School District and local law enforcement agencies.

- C. **Future Ready Comprehensive Plan Submission** - Approve the Seneca Valley School District Future Ready Comprehensive Plan for 2021-2024 to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. www.svsd.net/ComprehensivePlan

8. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** - Approve the conference requests.
- B. **The School at McGuire Memorial Agreement** - Approve the agreement with McGuire Memorial to provide educational services during the 2021- 22 school year.
- C. **Hope Learning Center Agreement** - Approve the Hope Learning Center agreement to provide school-based ACCESS services through the 2022-23 school year.
- D. **Student Trip** - Acknowledge the student educational trip to Italy on June 14 - 23, 2022 (exact dates may change slightly according to enrollment numbers) under the supervision of Amy Seelbaugh and at no cost or liability to the District.
- E. **Student Adjudications** - Approve the following student adjudications.
(Executive Session)
1. # 2021-22-02
 2. # 2021-22-03

9. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- 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 2022-23 school year.
- C. **Joint Purchasing Agreement MIU IV** - Approve the Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for 2022-23.
- D. **Change Orders** - Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
- E. **Budget Transfers** - Approve budget transfers.
- F. **STAT Staffing Agreement** - Approve the STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc. agreement to provide medical services through the 2021-22 school year.

10. **PERSONNEL ACTION** - Approve the resignations, appointments, leaves and retirement.

11. LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the October 12, 2012 public agenda.

- Ms. Amanda Slovak
- Ms. Erin McClymonds
- Ms. Stacy Adams
- Mr. Mitch Kwiatkowski
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Mr. Kevin Strayhorn
- Ms. Diana Yuhas
- Ms. Jennifer Mayo
- Ms. Sandra Lee
- Ms. Kelly Riddle
- Ms. Sonia Jaiswal
- Ms. Rachel Homick
- Ms. Chea Wislon
- Mr. Phil Sbrolla
- Mr. John Ciganik
- Ms. Mia Compomizzi Koehler
- Mr. Bryan Amada
- Ms. Jennifer Shattahi
- Ms. Jessica DePasquale
- Ms. Maria Madeja
- Ms. Deborah Bailey
- Mr. Dean Noechel
- Ms. Toni Weis
- Ms. Meredith Wolfe
- Ms. Annika Kyyashiko
- Mr. Mark Gartner
- Ms. Melissa Morrison
- Ms. Samantha Bailey
- Mr. Bill Schallus
- Ms. Lindsay Baker

12. **MISCELLANEOUS** - Mr. DiTullio noted that we will remain virtual for board meetings in order to maintain maximum public participation and minimum complication.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT** was heard by the following:

- A. Angela Nickum
- B. Rich Cervi
- C. Kari Frank
- D. Alton Temple
- E. Serenity Vincent

14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary