

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING MINUTES

**November 15, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Evita Barjolo, a second grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, "I Led the Pledge" by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. <https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=uyeh6ur83j>
  - C. **Roll Call** by Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson. Mr. Mike Jacobs and Ms. Kathy Whittle 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. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor.

## 2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** - Seneca Valley Senior Liam Vol-Klos recently received notification that he scored a perfect 1600 on the SAT while simultaneously earning a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT; both are college admission exams. It is incredibly challenging to earn a perfect score on the SAT exam. It is estimated that out of the two million students who take the SAT every year, only about 500 earn the highest score. When you consider he also achieved a perfect ACT score it is even more of a feat; it's considered incredibly rare with less than 1% earning such a double honor. Mr. Vol-Klos virtually attended the meeting and thanked his teachers and parents for their support of his education and help in reaching such an achievement.

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

November 15-19	American Education Week
November 17	In-Person End of First Trimester, Grades K-6
November 18	Butler County Area Vocational Technical School's "Exploring & Engaging," a Career and Technical Education Open House/Program Showcase - 6- 8 p.m.
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.
December 21	Senior Holiday Event, SVIHS Auditorium, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
December 23-31	Winter Break, No School for Students and Staff
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanzaa
January 1	New Year's Day
January 7	Orthodox Christmas

C. **Seneca Valley All-Star Award Winner** - Ms. Christi Rice, Evans City Paraprofessional, was recognized as the November 2021 Seneca Valley All-Star Award Winner as nominated by the Evans City Elementary/MS Administration.

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

E. **Fall Sports Update** - Ms. Lewis, Athletic Director, provided a Fall sports update where she noted that all fall teams qualified for WPIAL team championships.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

- Both boys' and girls' teams finished 6-1 in dual meets and were section runners-up to the eventual WPIAL and PIAA state champion.
- Both teams finished in 4th place at WPIAL Championships, one spot out of team qualification for the state meet.
- Noah Peterson finished 5th, and Ruthie Hughes finished 18<sup>th</sup>, at WPIALs. Both qualified for PIAA championships where Noah finished 54th out of 239 runners and Ruthie finished 40th out of 238 competitors.

**FOOTBALL**

- Raiders finished the regular season at 7-3, earning a first-round bye in the WPIAL playoffs.
- This past Friday they faced off against Central Catholic in the semifinal round, bowing out 42-21.

**BOYS GOLF**

- Raiders were section co-champions with a record of 9-3 and advanced to the WPIAL Team championships where they finished 4th overall.
- Individually, Seneca Valley advanced four out of section to WPIAL individual semifinals.
- Nolan Nicklas advanced to WPIAL Individual Finals where he placed 15th out of 36 golfers.

**GIRLS GOLF**

- Raiders finished with an overall section record of 7-3 for second place.
- The team advanced to WPIAL Team championships for only the second time in program history where they finished 6th overall.
- Individually, Seneca Valley advanced two section qualifiers, including section champion sophomore Lihini Ranaweera (she is a back-to-back section champion) and teammate Madison Sharek, who tied for second.
- At WPIAL Individual finals, Lihini finished in 12th place and Madison in 22nd place.

**BOYS SOCCER** (still in contention for a state championship)

- Won their section with an 11-0-1 record. Earned top seed in WPIAL 4A bracket
- Defeated Alderdice, Fox Chapel and Peters Township en route to its second consecutive WPIAL title
- Defending state champs have defeated Hempfield (District III) and Lower Merion (District I) to advance to PIAA state semifinals. They have a rematch with Peters Township on Nov. 16th for a berth in PIAA State Championship final on Nov. 19 at 6:30pm.
- Congratulations to head coach George Williams who was honored by the PIAA as its 2020-21 PIAA/NFHS Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year.

**GIRLS SOCCER**

- Raiders finished as section runner-up with a record of 7-2-1 and was seeded 4th in WPIAL 4A bracket.
- After defeating Penn Trafford, Norwin and Fox Chapel, SV fell to second-seeded Moon in the WPIAL finals.
- The final record on the season was 16-5-2.

**GIRLS TENNIS**

- Team finished with a 5-3 section mark and 10-8 overall record.
- For the first time in 13 seasons, the Raiders qualified for WPIAL Team championships where they fell in the first round to the eventual WPIAL champion.
- Payton Aloï and Anna Winland defeated Butler in the first round of the section doubles tournament.

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

- Raiders finished section play in 4th place and qualified for WPIAL championships.
- Their overall record was 11-7 and section mark was 6-6.
- After a decisive 3-1 win over Upper St. Clair in opening round of WPIALs, SV lost to the eventual WPIAL champion in quarterfinal round.

Ms. Lewis thanked Megan Meeder, Diana McCauley, and Sandy Millett for an outstanding job leading our Athletics Department this fall during her leave of absence. She also thanked all coaches who lead the Varsity programs.

- F. **Seneca Valley Foundation** - Ms. Mersing, Director of Advancement and SV Foundation Director of Development, announced the winners of the 2021 Kindness Challenge, a group of six seniors nominated by Ms. Rebecca Grinnen. These six students volunteered their time outside of school to wash 75 loads of laundry for the No Cost to Shop Store at the Senior High School. They also created the store's new logo:

1. Caroline Zulick
2. Grace Abbott
3. Greg Young
4. Tomas Muerra
5. Tanner Huckenstein
6. Olivia Bodin

Ms. Mersing thanked Eckles Construction, Armstrong Cable, Fun Fore All, and the Cranberry Dairy Queen for adding items to the prize package.

- G. **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Vitale provided an update as follows:

**Seneca Valley Dashboard**

- Active student cases = 65
- Students in quarantine = 148
- Active staff cases = 4

**Butler County**

- Hospitals are reporting slight upticks
- PCR Positivity Rate = 15.5%
- The 7-day incidence rate per 100,000 = 381
- We remain in high transmission level

**Seneca Valley Zip Codes**

- From Friday, Saturday and Sunday, total cases totaled 129

Mr. Hoffman, Solicitor, provided an update on the recent Commonwealth Court Mask Order as follows:

- The court determined that the Secretary of Health did not have existing authority to order the mask mandate.
- Later that same day, Governor Wolf appealed the order which became effective immediately.
- The litigants who brought forth the challenges have asked the PA Supreme Court to lift the supersedes, and the court has not yet acted upon that request. A disposition of this request is scheduled for November 30, 2021.
- If lifted, or if the PA Supreme Court affirms the Commonwealth Court decision, or if the order is terminated by Governor Wolf, we will revert back to the Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan as adopted in August which states masks would be required as long as the district is in the "high" or "substantial" categories as delineated by the CDC.

- Separate from the state mask order, the federal agency order requiring masks to be worn on school buses remains in effect.
- The litigation does not affect quarantining or contact tracing.

H. **Construction Project Updates** - Mr. Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, provided a construction project update, through the end of October, highlighting progress at Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School. A video of progress was also shared and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9nY4Q3PjKE>

Construction is beyond 60% complete with opening date scheduled for Fall 2022.

In addition, progress photos of the RGMS middle school turf practice field, new discus pad, and baseball and softball field lights were shown.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** was heard from the following:
  - A. John Ciganik
  - B. Megan Ahead
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approved the following meeting minutes:
  - A. **Work Session** - October 4, 2021
  - B. **Regular Meeting** - October 12, 2021
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Approved the treasurer's report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Approved the general fund bills totaling \$3,720,608.06
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - Approved the general fund bills totaling \$4,130,310.64

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve resolutions 4, 5, 6 and 7 as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Whittle absent.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
  - A. **School Board Meeting Dates** - Approved school board meeting dates January through June 2022.
  - B. **Act 26 Memorandum of Understanding** - Approved the Act 26 Memorandum of Understanding between Seneca Valley School District and local law enforcement agencies.
  - C. **Future Ready Comprehensive Plan Submission** - Approved 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](http://www.svsd.net/ComprehensivePlan)
  - D. **Substitute Rate Increases and Recruitment Incentives** - Increased substitute rates across the following job classification and offered a new recruitment bonus for substitutes who refer new, quality substitutes to our district.

**Substitute Teachers** – Effective November 15, 2021

- Increased the daily substitute rate from \$100 to \$125 per day for both certified and emergency substitute teachers.
- Increased the daily rate for SV retired teachers to substitute from \$125 to \$150.
- For any day-to-day teacher substitute (certified or emergency) that has subbed in the district this year for 30+ days they will move to a daily rate of \$150. (\*Days do not need to be consecutive and may be cumulative.)
- SV retired subs that have subbed for 30+ days this year will move to \$175 per day after day 30. (\*Days do not need to be consecutive and may be cumulative.)
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education emergency permit fee and sub training cost (\$75) will be covered by the district. The training is now virtual. The emergency permit is good for one (1) school year.
- Any day-to-day teacher substitute that subs in a multiple support classroom will receive \$150 per day on day 1 of that assignment.

**Substitute School Nurses** – Effective November 15, 2021

- Increased the daily substitute rate from \$100 to \$125 per day.
- Increased the daily rate for SV retired school nurses to substitute from \$125 to \$150.
- For any day-to-day nurse substitute (certified or emergency) that has subbed in the district this year for 30+ days they will move to a daily rate of \$150. (\*Days do not need to be consecutive and may be cumulative.)
- SV school nurse retired subs that have subbed for 30+ days this year will move to \$175 per day after day 30. (\*Days do not need to be consecutive and may be cumulative.)

**Substitute Paraprofessionals & Secretaries** – Effective November 15, 2021

- Increased the paraprofessional and secretary daily substitute hourly rate from \$11/hour to \$13.50/hour.

**Substitute Custodians** – Effective November 15, 2021

- Increased the custodian substitute hourly rate from \$15/hour to \$17/hour

**Substitute Cafeteria Workers** – Effective November 15, 2021

- Increased the substitute cafeteria worker hourly rate from \$13.50 to \$13.75/hour

**Recruitment Incentives:**

- For any **day-to-day substitute teacher** that recruits a new substitute in any capacity (sub teacher, sub school nurse, sub paraprofessional, sub secretary, sub custodian or sub cafeteria worker) to our school district, approved by the school board AND subs at least 20 days in the district, the substitute teacher that made the referral will receive a \$200 stipend in a separate check after the 20 days of service. The referring sub must meet direct recruiting criteria and complete a referral form in the Human Resources Department after all conditions have been met by both individuals. The referral stipend is limited to five (5) referrals to a maximum of \$1,000 per substitute.
- For any **day-to-day substitute paraprofessional** that recruits a new substitute in any capacity (sub teacher, sub school nurse, sub paraprofessional, sub secretary, sub custodian or sub cafeteria worker) to our school district, approved by the school board AND subs at least 20 days in the district, the substitute

paraprofessional that made the referral will receive a \$200 stipend in a separate check after the 20 days of service. The referring sub must meet direct recruiting criteria and complete a referral form in the Human Resources Department after all conditions have been met by both individuals. The referral stipend is limited to five (5) referrals to a maximum of \$1,000 per substitute.

- For any **day-to-day substitute secretary** that recruits a new substitute in any capacity (sub teacher, sub school nurse, sub paraprofessional, sub secretary, sub custodian or sub cafeteria worker) to our school district, approved by the school board AND subs at least 20 days in the district, the substitute secretary that made the referral will receive a \$200 stipend in a separate check after the 20 days of service. The referring sub must meet direct recruiting criteria and complete a referral form in the Human Resources Department after all conditions have been met by both individuals. The referral stipend is limited to five (5) referrals to a maximum of \$1,000 per substitute.
- For any **day-to-day substitute custodian** that recruits a new substitute in any capacity (sub teacher, sub school nurse, sub paraprofessional, sub secretary, sub custodian or sub cafeteria worker) to our school district, approved by the school board AND subs at least 20 days in the district, the substitute custodian that made the referral will receive a \$200 stipend in a separate check after the 20 days of service. The referring sub must meet direct recruiting criteria and complete a referral form in the Human Resources Department after all conditions have been met by both individuals. The referral stipend is limited to five (5) referrals to a maximum of \$1,000 per substitute.
- For any **day-to-day substitute cafeteria worker** that recruits a new substitute in any capacity (sub teacher, sub school nurse, sub paraprofessional, sub secretary, sub custodian or sub cafeteria worker) to our school district, approved by the school board AND subs at least 20 days in the district, the substitute cafeteria worker that made the referral will receive a \$200 stipend in a separate check after the 20 days of service. The referring sub must meet direct recruiting criteria and complete a referral form in the Human Resources Department after all conditions have been met by both individuals. The referral stipend is limited to five (5) referrals to a maximum of \$1,000 per substitute.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the administrative items as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Whittle absent.

## 9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** - Approved the conference requests.
- B. **Student Adjudications** - Approved the following student adjudications.  
(Executive Session) Dr. McKinley
  1. # 2021-22-02
  2. # 2021-22-03
- C. **Student Trips** - Acknowledged the following student trips:
  1. 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.

2. Band trip to Norfolk Virginia on April 29 - May 1, 2022 under the supervision of Varden Armstrong, Bob Babick, Sara Snyder, and Brian Croach. Students will miss two days of school.
3. Chorus trip to Washington, D.C. on April 21 - 24, 2022 under the supervision of Aaron Magill, Bobi-Jean Alexander, and Grant Weaver. Students will miss two days of school.
4. Orchestra trip to Norfolk, VA on April 29 - May 1, 2022 under the supervision of Sarah Miller. Students will miss two days of school. Parent groups will be responsible for all fundraising.
5. Educational trip to Quebec on February 23 - 26, 2022 under the supervision of Andrew Russell and Heidi Thomas. Students will miss three days of school.

Mr. Peterson inquired about the number of substitute teachers in the district on a typical day. Dr. Vitale noted that this number varies greatly but, on average, would likely be in the range of 30-70.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the instruction action items as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Whittle absent.

#### 10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **December Bills** - Authorized administration to pay December bills.
- B. **Supplies and Equipment Bids** - Authorized administration to seek bids for supplies and equipment for the 2022-23 school year.
- C. **Joint Purchasing Agreement MIU IV** - Approved the Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for 2022-23.
- D. **Change Orders** - Approved the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
- E. **Budget Transfers** - Approved budget transfers.
- F. **STAT Staffing Agreement** - Approved the STAT Staffing Medical Services, Inc. agreement to provide medical services through the 2021-22 school year.  
Dr. Roberts
- G. **Seneca Valley School District Feasibility Study Proposal** - Approved the proposal from Eckles Architecture to prepare a Districtwide Feasibility Study.  
*Pending Solicitor's Review*
- H. **Seneca Valley School District Demographics and Planning Services** - Approved the proposal from Davis Demographics & Planning, Inc. for demographic analysis services.  
*Pending Solicitor's Review*
- I. **Bond Issuance Resolution** - Authorized the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation (limited tax) bonds, Series of 2022 in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000); covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government



unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity, redemption and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing a filing of required documents with the Department of Community and Economic Development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds.

- J. **Laptop Disposal** - Obtained proposals and proceed with the disposal of student laptops that are outdated and no longer in use for academic year 2021-22.
- K. **American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER 7% Set Asides Federal Allocation General Spending Plan** - Acknowledged the Seneca Valley School District ARP ESSER 7% Set Asides Federal Allocation General Spending Plan.
- L. **ARP ESSER (III) Federal Allocation General Spending Plan** - Acknowledged the Seneca Valley School District ARP ESSER III Federal Allocation General Spending Plan.

Mr. Peterson inquired whether the outdated laptops could be donated. Mr. VanScoyoc noted that he would inquire adding that the battery life of a laptop begins to degrade after about four years.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to approve the business and finance action items as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Whittle absent.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** - Personnel items were discussed in an executive session held prior to this meeting.

- A. **Resignations** - *Classified* - Shaena McSwiggan, Holly Butcher; *Supplemental* - Richard Coleman, Kathy Mahony, Noele Reynolds, Jason Woolslare
- B. **Appointments** - *Professional* - Annelise Doran; *Professional Substitutes* - Skylar Meier, Kelly Campbell, Madeline Beck, Kristine Hattman, Kathryn Marks, Beth Marraccini, Michelle Maseth, Rachel Petelin, Nick Sasala, Rachel Schulte, Emily Thelan, Karen Grassell; *Classified* - Jessica Repp, Joann Beerhalter, Arron Jones, Ashley Cleaver, Ashley Berty, Theresa Linton, Wilbert Schwartz, Nicole Magerl, Malissa Forbus, Meredith Warrington; *Supplementals* - Karen Fornadel, Aaron Epps, Justin McCauley, Justin Koken, Michael Marra, Devyn Brown, Bruce Smith, Tucker Topel, Jennifer Ramey, Skyler Meier, Kayla Keown, Lara DiFrischia, Kenneth Macek, Nina Grinnell, Tammie Limmer, Jennifer Mayes, Courtney Strieby, Kalene Ireland
- C. **Leaves** - *Operations Manager* - Nancy Thayer-Miller; *Professional* - Timothy Kamnikar, Katelynn Zaremski, Steven Strellick, Beth Clegg, Larry Wendereusz, Karissa Lambert, Lisa Graham, Emily Burkley, Amanda Fleming, Dean Leventopoulos, Renae Brown, Christopher Brown, Diane Fencil, Clint Weltner; *Classified* - Teresa Greno, Carol Jamison, Melissa Gaguzis, Jennifer Kaufman, Mary Parsons, Angelo Lettiere, Gregory Johns, Beth Brethauer, Diane Taylor, Benjamin Taylor, Robert Buchanan, David Bopp, Joyce Babcock, Barbara Buchanan, Shelby Grosclaude

- D. **Retirements** - *Director* - James Pearson; *Professional* - Timothy Dubovi, Sharon Bonavoglia

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the resignations, appointments, leaves and retirements as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, Mr. Jacobs and Ms. Whittle absent.

## 12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the November 8, 2021 public agenda:

- Ms. Kelly Mediate
- Ms. Haley Yost
- Ms. Annika Kyyashko
- Ms. Jolene Jaecke
- Mr. Michael Duer
- Ms. Emily Droesch
- Mr. Parag Batavia
- Ms. Shannon Mihalacki
- Ms. Erin McClymonds
- Ms. Beth Lauer
- Ms. Caitie Morgan
- Mr. Justin Page
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Ms. Kelly Scott
- Mr. Eric Vollmer
- Ms. Jill George
- Ms. Lindsey Douglass
- Ms. Lindsey Baker
- Ms. Aubrey Hart
- Mr. Kevin Strayhorn
- Mr. Nathan McCollough
- Ms. Karin Geiselhart
- Ms. Mia Compomizzi
- Ms. Colleen Tanner
- Ms. Sarah Richards
- Ms. Amy Gilbert
- Ms. Stephanie Barkow
- Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Sheri Swope
- Ms. Tiffany Monz
- Mr. John Ciganik
- Mr. Jason Stevens
- Ms. Stephanie Satterfield
- Ms. Aimee Pieszak
- Mr. Paul Fisher
- Mr. Bryce DeShay
- Ms. Laura Moad

- Ms. Sheila Barbosa
- Ms. Urmi Batavia
- Ms. Kristi Long
- Mr. Mark Vardaro
- Ms. Amanda Lowden
- Mr. Steve and Ms. Sara Hazen
- Ms. Angela Priddy
- Ms. Andrea Tucker

13. **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 Mislan, Board Secretary