



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING MINUTES

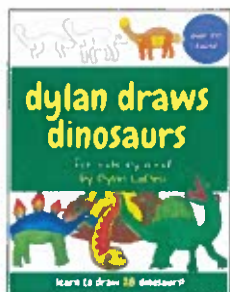
January 18, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for the family and loved ones of Dr. Albert "Al" Timms, who passed away on Dec. 25, 2021. Dr. Timms was employed by the Seneca Valley School District for 35 years upon his retirement in 1993. While at Seneca Valley, he served as an elementary school teacher, elementary school principal, director of elementary education and assistant superintendent for student transportation and buildings and grounds. He was deeply respected and will be greatly missed.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Athena Fazio-Kirskey, third grader at Evanc City Elementary School, continued the "I Led the Pledge" board initiative by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. <https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=ug6fyyx3>
 - C. **Roll Call** by Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary, showed the following board members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Ms. Kathy Whittle, Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson.

Others present included Dr. Tracy Vitale, Dr. Matthew McKinley, Dr. Sean McCarty, Ms. Kyra Bobak, Ms. Lynn Burtner, Ms. Linda Andreassi, Mr. Randy Miller, Dr. Marie Palano, Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, and Mr. Daniel Mongillo.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following student and staff recognitions:
 1. Positive output. That's what Haine Elementary School's First Lego League (FLL) teams, aka the SV Tech-Sports and SV Tech-Ovators, experienced during the Western Pennsylvania FLL Grand Championship at Sewickley Academy on Dec. 11. The SV Tech-Ovators earned the highest single round score in the robot game during the competition. The SV Tech-Sports were awarded the "Rising All-Star Award" for their high combined score in all four categories including; robot game, project presentation, robot presentation and core values presentation. They were also recognized as finalists in the project presentation category, for their innovation, "Package Protector."



2. A Seneca Valley student who is a self-described “dino-enthusiast” recently wrote and published his first book – at just 10 years old. Dylan LaDieu, a fifth grader at Haine Middle School, wrote and published “Dylan Draws Dinosaurs,” a how-to dinosaur drawing book with over 100 dinosaur facts for kids. Dylan’s book has how-to drawing pages accompanied by a scene showing the dinosaurs in action. The book also has statistics and facts for each dinosaur and even includes a representation of what their skull looks like. His book can be found on Amazon at [Dylan Draws Dinosaurs - How to Draw 28 Amazing Dinosaurs and Learn over 100 facts: Step by Step How To Draw Dinosaurs For Kids \(Dylan Draws - How to Draw\): LaDieu, Dylan Bishop, LaDieu, Nicholas Peter, LaDieu, Juliet Amanda: 9798781544455: Amazon.com: Books](#)

- B. **Seneca Valley All-Star Award Winner** - Nicole Eaton, Central Office Administrative Assistant, was honored as January’s SV All-Star Award Winner.
- C. **Dates to Remember** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following dates to remember.

January 25	Report Card Release, Grades 7-12
February 7	School Board Work Session, 7 p.m. via Zoom OR I H S Auditorium

- D. **Financial Reports** – The following reports were included in the Board backup:
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. **Program of Studies Presentation** - Dr. McKinley presented details of the 2022-23 Program of Studies as follows:

Changes to the Program of Studies

- American Literature will become Life in America
- Honors British Literature will become Honors English 12
- College in High School (CHS) will become CHS Business Calculus
- Mobile Game Design will become Software Game Art

New Courses

- Visual Art Techniques 7
- Visual Art Expressions 1
- Visual Art Expression 2
- Cyber Digital Photography
- Cyber Arts 7-12
 - Providing a hands-on course

The Future of Learning on the Secondary Campus

5 3 2 2

Three-pronged intense focus

- Student-Centered Learning
 - Critical researching, investigating, learning
 - Understand all sides of an issue
 - Discuss issues or problems appropriately with peers or colleagues
- Problem-Based Learning (PBL) leads to:
 - Student agency (choice)
 - Satisfaction in learning
 - Greater understanding
 - Ongoing development of lifelong skills
- Student Engagement
 - Pathways
 - Moving from the 16 career clusters to 5 career pathways
 - Arts, communications, media
 - Business, mathematics, information technology
 - Education, public safety, law
 - Health, medical, human services
 - Industry, engineering technology
 - NOTE: The 16 career clusters are still found within the 5 career pathways
 - The Modified Block Schedule
 - To be implemented in the 2023-24 school year
 - Moving from 40-minute periods to a longer time period
 - More time to focus, get to know students, less transitions for students
 - Teachers will utilize a different instructional approach
 - Interest-driven
- Student Relationships
 - What kind of environment are we creating in our classrooms?
 - How are students valued?
 - How well do we know our students?
 - Purposeful lesson planning

Dr. McKinley clarified that the model includes an A-B schedule where one day of the week is an eight-period day; two days would be odd periods; two days would be even periods. This type of schedule mirrors what many students will see as they transition to college. He also added that students can move within the five Pathways at any time stating there will also be more internship and job shadowing opportunities. Professional development days throughout this year and next year will be utilized to prepare staff through discussion panels and instructional strategies. Livestreaming will also continue to be considered. The Vo-Tech student schedule will be discussed and integrated as well. Appropriate placement for all students is the goal.

- F. **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Vitale stated that per the Seneca Valley Dashboard there are currently 20 active student cases and 11 active staff cases. Butler Health System reported 56 COVID-19 patients with six in the ICU and two deaths reported on January 14 and three deaths reported on January 16. At this time, there are no children hospitalized due to COVID-19. Additionally, she added that neighboring

states are plateauing, and we hope to see the same very soon. Also, a website opened today offering four free COVID-19 test kits per household at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Public Comment was heard from Ms. Stephanie Lane.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The following meeting minutes were approved:
 - A. **Work Session** - November 8, 2021
 - B. **Action Meeting** - November 15, 2021
 - C. **Reorganization Meeting** - December 6, 2021
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Approved the treasurer's report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Approved the general fund bills totaling \$7,816,622.54
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$7,004,674.47

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

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

- A. **Policy 800.1** - Approved board policy 800.1, Electronic Signatures, first reading.
- B. **School Bus Drivers** - Approved the list of new bus drivers since November 2021 for ABC Transit and Valley Lines.
- C. **Solicitor Fee Adjustment** - Approved the fee adjustment for solicitor from \$145 to \$155 per hour, retroactive to January 1, 2022.
- D. **Substitute Rate Increases** - Increased substitute rates across the following job classifications. Effective January 24, 2022 for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

Substitute Teachers

- Increased the daily substitute rate from \$125 to \$150 per day for both certified and emergency substitute teachers (approximately \$21.43/hour).
- Increased the daily rate for SV retired teachers to substitute from \$150 to \$175 (approximately \$25/hour).
- 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 \$175 (approximately \$25/hr). (*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 \$200 per day after day 30 (approximately \$28.57/hr). (*Days do not need to be consecutive and may be cumulative.)
- Any day-to-day teacher substitute that subs in a multiple support classroom will receive \$175 per day (approximately \$25/hr) on day 1 of that assignment.

Substitute School Nurses

- Increased the daily substitute rate from \$125 to \$150 per day (approximately \$21.43/hour).
- Increased the daily rate for SV retired school nurses to substitute from \$150 to \$175 (approximately \$25/hr).
- 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 \$175 (approximately \$25/hr). (*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 \$200 per day (approximately \$28.57/hr) after day 30. (*Days do not need to be consecutive and may be cumulative.

E. **Slippery Rock College of Education Affiliation Agreement** - Approved the affiliation agreement with Slippery Rock University College of Education to provide cooperating professionals for student teaching for the five-year term from January 4, 2022 to January 4, 2027.

F. **Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Naming Rights Agreement for the New Aquatics Center** - \$100,000

Ms. Whittle acknowledged Mr. Matt Hoffman's contributions and hard work in his guidance to the Board as Seneca Valley School District's solicitor for many years.

Mr. DiTullio recognized and thanked Ms. Lewis for her efforts in obtaining the AHN naming rights agreement for the new aquatics center. Dr. Vitale added that the District has received the check from AHN. Our solicitor has reviewed the agreement and we are now awaiting the AHN solicitor's review in order to finalize.

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

9. **INSTRUCTION** - Ms. Susan Harrison

- A. **Memorandum of Understanding** - Approved the MOU for the Outreach Partnership of Technology (OPT) with the Seneca Valley Education Association (SVEA).
- B. **Memorandum of Understanding Cyber Service** - Approved the MOU for the Seneca Valley Cyber Service with the Seneca Valley Education Association (SVEA).
- C. **The School at McGuire Memorial Agreement** - Approved the agreement with The School at McGuire Memorial to provide educational services during the 2021- 22 school year.
- D. **Hope Learning Center Agreement** - Approved the Hope Learning Center agreement to provide school-based ACCESS services through the 2022-23 school year.

- E. **Club Status** - Approved club status for the Seneca Valley Senior High American Sign Language (ASL) Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Ms. Laura Wise.
- F. **Conferences** - Approved the conference requests.
- G. **Grant Disbursements** - Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
 1. Arconic Foundation Grant in the amount of \$2,949 for expenses related to the 2021-22 First Tech Challenge including fees, supplies and equipment. Requested by Ms. Mersing and Mr. Fortunato.
 2. Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Grant in the amount of \$3,000. Funds will be used to implement a FarmFlex plant system at Ehrman Crest Middle School to enhance curriculum involving the food chain, photosynthesis, the water cycle and the importance of sustainability for fifth-grade students. Requested by Ms. Mersing and Mr. Eiler.

Dr. Vitale noted that in order to save money, the District typically sends only one or two staff members to most conferences. Those staff members then return and share their learnings with others.

Additionally, the OPT program is a partnership with other schools to offer their own cyber service that we do not pay tuition for. Pre-pandemic, we had 126 students enrolled on outside cyber charter schools. When the pandemic hit, that number increased. Currently, all of these students - except for 11 - have returned. This shift speaks loudly to what Seneca Valley's cyber program offers.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the instruction items as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

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

- A. **Change Orders** - Approved the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest.
- B. **Budget Resolution** - Approved the budget resolution indicating that the district will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2022-23 fiscal year by more than 3.4%, which is the Act 1 index for the district as established by the Department of Education.
- C. **Budget Transfers** - Approved budget transfers.
- D. **Equipment Disposal** - Approved sale of obsolete pool timing equipment to a District that has a compatible system, or disposal of such equipment.

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

11. **PERSONNEL** - Approved resignations, appointments, leaves, tenure, sabbatical, retirements, memorandums of understanding as follows:

- A. **Resignations:** *Supervisor* - John McDermott; *Classified* - Nicholas Ranayhossaini, Jodi Gianfrancesco, Kendra Bertoti, Jenna Livingston, Judy Schall
- B. **Appointments:** *Administrator* - Dr. Marie Palano; *Director* - Nii Sowa-Doku; *Supervisor* - Ashley Porter; *Professional* - Brieana Nassan; *Professional Substitutes* - Julie Tomasovich; *Day-to-Day Substitutes*; *Classified* - Shawna Lemke, Carrie Kerr, Larry Bell, Michael Pendred, Classified Substitutes; *Supplementals* - Maria Brooks, Jason Shorr, Jacqueline Eriksen, Molly Brunner, Joseph Ehmann, Lauren Hacket, Diane Powell, Wanda Reynolds, Katie Wolford, Megan Abel, Marissa Hotton, Katie Lipscomb, Jennifer Exler, Shelby Stock, Joan Widdowson, Rebecca Hester, Candace McComb, Macrina Harhai, Tammy McKenry, Shannon Zolkowski, Aimee Kaczmarek, Sydney Sterner, Rosemary Piso, Jennifer Keefer
- C. **Leaves:** *Director* - Tina Francis, Antoinette Mersing; *Professional* - Susan Moury, Audrey Buban, Molly Brunner, Adria Herlihy, Andra Titus, Raechel DeVinney, Christopher Titus, Michael Levere, Steven Miller, Brittany Wannamaker, Jason Groom, Kenneth Cahall, Ashley Zaso, Elizabeth Meinert, Kelly McDonald, Stacey Meredith, Lauren Miloser, Amanda Fleming, Hannah Sheldon, Rachelle Magnani, Rebecca Studts, Anthony Lebder, Stephanie Schultz, Bethany Bowen, Sarah Miller, Kristen Heller, Tracy Glass, Sandra Bilbao, John Roman, Danette Yurich; *Classified* - Kristen Hart, Allisyn Pascarella, Tracy Ekstam, Jenna Livingston, Kayla White, Joan Rinaman, Terri Keasey, Gregory Johns, Ann Raisley, Susan Hilliard, Emily Gregory, ISG Angelo Lettiere, Katelyn Mustovich, Michelle Tresky
- D. **Tenure:** Nicole Moorman
- E. **Sabbatical:** Margaret Tkatch
- F. **Retirements:** *Psychologist* - Dan Bailey; *Professional* - Aaron Magill, Jill Schulz; *Classified* - Judith Baret, Carol Baptiste, Joan Rinaman
- G. **Memorandums of Understanding**

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve the personnel items as listed above. Motion carried with eight in the affirmative and one abstention.

12. **MISCELLANEOUS** - Mr. Nickel discussed House Bill 2093 which would eliminate the ability for school board members to cross file when they run for seats. He stated that elections should be more bipartisan vs. divided between party lines and that partisanship should be kept out of educational settings, adding that, as a community, we should learn about each candidate and what they represent vs. voting strictly on party affiliation.
13. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the January 10, 2022 agenda:

- Ms. Sarah Diefenderfer
- Mr. Dan Weimer
- Ms. Erin McClymonds

- Ms. Andrea Tucker
- Ms. Ryan Ahl
- Ms. Shannon Mihalacki
- Mr. Steve Hazen
- Mr. Mike Vardaro
- Ms. Tatiana Brower
- Ms. Sharon Bonavoglia
- Ms. Amy Wagner
- Ms. Megan Anderson
- Ms. Kimberly Matthews
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Ms. Sylena Smith

14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary