

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Lyle Miller, former Seneca Valley School Board Member and School Board President.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Nolan Buxton, a first grader at Evans City Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, "I Led the Pledge" by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. <https://svtube.svsd.net/play?id=u3d622yp2r>
 - 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. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson, and Ms. Kathy Whittle.

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. David Mongillo, Solicitor.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

October	National Principals Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 16	SHS PSAT Testing
October 22	SVAOC Cyber - End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
October 22 & 29	District-Wide Pink Out Days
October 25-29	Red Ribbon Week
October 27	SV Grades 7-12 End of First Nine Weeks

- B. **Student/Staff Recognition** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following student recognitions:

1. Rachel Kremmel was crowned Seneca Valley Homecoming Queen and Cooper Sainiak was named SV Homecoming King during the District's pregame festivities at NexTier Stadium on Friday, Oct. 8. Rachel is the daughter of Bruce and Denise Kremmel of Cranberry Township. Cooper is the son of Keith and Kimberly Sainiak of Cranberry Township. The homecoming football game at NexTier Stadium on Friday evening went into double overtime, but the Raiders came out with the win against Canon McMillan, 24-17. Ms. Andreassi also thanked the many staff members who went above and beyond to ensure the homecoming parade/carnival, football game and dances took place during this time.
2. Special Olympics – Nick Logero, senior high school student, and Taylor Wagstaff, SV Class of 2021, were recently named winners of the 2021 Leadership Award by Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (UCS). These awards were given at the Annual UCS Leadership Conference held virtually over the weekend. The duo received the award for their efforts and involvement during their time at Seneca Valley. Specifically, Taylor organized and facilitated our first Polar Plunge raising over \$4,000 for Special Olympics, and Nick was an active member of the team. The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® builds on Special Olympics' values, principles, practices, experiences and impacts to shape a generation that welcomes everyone. Nick and Taylor represent the importance - and the impact - of inclusion.

C. **Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) Safe Driver Awards**

Pennsylvania School Bus Association recently announced that five Seneca Valley drivers were selected for the 2020-21 PSBA Safe Driver Awards. Each driver was awarded for providing service that goes above and beyond and having at least 20 consecutive years of bus driving without accidents. ABC Transit drivers Herb Fletcher, Kathy Richards, Linda Scheidemantle, Pam Cosky and the late Ray Albert were recently selected for the award. Mr. Todd O'Shell, vice president of operations for ABC Transit, Inc., joined the Zoom meeting to share more about each winner and thank them for their dedicated service.

D. **Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) Honor Roll - PSBA's Honor Roll**

of School Board Service program honors school board directors for long-term service and dedication to their local districts and communities. For more than 35 years, PSBA has been recognizing the contributions of directors with dedicated long-term service, beginning at year eight. PSBA recently notified us and shared certificates to the following Seneca Valley School Board Members for their effort and commitment to public education and students. Mr. Mike Jacobs, who is serving his second year as a board member, was pleased to do the honors in awarding board members with their service recognition during the meeting. "I think the one thing that is quite unique about our board is we do a good job at assuming noble intent," he said. Mr. Jacobs went on to explain that "even when we disagree with each other, we know that each of us has the best interests of our board, our administration, our teachers, and our students in mind."

1. Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson - 16 years
2. Mr. Eric DiTullio - 12 years
3. Mr. James Nickel - 12 years
4. Ms. Kathy Whittle - 8 years

5. Mr. Timothy Hester - 8 years
6. Mr. Frederick Peterson - 8 years

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

Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DoH) Early Warning Dashboard

- The difference in confirmed cases in the most recent 7-day period vs. the previous 7-day period shows cases are down by 75
- The current incidence rate per 100,000 residents is 355
- The PCR percent positivity rate is fairly high at 15%

Butler County

- The 14-day incidence rate rolling average = 117.57
- The 7-day incidence rate rolling average = 756 cases
- The 7-day incidence total incidence rate per 100,000 residents = 402 cases

Seneca Valley Zip Codes

- When pulling this data today, we saw an increase of 13 cases from the previous day; this number tends to increase the next day
- On October 11, 60 cases were reported

Seneca Valley COVID-19 Dashboard

- Active student cases = 34
- Students in quarantine = 107
- Active staff cases = 4
- Total active cases throughout the District = 38

F. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Middle School Activities
5. Athletics
6. Food Services
7. Tax Collections
8. Capital Projects Funds

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

- A. Ms. Emily Droesch
- B. Ms. Jolene Jaecke

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approved the following meeting minutes:

- A. **Work Session** - September 13, 2021
- B. **Regular Meeting** - September 20, 2021

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Approved the treasurer's report.

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Approved general fund bills totaling \$1,622,900.91

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved construction fund bills totaling \$4,473,080.82

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson to approve the minutes, treasurer's report, general fund bills, and construction fund bills as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

- A. **Conference Requests** - Approved the conference requests.
- B. **Transportation Contracts** - Approve the following transportation contracts.
1. One family to transport their child to-and-from Ryan Gloyer Middle School at a cost of \$9.63 per day during the 2021-22 school year.
 2. One family to transport their child to-and-from Ryan Gloyer Middle School at a cost of \$23.30 per day during the 2021-22 school year.
- C. **Student Waiver** - Approved the student adjudication waiver. Dr. McKinley

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson to approve the conference requests, transportation contracts, and student waiver as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION**

- A. **Co-Ed Cricket Club** - Approved the establishment of the Co-Ed Cricket Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Mr. David Reichard.
- B. **Slippery Rock University (SRU) Transition Achievement Program** - Approved the agreement for the SRU Transition Achievement Program with SRU to provide transition services for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Roberts
- C. **BC3 College Within High School (CWHS) Partnership Agreement** - Approved the CWHS Partnership Agreement between Seneca Valley School District and Butler County Community College from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Dr. Roberts
- D. **Grant Disbursements** - Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
1. First Tech Challenge Grant funded by the Arconic Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 to fund the cost of equipment, fees and supplies related to the 2021-22 First Tech Challenge. Ms. Annie Mersing and Mr. Steve Fortunato
 2. Homeless Children and Youth Grant in the amount of \$62,248 funded by the United States Department of Education to support students who are experiencing homelessness to meet their physical and mental health needs. Dr. Jeff Roberts

Dr. McKinley reported that students approached Ms. Lewis about establishing the Co-Ed Cricket Club. They completed the required paperwork and received the requisite number of signatures as well as a sponsor.

Dr. Roberts noted that the Slippery Rock Transition Achievement Program is available for high school students, some over the age of 18, who need transitional assistance to learn life skills they can use beyond high school. The partnership program also provides students the opportunity to learn and work on campus which offers a rich experience on the college campus.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl to approve the Co-Ed Cricket Club, SRU Transition Achievement Program, BC3 CWHS Partnership Agreement, and grant disbursements. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Bond Issue** - Approved the appointment of PNC Capital Markets, LLC, as investment banker and Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, as bond counsel related to both outstanding and anticipated debt financings in connection with the school district's proposed and developing plans for capital improvements and facilities.

Ms. Burtner stated that PNC has been on board for about six year. Dinsmore & Shohl have been with the District for about 20 years. They have been hired to perform the third in a series of bond issues related to the Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School project and other long-range plans of the District. The plan has been ongoing for at least ten years and will continue beyond completion of Ehrman Crest.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve the bond issue. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

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

- A. **Appointments - Professional Substitutes** - Ann Cheman, Rebecca Berger, John Patrus; **Classified Substitutes** - Patricia Stuebgen-Way, Calynn Rosenbaum; **Supplementals** - Amanda Armour, Katie Smolter, Kelly Vu
- B. **Addendum**
- C. **Leaves** - Alaina Kloc, Cara Martin, Jenny Caputo, Jan Kovacevic, Christina Hollowood, Gabriella Thorell, Steven Strelick, Timothy Kamnikar, Shelby Stock, Herbert McCracken, Mary Jo Burglund
- D. **Retirement - Classified** - Kurt Ford
- E. **Memorandum of Understanding**

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the appointments, addendum, leaves, retirement, and memorandum of understanding as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

12. LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the October 4, 2021 public agenda:

- Ms. Erin McClymonds
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Ms. Laura Donaldson
- Ms. Jennifer Shattahi
- Mr. John Ciganik
- Ms. Urmi Batavia
- Mr. Mike Sypien
- Ms. Erin Hannas

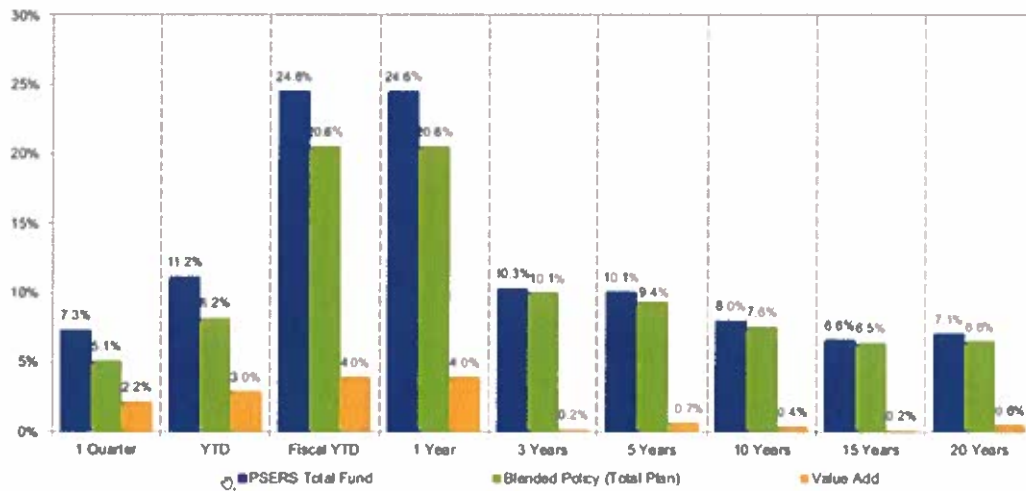
13. **MISCELLANEOUS** - Mr. DiTullio provided a PSERS update as follows:

Current Cost Saving Initiatives

- PSERS administration cost per member is \$13 under the peer average with an associated annual savings of \$6.4 million.
- The Annual Required Contribution (ARC) has only been fully funded by the state of Pennsylvania for the last six years. Since 2017, we have been receiving 100% of the ARC from legislature. Fiscal Year 2022 is the sixth consecutive year with 100% of actuarially required contributions.
- The PSERS fund was valued at \$59.1 million in July of 2020. With contributions totaling almost \$6 million and net investment income totaling nearly \$15 million, the fund now totals over \$72.5 million - a historic and unprecedented growth for PSERS.

PSERS Total Fund – Trailing Period Performance

As of June 30, 2021



Note: Total Fund returns are shown net of investment management fees. Net of fee returns are calculated based on when fees are actually paid out of the Fund. The value add may not sum due to rounding.



Mr. DiTullio noted that retirements were up 8% from 2020 to 2021.

Lastly, Mr. DiTullio stated that there are challenges in educating new teachers with the new retirement system under ACT 120 as the new teachers have a hybrid plan. To help new teachers navigate their personal plan, the District is looking at financing this education and possibly helping them during their onboarding.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Mislán". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary