



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

MINUTES

AUGUST 2, 2021

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Mr. DiTullio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 - C. **Roll Call** 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, Ms. Kathy Whittle, and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson.

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; Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletic Director; Mr. Jim Pearson, Transportation Director; Dr. Marie Palano, Supervisor of Analytics and Federal Programs; Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement; Mr. Jason Young, Supervisor of Safety and Security; and Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

August 5	Seneca Valley Foundation - Gift of Hope Golf Classic
August 9	School Board Action Meeting 7:00 p.m. I H S Auditorium
August 16	Substitute Teacher Training
August 16, 17, 18	Summer Professional Development Academy
August 17 & 19	New Teacher Induction
August 16-20	Teacher-In Service Day (Floating Day)
August 23	All Staff Opening Day - I H S Auditorium
August 24	Teacher In-Service Day
August 25	First Day of School for Students
September 3	Veterans' Recognition

- B. 2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return-to-School – Dr. Vitale noted that, currently, the plan includes the return of students on a five day in-person schedule with masks recommended, but not required, which is the current CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommendation. The plan will be voted on next week, August 9, 2021.

Dr. Palano provided an overview as follows:

- The 2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan is a living document that will be reviewed and updated as needed. Additional layered preventions strategies may be required and implemented as we follow the data.
- **Face Coverings:** At this time, face coverings are optional for children and staff. However, regardless of vaccination status, face coverings are required on public transportation which includes school buses operated by public and private school systems.
- **Distancing:** Student seating and instructional spaces will be arranged to maximize the distance between students and outdoor learning spaces will be prioritized when feasible and to the extent possible, weather permitting.
- **Cleaning:** Daily disinfecting of all spaces will continue, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) filters will be replaced more frequently to increase the amount of air flow. Hand sanitizer and signage will be made readily available in all classrooms and common areas.
- **Contact Tracing:** The district will coordinate with the Department of Health when made aware of a positive case of COVID-19. We will continue to provide case information on the district website. Our nurse administrator will continue to collaborate with students, staff and families to make available all health services within the county borders.
- Staying home when sick is the most effective way to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

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

- National COVID-19 numbers at the time of Dr. Osterholm's last report:
 - Three weeks ago, we had 12,000 cases nationally, and we are at 38,000 cases as of last Thursday, July 29
 - This week, 6,250 COVID-19 cases per day were reported, and hospitalizations at 39,500
 - Deaths per day now averaging 290; at the highest peak, we had 3,300 deaths per day on average
 - Louisiana, Florida and Arkansas are states that have reached a high peak
- Local COVID-19 numbers
 - As of July 29, Butler County was at 7.4 cases on a 14-day rolling average
 - Today, August 2, the 14-day rolling average is at 9.4 cases
 - As of Friday, July 30, cases within all Seneca Valley zip codes totaled 3.9 and as of today, 3.29 cases.
 - The 7-day rolling average per 100,000 residents in the Seneca Valley zip codes is at 31.65 cases
 - There are about 50,000 people who reside within the Seneca Valley zip codes (by latest census)
 - From the COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), the Butler County

difference from the most recent 7 days to the previous 7 days per 100,000 people, is up 22 cases

- The Butler county incident rate is 25.6
- The Butler county PCR positivity rate, as of Friday, July 30, is 4.2%
- On the CDC Daily COVID Tracker, there are our levels of community transmission: low, moderate, substantial and high. Last year there were only three, "high" has been added this year
- To-date, the PADOH is not mandating masks or mitigations, but they highly encourage us to follow the CDC guidelines. School boards will decide what, if any, mitigations will be put into place.
- Butler County is currently at a substantial level of community transmission
- In Pennsylvania, of those eligible to receive vaccination, 56.5% have received one dose; 51.3% have received either second dose or the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, making them fully vaccinated.
- In Butler county, of children 12 years or older, 64.7% have received one dose and 58.7% are fully vaccinated
- In Butler county, of the population 18-years-old and older, 66.9% have received one dose, and 61% are fully vaccinated
- In Butler county, of the population over the age of 65, 92.8% have received one dose, and 85.8% are fully vaccinated

The district follows resources from the CDC, Center for Infectious Disease Research and policy (CIDRAP), PADOH and PDE.

Mr. Nickel asked Dr. Vitale how confident she is with Dr. Osterholm's research and recommendations. Dr. Vitale noted that Dr. Osterholm is a renowned epidemiologist and recommends his podcasts which are data-focused, and she has found him to be accurate more often than not when predicting surges. In his last podcast, he noted that the "cycling of surges around the world are not necessarily tied to human behavior." He studies other countries and tries to predict if the same sequence of events will happen here. He focuses on protecting the most vulnerable and his priority is making sure that hospitals are not overwhelmed. Dr. Vitale added that about 92% of the cases are from the Delta variant. Masking and social distancing work, but the best protection is receiving the vaccine.

- C. **Post-Pandemic Committee Final Report** – Dr. Delp and Ms. Graham presented findings from four post-pandemic committee meetings, held from May through July, related to instruction and learning prior to, and during, the pandemic. Board members thanked the committee for their teamwork and engagement. Ms. Graham noted that next steps will look at priorities for each grade level with more dialogue and more stakeholders. Dr. Delp added the level of involvement and positivity was very encouraging. Implementing a strategy will require further time.
- D. **Instructional Plan Models** – Dr. McCarty noted that our model will be five days of in-person instruction with mitigation strategies in place. We will continue livestreaming based on COVID-19 related issues only, based on need as related to COVID. Other options will be within the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) cyber program. Asynchronous learning with blended synchronous learning will take place. Children will participate in morning meetings. WIN (What I Need) time will continue where teachers monitor students providing support throughout the day whether it be small group, remote or one-on-one.

In addition, monthly academic theme and social engagements will be planned. Also, to support students, school counselors, interventions and specials will be made available. Lastly, the district asks families to commit to a full grading period. For example, if a family chooses full cyber to start the year, we ask that a commitment is made for the entire trimester at the elementary level or for the full quarter at the secondary level. Making a transition in between grading periods can be very challenging for students.

Dr. McKinley addressed programming at the secondary level by stating that traditional five-day, in-person instruction will also be available at the secondary level as well as livestreaming for COVID-19 related issues. Students will require documentation from a doctor or school nurse of any COVID-19 issues. Both asynchronous and synchronous options will be available through the cyber program. Students who are not successful will be directed to in-person instruction with their teachers. Students can mix synchronous and asynchronous courses. This year, student athletes will not be able to self-quarantine but can participate in SVAOC for a grading period and will still be eligible for participation.

Dr. Vitale reiterated that livestreaming will only be offered if a child has COVID or is quarantining due to COVID exposure.

Mr. Peterson asked if all communities would have sufficient access to technology for computer-based education and how labs or music is taught in this way.

Dr. McKinley stated that hardware will be ready for students by mid-August and that we work with any families in need that may have trouble with an Internet connection. He added that online simulations and programs are very advanced, and our teachers have become very creative with their instruction methods.

Regarding hotspots, Dr. McCarty added that Ms. Manganello has been providing support for laptops or hotspots for years. Though some courses are difficult to simulate, items within the household or in the community are often used for instruction and learning. Dr. McCarty believes that students have learned much about problem solving and working together this past year.

E. **Agency Reports**

1. **Vo-Tech** – Mr. Peterson noted that the Joint Operating Committee will meet this Thursday, nothing to report at this time. Dr. McKinley stated that enrollment at the Vo-Tech is about the same as last year. Dr. Vitale added that there is now a virtual welder and a virtual auto body paint machine at the Vo-Tech. These are a couple examples of how technology is facilitating various instructional models.
2. **Intermediate Unit IV (IUIV)** – Nothing to report at this time, meeting is next week.
3. **Pennsylvania School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) Board** – Mr. DiTullio stated that the PSERS board is looking at investments. Regarding the recertification, teachers hired after 2011 have to contribute an extra .5% which goes into their retirement account.

F. **Legislative** - No report at this time.

G. **Dissertation Research by Bria Koch, Rowan Technology Facilitator** - Dr. Vitale stated that Ms. Koch, who is working on her Doctorate at Duquesne University, has asked permission to evaluate the SV technology program and commitment to technology integration. She will then provide insight into district successes and challenges.

H. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Food Services
3. Tax Collection Reports
4. Capital Projects Funds

3. **ACTION AGENDA**

A. **Public Comment** – Public comment was heard from the following:

- Ms. Sarah Diefenderfer – Health and Safety Plan
- Mr. Jason Schulte – Health and Safety Plan
- Ms. Stephanie Lane – Masking and Vaccines
- Ms. Erin McClymonds – Masking and COVID-19 Rate of Death
- Ms. Lesley Bruns – Masking
- Ms. Sarah Cardosi – Health and Safety Plan
- Ms. Regina Amidon – Masking
- Ms. Erica Higginbotham – Masking

B. **Personnel Action** - Approved the following personnel items:

1. **Resignations** - *Administration* - David Fuhrman; *Professional* - Lindsey Read, Brianna Beale, Mary Beth Cassetti, Major Richard Coleman; *Classified* - Mary Barb, Laura Moad
2. **Appointments** - *Professional* - Sarah Bertsch, Rebecca Watkins, Stephanie Bruner, Alaina Kloc, Stacey Meredith, Jenna Montelaro, Kelsey Shaum, Brenna Cosgrove, Bethany Wolford, Brittany Wanamaker, Brian Croach, Ashley Coulter, Margaret Marciniak, Kelsey Stauffer, Tara Morrison; *Professional Substitutes* - Amy Brown, Mollie Sweeney, Rebecca Champine, Jessica Adam, Christine Alexander, Mary Anderson, Denyse Bruni, Kelly Casey, Jennifer Curry, Nanet Edge, Carmen Householder, Nick Ierino, Deborah Kennedy, Carol Korn, Tamara Mauk, Lori McCann, Tabatha Mill, Mary Peterson, Katherine Peterson, Deborah Powell, Joanne Ranayhossaini, Angela Rebovich, Sherri Schubert, Erin Scott, Michele Semrau, Marcia Spher, Zackary Weismann, Susan Werner, Carol Wilson, Theresa Wolf; *Classified* - Kyle Hammond, Lisa Recce, Sarah Wolfson, Kara Patrick, Wilbert Schwartz, Denyse Bruni, Brian Clarke, Patricia DiVito, Rick Duff, Kristie Long, Tamara Mauck, Kathy Sims, Michael Williams; *Supplementals* - Katie Wise, Ian Shadle, Ben Bachik, Jonathan Hale, Rodney Weaver, Ryan Lehmeier, Marlesse Hames, PJ Gatch, Dante Burns, Eden Geis, Reilly Sherzer, Chris Masi, Stephen Santa
3. **Employment Agreement** - Jason Young

4. Leaves - Administration - Kyle Leggett; *Professional* - Kara Andres, Kate Oliver; *Classified* - Jacquelyn McElheny, Lisa Recce
 5. Sabbaticals - Ann Tanda, Autumn Lynn
 6. Retirement - Patricia Scherz
- C. **Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance** - Obtained permission for Seneca Valley School District to join the Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance through the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) at a cost of \$10,000 with Grable Foundation paying \$5,000 of the total cost.
- Dr. Vitale stated that joining the Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance will allow Seneca Valley to be a model school district, nationally. Seneca Valley is future driven, focused on whole learning, not just test scores, and anti-marginalization which ensures all students feel welcome. Mr. DiTullio added that this opportunity would provide Seneca Valley the opportunity to give back to the entire nation by sharing our knowledge.
- D. **Adjudication Waiver, Case #2020-21-02** - Approved adjudication waiver, case #2020-21-02.
- E. **Minutes** - Approved the following minutes.
1. Work Session - June 7, 2021
 2. Action Meeting - June 14, 2021

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the personnel items, Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025 Alliance, Adjudication Waiver, and minutes as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

5. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

2020-21 Grand Total: \$2,015,658.21

2021-22 Grand Total: \$3,460,406.67

6. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

2020-21 Grand Total: \$2,403,278.87

2021-22 Grand Total: \$3,038,960.82

7. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

A. **Board Policies** - Approve the following board policies.

1. Policy 201, Admission of Students, revised, first reading.
2. Policy 212, Reporting Student Progress, revised, first reading.
3. Policy 218, Student Discipline, revised, first reading.
4. Policy 718, Service Animals, revised, first reading.

B. **2021-22 Student-Teacher Calendar** - Approve the revised 2021-22 Student-Teacher Calendar to include Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 6 p.m. as the senior graduation date and Friday, May 27, 2022 as a rain date.

- C. **Transportation Contracts** - Approve the following transportation contracts.
1. One family to transport their child to North Catholic during the 2021-22 school year at a cost of \$11.28 per day.
 2. One family to transport their child to D.T. Watson during the 2021-22 school year at a cost of \$19.90 per day.
 3. One family to transport their child to D.T. Watson during the 2021-22 school year at a cost of \$62.33 per day.
 4. One family to transport their child to D.T. Watson during the 2021-22 school year at a cost of 37.26 per day.
- D. **Agreement Between PSEA/SVEA and Seneca Valley School District** - Approve the agreement between PSEA/SVEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association/Seneca Valley Education Association) and Seneca Valley School District effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

8. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services Agreement** - Approve the agreement for special education programs and services with Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2021-22 school year.
- B. **Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Agreement** - Approve the agreement for special education programs and services with Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit for the 2021-22 school year.
- C. **Glade Run Lutheran Services Education Placement Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide education placement services for the 2021-22 school year.
- D. **Glade Run Lutheran Services Therapy Services Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide therapy services for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Roberts
- E. **Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC Client Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC (SLIP) to provide interpreting services for deaf and/or hard of hearing students during the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Roberts
- F. **Epic Health Services, Inc. d/b/a Aveanna Healthcare Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Epic Health Services, Inc. d/b/a Aveanna Healthcare to provide healthcare services to students during the 2021-22 school year.
- G. **MHY Family Services Agreement** - Approve the agreement with MHY Family Services to provide services during the 2021-22 school year.
- H. **Butler Area School District Program Placement Agreement** - Approve the program placement agreement with Butler Area School District to provide services during the 2021-22 school year.
- I. **School Assist Consulting, LLC Proposal** - Approve the School Assist Consulting, LLC proposal to provide professional development leadership coaching during the 2021-22 school year.

- J. **Grant Disbursements**
1. Grant permission to apply for and disburse the approved 2021-22 Statewide Cohort RTI/SLD Series Teams grant in the amount of \$20,000 for cross-disciplinary Multi-Tiered System of Supports Teams training at Evans City Elementary and Middle Schools. Dr. Palano and Dr. Eyles
 2. Grant permission to apply for and disburse the approved Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Classroom Resources Grant 2021-22 in the amount of \$10,000 for the use of UDL resources in the Intermediate and Senior High Schools. Dr. Eyles
- K. **Conferences** - Approve conference requests.
- L. **2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return to School** - Approve the 2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return to School.
- M. **Emergency Resolution for Continuity of Instruction During COVID** - Renew the COVID Emergency Instruction Resolution.
- N. **Early Admission** - Approve the early admission to Kindergarten for three students for the 2021-22 school year.

9. BUSINESS/FINANCES ACTION

- A. **Professional Lawn Care and Snow Removal Services** - Approve the agreement with Funya Landscapes, L.P. for professional lawn care and snow removal services commencing on July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.
- B. **Sale of Properties** - Consent to the sale of three properties located within Seneca Valley School District (MP#s 400-S2-B43B-0000, 400-S2-B43A-0000, 400-S2-B39-0000) by the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau.
- C. **Change Orders** - Approve the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
- D. **Educational Consortium Consulting Service Agreement** - Approve the agreement with the Educational Consortium for Telecommunications Savings (ECTS) to apply for discounts under Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) for the 2021-22 school year.

10. LETTERS WRITTEN TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

The following constituent letters include the name of the author and subject matter and were received after posting the June 14, 2021 public agenda:

Raider Mascot/Imagery

- Mr. Dan Banyay
- Ms. Simren Jayaraman
- Ms. Sonia Jaiswal
- Mr. Paul Graham
- Mr. Rider Davidson
- Mr. Ed and Mrs. Lorraine Sarver

- Ms. Karen O'Brien
- Mr. John Beighey

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Zero-Emission Electric School Buses - Ms. Talia Morris

Masks/Return to School

- Ms. Megan Smith
- Ms. Erin McClymonds
- Ms. Beth Lauer
- Ms. Andrea Tucker
- Ms. Carla Barnhart
- Ms. Tharina Impellizzeri
- Mr. Joe Matachak
- Ms. Stacy Adams
- Mr. Jeremy Bloom
- Ms. Danielle Iaquina
- Ms. Megan Smith
- Ms. Breanna Callender
- Ms. Holly Badger
- Ms. Christine Wilson
- Mr. Rich Allen
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Mr. Nathan and Ms. Elizabeth McCollough
- Ms. Amy Gilbert
- Ms. Katie Koller
- Ms. Andrea Tucker
- Ms. Jodi Fulmer
- Ms. Lesley Bruns
- Ms. Erin Jones
- Ms. Michele Lombardo
- Ms. Denise Loesch
- Ms. Kaylyn Talton
- Ms. Christine Zacherl
- Ms. Brandee Rentz
- Ms. Sarah Diefenderfer
- Ms. Sarah Cardosi
- Mr. Dan and Ms. Sheri Swope
- Ms. Rachel Ockree
- Ms. J. Benso
- Mr. Dave and Ms. Tricia Bennett
- Mr. Francis Browne
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Mr. Ben Bower
- Ms. Nicole Magerl
- Mr. Tony and Ms. Sarah Vargas

Tax Increase - Mr. Ed DiPanfilo

Book - Mr. David Hasek

ZeroEyes Software - Ms. Evelyn Bond

Grading System - Ms. Erin Hart

Repository Bid - Ms. Nicole (Pukylo) Martin

Critical Race Theory (CRT) - Mr. Ben Bower

Coach Termination - Ms. Lindsey Baker

Board Positions, Masks, Critical Race Theory - Ms. Jolene Jaecke

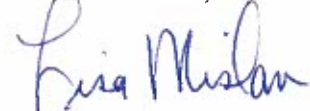
August School Board Meeting - Ms. Kaylyn Talton

COVID-19 Testing Program - Ms. Amanda Lowden

Service Dog - Ms. Selena Marin

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary