

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION MEETING

MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:14 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 Mislan, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson. Mr. Timothy Hester and Ms. Kathy Whittle were absent.

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 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. **Agency Reports**

1. **Vo-Tech** - Mr. Fred Peterson reported that the last meeting included a presentation of the student handbook and health and safety plan, with no other issues to report. Dr. McKinley added that the number of students who go the Vo-Tech is in the range of about 118-120, slightly up from last year.

C. **Financial Reports**

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

- D. **Covid-19 Update** - Dr. Vitale reported that Butler County COVID-19 cases are trending up and it is anticipated that the county will move from substantial to high this week. There are now four levels of community transmission through the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: low, moderate, substantial, and high. Local hospitals are experiencing an uptick but are not overwhelmed, to date.

COVID deaths in Butler County remain extremely low. Louisiana is leading the nation in COVID-19 cases with Florida and Texas not far behind.

As of August 4, 2021, Butler County was at 12.2 on a 14-day rolling average. Today, Butler County is up to 17 cases.

Within the Seneca Valley zip codes, we were at 3.4 cases as of August 4. As of today, August 9, we are at five - on a 14-day rolling average. On a seven-day rolling average, per 100,000 people, Butler County had 41.7 cases as of August 4. Twelve cases were reported, within the SV zip codes, over the weekend.

The Butler County difference in confirmed cases, for the most recent seven days vs. the previous seven days is up 65 cases as of August 5. The Butler County incidence rate for the most recent seven days per 100,000 people is at 60.7. Butler County PCR positivity rate is currently 7.3%, which is up from 4.2% last week, and 2.8% from two weeks ago.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) dashboard, 60.1% of Butler County's total population have their first vaccine dose and 56.1% are fully vaccinated. According to infection disease experts, this number should be 70% in order to slow the Delta variant. The Pfizer vaccine should be FDA approved as soon as August 15 or by early September.

At this time, Dr. Alison Beam, the Acting Secretary of Health, is recommending masks for school districts but it is not mandated at this time. Governor Wolf has also stated that he will not require masking; it will be a local decision.

The Pentagon is requiring that all active-duty military personnel be vaccinated by mid-September.

As of today, two COVID-19 cases have been reported from 12-month employees in Central Office.

Mr. Peterson noted that when an epidemiologist looks at an outbreak of infectious disease in a host population, the disease outbreak is categorized in three levels:

Endemic: A disease that is present at an approximately constant level.

Epidemic: A situation where a disease spreads rapidly to a large number of people in a short period of time.

Pandemic: The rapid spread of transmissible infectious disease over several continents or worldwide.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Public comment was heard from the following: 5 2 4 0
- Mr. Dan Coleman – Supporting universal masking
 - Mr. Jason Stevens – Return-to-School Plan
 - Mr. Michael Drop - Money, masks, CRT
 - Mr. Ben Bower – Return-to-School Plan
 - Mr. Matthew Hugus – Masking efficacy
 - Mr. Scott Callender – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Maria Madeja – Children's Rights
 - Mr. Shane Eckels – Supporting parental choice for masking and CRT
 - Mr. Tyler Bintrim – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Kelly Mediate – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Stephanie Lane – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Andrew Barclay – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Mr. Brandee Renz – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Stacy Adams – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Brianna Callender – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Jennifer Fiore – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Amy Gilbert – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Mr. Jason Stadtfeld – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Lindsey Douglass – Supporting parental choice for masking
 - Ms. Erin Kenyon – Supporting parental choice for masking/Return-to-School Plan

The school board conducted a voice vote to extend the Public Comment portion of this evening's agenda to extend beyond 30 minutes 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

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the treasurer's report, general fund bills and construction fund bills as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

7. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** - Mr. Jim Nickel, Vice President

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

1. Policy 201, Admission of Students, revised, first reading. Dr. McCarty
2. Policy 212, Reporting Student Progress, revised, first reading. Dr. McCarty
3. Policy 218, Student Discipline, revised, first reading. Dr. McKinley
4. Policy 718, Service Animals, revised, first reading. Ms. Bobak
5. Policy 008, Organizational Chart, revised, first reading. Ms. Bobak

B. **2021-22 Student-Teacher Calendar** - Approved 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** - Approved 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** - Approved the agreement between Pennsylvania State Education Association/Seneca Valley Education Association (PSEA/SVEA and Seneca Valley School District effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.
- E. **Cranberry Township Police Services Agreement** - Approved the police services agreement with Cranberry Township.

Mr. Pearson confirmed for Mr. Peterson that the family is transporting their child to North Catholic. Dr. Vitale added that the district is required to reimburse the family for transportation to parochial schools.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the board policies, 2021-22 student-teacher calendar, transportation contracts, agreement between PSEA/SVEA and SVSD, and the Cranberry Township Police Services Agreement as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

8. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services Agreement** - Approved the agreement for special education programs and services with Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2021-22 school year.
- B. **Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Agreement** - Approved 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** - Approved 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** - Approved the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide therapy services for the 2021-22 school year.
- E. **Sign Language Interpreting Professionals LLC Client Agreement** - Approved 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.

- F. **Epic Health Services, Inc. d/b/a Aveanna Healthcare Agreement** - Approved 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** - Approved the agreement with MHY Family Services to provide services during the 2021-22 school year.
- H. **Butler Area School District Program Placement Agreement** - Approved the program placement agreement with Butler Area School District to provide services during the 2021-22 school year.
- I. **School Assist Consulting, LLC Proposal** - Approved the School Assist Consulting, LLC proposal to provide professional development leadership coaching during the 2021-22 school year.
- J. **Grant Disbursements**
1. Granted 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.
 2. Granted 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.
- K. **Conferences** - Approved conference requests.
- L. **Emergency Resolution for Continuity of Instruction During COVID** - Renewed the COVID Emergency Instruction Resolution.
- M. **Early Admission** - Approved the early admission to Kindergarten for three students for the 2021-22 school year.

Mr. DiTullio acknowledged Dr. Palano and Dr. Eyles for their work on obtaining the two grants listed above.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the Instruction Action items as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

- N. **2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return to School** - Approved the 2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return to School.

Mr. Peterson noted that the article regarding the buildup of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) on masks has been retracted as being unscientific by the Journal of American Medical Association. He added that mask wearing is also used to protect others.

Mr. Widdowson added that he believes allowing the children to return to school, fully masked, is the safest way to return and that consistency will only benefit the children - and families as well.

Mr. Peterson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve the 2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return to School. Motion carried on a roll call vote with five in the affirmative and two no votes. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

Mr. Nickel made a special motion for administration to develop a quantitative measurement of local data by September 20, 2021 that would trigger a pivot from masks being optional to being required within the district. Mr. Jacobs stated his concern about establishing a specific numerical threshold and using it as related to the number of cases only.

Mr. Widdowson seconded the motion. Motion carried with six voting in the affirmative and one no vote. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

9. BUSINESS/FINANCES ACTION

- A. **Professional Lawn Care and Snow Removal Services** - Approved the agreement with Funyak Landscapes, L.P. for professional lawn care and snow removal services commencing on July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.
- B. **Sale of Properties** - Consented 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** - Approved the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.
- D. **Educational Consortium Consulting Service Agreement** - Approved 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.
- E. **Aquatics Center Adjusted Rental Rate for Seneca Valley Swim Club** - Revised current hourly rate per hour from \$35 to \$50.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the professional lawn care and snow removal contract, sale of properties, change orders, educational consortium consulting service agreement, and aquatics center adjusted rental rate for SV swim club as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

10. PERSONNEL - Approved the following personnel items:

- A. **Non-Renewal** - *Professional* - Stephanie Carney
- B. **Appointments** - *Administrative Substitute* - Megan Meeder; *Professional* - Phoebe Schoeneweis, Haley Landolina, Jennifer Roush, Erin Stewart, Susanna Wanamaker, Christine Estvanik; *Professional Substitutes* - Cameron Herrmann, Leslie Bullis, Jennifer Bunofsky, Michele Camilli, Zach Cene, Melissa Cipollone, Bonnie DeHart, Gerald DiPaola, Christopher Eden, Michelle Follett, Sharon Gallas, Melissa Greene, Ann Hahn, Geralynn Hood-Holt, Patricia Jandrovovic, Jennifer Keefer, Cynthia Knoechel, Anne Koch, Carol Kocur, Tara Krepp, Susan Leake, Kristy Long, Brenda McVicker, Natalie Miller, Bonnie Mitchell, Rachel Petelin, Souad Richani, Jennifer Richart, Barbara Rosenbaum; *Classified* - Deanna Kolarosky, Carla Rearick, Samantha Crowe, Nicholas Ranayhossaini, Stephanie Rosenwald, Janice DeHart, Tara Krepp, Teresa O'Malley; *Supplementals* - Kara Andres, Rebecca Beers,

Rebecca Bosco, James Bull, Lorie Chestnut, Keith Chrestay, Bobbi Cooper, Crystal Cypher, Larry Deal, Sarah Deeds, Jordan DiBucci, Jennifer Exler, Danielle Fagan, Katie Flanigan, Karen Fornadel, Marlesse Hames, Kristin Henry, Michael Henry, Adria Herlihy, Anita Hershberger, Susan Himic, Staci Hughes, Nicole Joyce, Jessica Kerr, Bria Koch, Tisha Konvolinka, Alex Krajniak, Traci Kuntz, Katherine Langley, Dean Leventopoulos, Meagan Loewy, Kenneth Macek, Lauren McClain, Mackenzie McGuire, Jenifer McMurray, Wendy McQuiston, Megan Meeder, Heather Melber, Tyler Mesisca, Chelsea Miller, Lynn Miller, Genevieve Morgan, Briana Nassan, Jennifer North, Megan Oldenski, Amy Palaski, Camden Palmer, Andrew Parker, Michael Pelloni, Linda Plesniak, Elizabeth Porco, Matthew Pournaras, James Pyle, Sinead Reeb, Tracy Richards, Chad Robertson, Christine Roe, John Roman, Grace Rupik, Andrew Russell, Erin Schollaert, Stephanie Schultz, Alicia Scopellite, Amy Seelbaugh, Amanda Shaheen, Heather Sibeto, Kelly Skwortz, Tiffany Smietana, Catherine Smolter, Michael Stebbins, Leigh Vagias, Clint Weltner, Larry Wendereusz, Jr., Kelly Weston, Jennifer Whitling, Rebecca Whitney, Erin Wildrick, Kevin Wildrick, Courtney Williams, Katie Wolford, Jason Woolslare, David Selner, Xiaojing Zhang, James Ziegler; *Internship* - Karissa Lambert

- C. **Contracted Services** - *Artist in Residence* - Clint Bleil
- D. **Leaves** - *Administration* - Lauri Pendred; *Professional* - Chelsea Patricca, Sinead Reeb
- E. **Retirement** - *Professional* - Margaret Lockovich

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the personnel items as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative. Mr. Hester and Ms. Whittle were absent.

11. **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 August 9, 2021 public agenda:

Livestreaming of Board Meetings/Posting of Audio

- Ms. Kelly Pyle
- Ms. Karli Szweda
- Ms. Andrea Tucker
- Ms. Maria Madeja
- Ms. Karli Szweda
- Ms. Sandra Zugell
- Ms. Kristie Long

In Favor of Masks Required

- Ms. Andrea Tucker
- Ms. Kyra Barbiaux
- Ms. Monica Stephansky
- Mr. Pavel Puchkarev
- Ms. Amanda Lowden
- Ms. Amanda Davidson
- Ms. Sarah Diefenderfer

- Ms. Susan McDowell
- Ms. Shanna Janovsky
- Ms. Ashley Jones
- Dr. Shannon Mihalacki
- Ms. Kristie Long
- Ms. Holly Thiel

In Favor of Masks Optional

- Ms. Erin Donahue
- Mr. Andrew and Ms. Debbie Barclay
- Ms. Katie Koller
- Ms. Lesley Bruns
- Ms. Alison Irvin
- Ms. Beth Lauer
- Mr. Mark Bidoli
- Ms. Jodi Fulmer
- Ms. Stephanie Lane
- Ms. Erin Kenyon

Critical Race Theory (CRT)

- Ms. Amy Gilbert
- Ms. Margaret Shutak

Property Taxes

- Mr. Gene Brown

Cancel Culture

- Mr. John Nesbitt

On-Site Vaccination Clinic

- Mr. Jeremy Bloom

Petition for Early Kindergarten Enrollment

- Ms. Talea Limonciello

12. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, President

Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary