

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES

September 20, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sean Monahan, a third grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, "I Led the Pledge" by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - 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.

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; Mr. Jim Pearson, Transportation Director; Dr. Marie Palano, Supervisor of Analytics and Federal Programs; Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement; and Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **SV All-Star Award Winner, September 2021** - Sue White, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Cafeteria Manager, was recognized as September's SV All-Star Award Winner.
- B. **Dates to Remember** - Ms. Andreassi announced the following dates to remember:

October 1	SAT Testing at Seneca Valley Sr. High School
October 2	National Custodian Workers Recognition Day
October 4	School Board Work Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Randy Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, acknowledged the district's 33 custodial staff members by name and years of service.

- C. **Seneca Valley Foundation Quarterly Report** - Ms. Annie Mersing provided an SVF Quarterly update as follows:

Gift of Hope Golf Classic, August 5, 2021

- 9th annual event profited \$33,000
- 124 golfers and 39 sponsors
- Gold Sponsors: Penna Flame Industries and Comdoc

Major Gifts Acknowledged

- Jim and Eileen Wrubel - \$10,000 dedicated to creating and maintaining a Raider Space Maker Summer Camp for our exceptional students which was spearheaded by Mr. Steve Fortunato in the Senior High
- Parag and Urmi Batavia - \$10,000 dedicated to our Robotics Program and SWEET (Seneca's Women Engineering Exploration Team)
- Marathon Petroleum Company (formerly MarkWest) - \$4,500 for outdoor learning equipment
- In Memory - \$4,480 donated in memory of Mr. Jamie Thomas, dedicated to the Athletics Department
- Duquesne Light Company and Ms. Katherine Davis - \$3,000 dedicated to CVE
- In Memory - \$1,400 donated in memory of Mr. Jason G. Wehrle who once served on the SV school board and was a Foundation Trustee

SVF Trustees have recently approved funding for the following

- Tents for outdoor learning at the elementary schools and a tent for the Homecoming dance
- In partnership with Marathon Petroleum Company, acquired 225 folding chairs for the secondary campus to allow students and staff more outdoor learning opportunities
- A sensory path in CVE's play area to compliment the work being done by Project Playground
- Mindfulness training for staff that will offer guidance in stress management and self-care
- In partnership with Dr. Stephanie Rhoads of Rhoads Orthodontics in Cranberry, Eckles Construction, and Armstrong, we funded the district's Welcome Back Event
- Free-to-Shop Store in the Senior High School which is available to all secondary students in the district. Created by paraprofessional Michelle Eppinger and Assistant Principal Amanda Mallin, this shop welcomes students-in-need to a real-life shopping experience of clothing and toiletries. More information to come regarding donating new or gently used clothing to this worthy project.

Ms. Mersing closed by asking anyone who wishes to contribute to or become involved with the Foundation to contact her directly. <https://www.svsd.net/domain/1132>

- D. **Robert Morris University All Academy Event** - Dr. Tracy Vitale announced the representatives from the United States Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy will be hosting a Military Service Academy Night for students interested in attending one of our nations Service Academies.

WHEN: Thursday, September 30, 2021, 6 p.m.

WHERE: Robert Morris University, Yorktown Hall, 8256 University Blvd, Moon Township, PA (across from Moon Township High School)

- E. **Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)** – Dr. Jeff Roberts announced that PAYS has been conducted at schools across Pennsylvania every other odd year for over 30 years. The survey administration is supported through the PA Department of Education (PADOH), the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol programs. Survey questions ask students about school climate, violence, depression, bullying, and substance abuse. Student names

are not tied to the survey submissions and no student data can be obtained from the data set collected. Results are reported in aggregate from to the school district, county, and state-wide levels. As of Friday, 377 of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts plan to participate in the PAYS survey, slightly more than 75%. At Seneca Valley, students in grades 8, 10, and 12 will participate. Participation is voluntary and students can skip questions if they do not wish to answer. Parents can alert their building Assistant Principal if they do not want their children to participate. The four Butler County school districts participating include Butler Area, Karns City, Moniteau, and Seneca Valley. Results from the 2019 survey supported the need for SV to address vaping among our teens. Information will be sent to parents and guardians via School Messenger in the month of October. A full report back will be provided in April 2022.

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

Butler County

- The most recent 7-day period vs. previous 7-day period shows Butler County up by 97 reported cases
- The incidence rate for the most recent seven days per 100,000 is 329.5
- The PCR positivity rate for the most recent seven days is 13.8%
- The difference in the average daily COVID-19 hospitalizations is up by 11.5
- Butler Memorial has 44 confirmed COVID-19 cases to date with six in the ICU and five deaths reported over the weekend
- Number of new daily cases on a 14-day rolling average = 113.6

Seneca Valley Dashboard

- Active student cases = 16
- Students in quarantine = 66
- Active staff cases = 3
- Staff in quarantine = 1

SV Zip Codes

- Number of new daily cases on a 14-day rolling average = 57 throughout the weekend

Other Disruptions

- Cafeteria employees, custodians, custodian subs, bus drivers, and teacher subs are needed

G. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Athletics
5. Food Services
6. Tax Collection Reports
7. Capital Project Funds

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

- a. Ms. Erin McClymonds
- b. Ms. Andrea Tucker
- c. Dr. Peter Sylves
- d. Mr. Mike Vardaro
- e. Ms. Megan Ashead

- f. Mr. John Ciganik
- g. Mr. Kevin Strayhorn
- h. Ms. Angela Priddi
- i. Mr. Nick Brower
- j. Ms. Sylena Smith
- k. Ms. Emily Droesch
- l. Mr. Dennis Davis
- m. Mr. Christ Marnik, Jr.
- n. Ms. Stephanie Lane

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

- A. **Work Session** - August 2, 2021
- B. **Action Meeting** - August 9, 2021
- C. **Special Meeting** - August 23, 2021

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

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** - Approved the general fund bills totaling \$3,788,020.86

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - Approved the construction fund bills totaling \$2,657,435.60

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

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** - Approved revision to the 2021-22 Seneca Valley School District Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the revised 2021-22 Seneca Valley District Health and Safety Plan. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**

- A. **Book Disposal** - Approved the sale or recycling of outdated and obsolete books from the Ryan Gloyer Middle School and the Intermediate High School.
- B. **Glade Run Lutheran Services Partial Hospitalization Program Agreement** - Approved the Glade Run Lutheran Services Partial Hospitalization Program Agreement. Dr. Roberts.
- C. **Non-Public Title I Services Agreement** - Approved the Third Party Letter of Agreement for Nonpublic Title I Services with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Palano.

Mr. Peterson asked the administration to create a summary report of grants received and pertinent detail to reference over the years. Dr. Vitale stated we would have that ready by the November board meeting.

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

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCES ACTION** - Mr. Mike Jacobs

- A. **Change Orders** - Approved the construction change orders for Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School.

- B. **Sale of Properties** - Consented to the sale of a property located within Seneca Valley School District by the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau. Parcel #400-S1-B100-0000
- C. **Natural Gas Agreement Extensions** - Approved the agreement extensions for the supply of natural gas for our school buildings with Direct Energy and UGI Energy Services for the term of September 2022 through August 2025, as recommended by the Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium (AIU3 joint purchasing).
- D. **ACT 32 Tax Collection Committee** - Appointed Linda Mackenstein, Cranberry Township Financial Analyst, as an additional alternate voting delegate to the Act 32 Tax Collection Committee for Butler County on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District. This appointment is effective immediately and shall continue until terminated by the Board.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve items A, B, C, and D as listed above. 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* - Sarah McKissick; *Professional Substitutes* - William Crummy, Jennifer Guidice, Kathleen Hippert, Julie Junker, Laura Kellar, Anissa Tekelenburg, Kathy Williamson; *Classified* - Kayla White, Shannon Howley, Naomi Yarzebinski; *Supplementals* - Kayla Keown, Briana Nassan; Jenifer McMurray
- B. **Addendum**
- C. **Contracted Services** - *Artist in Residence* - Younga Reitz
- D. **Leaves** - *Professional* - Rebecca Grinnen, Rebecca Whitney, Cara Martin; *Classified* - Michelle Eppinger

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to approve the appointments, addendum, contracted services and leaves 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 September 13, 2021 public agenda:

- Erin McClymonds
- Stephanie Lane
- Heather Condon
- Kaylan Hunter
- Lynn Knepp
- Ben Bower
- Jennifer Markham
- Erika Costanzo
- Matt Herrick
- Duane Cerra
- Kelly Scott
- Dale Reckless

- Peter Sylves
- Haine Middle School Staff
- Mark Bidoli
- Lena Dornetto
- Tatiana Brower
- Shannon Mihalacki
- Kristie Long
- Aubrey Hart
- Emily Drosch

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Peterson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary