

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Seneca Valley High School Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

**January 11, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, at 7:18 p.m.

- A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for those who died – and in recognition of the many who were injured - during last week’s violence at the United States Capitol in Washington D.C.

Also, for Mr. Jason Wehrle who served the Seneca Valley School Board for nearly six years (2008-2013). In 2014, Mr. Wehrle was appointed to the Seneca Valley Foundation Board of Trustees and was a current and active member during his time of passing. An incredibly committed and supportive presence in our District, Mr. Wehrle was at Seneca Valley Administration Offices as recently as Dec. 14, when he dropped off gifts for our holiday wish program to benefit SV students in need. He will be deeply missed.

Mr. DiTullio stated that the district, in partnership with the Seneca Valley Foundation, are in the process of developing a memorial scholarship in Mr. Wehrle’s memory. Details to be shared once finalized.

- B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Ophelia Vossah, a fourth grader at Haine Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, “I Led the Pledge,” by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. Lisa Mislan, 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 Jr., 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, Director of Communications; Mr. Gerald Miller, Special Education and Gifted Director; Mr. Randy Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds; Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletic Director; Dr. Marie Palano, Supervisor of Analytics and Federal Programs; Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Supervisor of Gifted Education and Student Services; Mr. James Pearson, Director of Transportation; Ms. Annie Mersing, Director of Advancement; Mr. Jeffrey James, Director of Safety and Security; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; Mr. Tyler Bintrim; Ms. Kristen White; Ms. Kim Blakley

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Linda Andreassi announced that Senior Cierra Denny has been named a semifinalist in the 2021 Coca-Cola Scholars Program, and is now moving to the next round of the selection process for the elite title of Coca-Cola Scholar.

B. **Dates to Remember** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following dates to remember:

January 1-31	School Board Director Recognition Month
January 12	SVAOC (Cyber) End of First Semester, Grades 7-12
January 15	End of First Semester, Grades 7-12
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and In-Service Day, No School for Students
January 19 (Tuesday)	School Board Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. in/on SVIHS Auditorium/Zoom
January 26	Report Card Release, Grades 7-12
February 1	School Board Work Session Meeting, SVIHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Fred Peterson, Jr. reported that the Vo-Tech is in cohort model and that attendance numbers are 75% or better. Vo-Tech continues to deliver materials that are of interest and serve our students well. Mr. Peterson noted that the Vo-tech is governed by a Joint Operating Committee (JOC). Butler School District has four members on the board; South Butler and Seneca Valley both have two members on the board; Karns City, Mars, Moniteau, and Slippery Rock School Districts each have one member on the board. As requested by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Vo-tech was asked to sign an attestation form. The form was signed; however, Butler objected to the attestation process and asked the JOC to send a second letter to Harrisburg also objecting. This letter was approved by the JOC to be signed and sent. The JOC is awaiting a response.

Mr. Jacobs mentioned that Mr. Peterson is the new Vice President on the Butler County Vo-Tech board.

Mr. Jacobs noted that in 2010, the Vo-Tech undertook capital projects to improve or add to the building in the amount of about \$9 million to help fund the projects. They are voting on the refinancing of some of these bonds. Seneca Valley did not participate in the bond issue, instead contributed in cash. Seneca Valley is required to vote on the refinancing; however, there is no financial impact on the district since we did not participate in the bond issuance.

2. I.U. IV – Mr. DiTullio reported that the Martha Street property, purchased for \$1 approximately seven years ago, sold for \$41,000. The sale was approved by the board. Harrisburg must also approve the sale. Closing is set for later in January. The next I.U. IV meeting is on January 26, 2021.

D. **Legislative** – Mr. Peterson stated that at the federal level, Betsy DeVoss, Secretary of Education, resigned. President-elect Biden has nominated Dr. Miguel Cardona. At the state level, Mr. Peterson noted that there is a republican majority in the Senate and in the House. Governor Wolf is scheduled to give 2021-22 budget address on February 22, 2021.

E. **Financial Reports** – The following reports were provided in the backup materials:

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Athletics
5. Food Service

6. Tax Collections
7. Capital Projects Funds

Mr. Peterson noted that there are unused class funds from 2010 and asked that we disburse these funds and put them to good use to benefit our activities.

- F. **Bond Issue** – Ms. Alisha Reesh Henry, Managing Director, PNC Capital Markets, and Mr. Christopher Brewer, Partner, Dismore & Shohl.

Ms. Alisha Reeshe Henry spoke about a proposed bond issue, referencing a two-page handout. She noted that this is a well-analyzed and planned financing dating back to 2018 when the first phase of the elementary school project was financed. The presentation shows the existing aggregate debt service on a fiscal year basis for the Seneca Valley School District as of today extends to 2032 and totals \$108,166,875. We are contemplating borrowing \$25,000,000 with an estimated closing date of February 24, 2021. In working with Ms. Lynn Burtner, PNC is targeting a year-over-year change of \$450,000 budgetarily. Principal will be wrapped around existing bonds and debt would be extended to only 2034. In the proforma, we are capitalizing interest in fiscal year 2022 to achieve the \$450,000 target. Ms. Henry noted that interest rates are very attractive with an all-in true interest cost (TIC) of 2.48%. Should the resolution be adopted, bonds will be sold on Thursday, January 21, 2021 with funds in hand by the end of February.

Mr. Nickel asked Ms. Henry to explain how we are capitalizing on interest in 2022. Ms. Henry clarified that we are borrowing interest as part of the bond issue.

Dr. Vitale asked for a brief review of how Seneca Valley compares, with regard to debt ratio, to other similarly sized districts. Ms. Henry noted that Seneca Valley is PNC's highest rated school district client and we are doing exceptionally well. She added that our debt is fairly short, under 15 years, and that the district goes above and beyond to be sure we are doing what is best for our constituents. To be able to afford this project, much planning, thought, and consideration was put into the effort.

Mr. Peterson asked what impact PlanCon may have on this transaction. Ms. Henry noted that she cannot assess a monetary value; however, if PlanCon would become available in the future, this could become a PlanCon eligible project and we could complete all necessary steps.

Mr. DiTullio noted that Seneca Valley's debt service is less than 8% of our budget, much lower than some other school districts.

- G. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Update** – Dr. Vitale

Dr. Vitale provided an update on past, present, and future district efforts as follows:

- Our leadership team has worked with Dr. Trisha Gadson from March 2019 to present.
- Dr. Roberts talked briefly about the Community Stakeholders and Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment (SHOUT) program.

**Where we have been:**

- **District-wide Diversity Committee** – established 20 years ago
- **Diversity Committee Members** comprised of employees and community-at-large members
- **Student Diversity Committee** - created at the secondary level in 2015
- **Diversity Consultant** (2012-current) - Dr. Gadson began working with our Diversity Committee as a consultant in 2012-13.
- **Dr. Gadson** has a Ph.D. in Community Engagement from Point Park University, a Master of Science in professional leadership with a concentration in training and program development from Carlow University. She also attended Syracuse University obtaining a Bachelor of Science in psychology. Mrs. Gadson began a career in child welfare at the Newport News, Virginia, Department of Social

Services as a Child Protective Service Worker. Following her relocation to Pennsylvania, she began her tenure with Allegheny County Children Youth and Family Services. **Dr. Gadson** is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center, (FACE), the social service outreach agency of Macedonia Church in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. She is a DEI consultant and a recognized diversity and inclusion trainer obtaining training from the National Multicultural Institute. She also serves as a trainer and curriculum writer for the Child Welfare Training Program of the University of Pittsburgh and is a former member of the board of directors for the McKeesport Area School District. In 2019, Dr. Gadson began her official work as a consultant with her LLC called "Racial Engagement" <https://www.racialengagement.com/>

- **Our work with Dr. Gadson** - During the 2012-13 school year, Dr. Gadson spent the entire year working with the District Diversity Committee on diversity inclusion training and assisted with the development of our mission, vision statement and goals. During 2016-17 school year, as a follow up to her previous work with the committee, Ms. Bobak asked her to return for two to three meetings. The purpose of Ms. Bobak's request at the time was to have Dr. Gadson challenge our thinking and practices from an outside perspective and an expert in the field. During this time, Dr. Gadson also supported another revision to the mission statement and challenged us to rethink our approach. In addition, she previously facilitated sessions through our new teacher induction program.
- **New Teacher Induction Training** – All new teachers to the district receive a half day of diversity training with Dr. Gadson (began in 2013-14)
- **Hiring Practices** – Re-vamped our hiring process and interview protocols to ensure fairness and objectivity (2008). Dr. Vitale's dissertation (2009) was on Hiring Practices. Our interview protocols are based off the work of Dr. James H. Stronge & Dr. Jennifer L. Hindman from William and Mary. These protocols are under review again.
- **Diversifying our Workforce** - In the summer of 2019, Dr. Vitale and Ms. Bobak contacted Dr. Gadson for advice on how to recruit and hire more teacher candidates of color. Dr. Gadson outlined a comprehensive plan during the summer of 2019. The district contracted with Dr. Gadson for comprehensive diversity training for the entire leadership team (45) for the 2019-20 school year. Below are samples of our training topics and or agenda(s).
- **Professional Reading and Learning for Leaders of the District** - Fall of 2019, executive CORE team read the book, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo.

**September 2019 - Objectives/topics/themes that Dr. Gadson's outlined in her proposal for leadership training sessions.**

**Title of Training: Racial Equity and Inclusion**

**Objectives:**

- To observe and assess Seneca Valley's organizational culture.
- To present information and facilitate racialized conversations at each meeting.
- To survey the leadership team on their comfort level in having racialized conversations.

**Topics and themes included (but not be limited to):**

- Courageous conversation protocol
- Silence Dialogue
- Color blindness
- White fragility
- Deficit Thinking
- Community engaged pedagogy
- Terminology of race, racism, opportunity gaps
- Redlining
- Black History
-

**October 22, 2019**

- Dr. Gadson introduced her background and the work we will be undertaking.

Monthly meetings were held until the pandemic began in March 2020.

**Where we are going, what we will do next, and our commitment to do better:**

- Take a posture of listening.
- Provide comprehensive professional development for all employees.
- Train our teachers to have racialized conversations.
- Compile and provide resources to our students, teachers and community.
- Examine our curriculum, K-12, for implicit bias, prejudice or racism and address findings.
- Examine our school district policies for implicit bias, prejudice or racism and address findings.
- Provide building-level professional libraries/resources for teachers.
- Engage our black and brown alumni.
- Continue to roll out teacher diversity training.

**Last month's leadership team meeting (December 2021)**

- Reviewed technical vs. adaptive changes
- Discussed the need for systemic change
- Developed a framework - **The Casey Tool developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation** – “7 steps to advance and embed race equity and inclusion within your organization”
- Increased racial consciousness and developed racial literacy
- Begin work on a DEI Statement to the public and building DEI as a culture
- Examples and reflections of where we are and what we have done from the CORE team:
  - Dr. Vitale – Community Stakeholder Meeting, School Board Updates, Regional Collaboration
  - Dr. McKinley – Curriculum meetings and new history course plans
  - Dr. McCarty- Vetting book/ and resource list
  - Ms. Bobak – HR – DEI questions/interview protocols and recruitment discussion with Dr. Gadson
  - Dr. Roberts – Community Stakeholder Meeting Logistics and Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment (SHOUT) student meeting
  - Dr. Palano – Data, composition of our district, programming, English as a Second Language (ESL) and intervention
- Coaching sessions – Dr. Gadson will conduct with the CORE team every month
- This month – Principal and director reports about DEI:
  - What have you done with DEI since March?
  - Success or challenges?
  - Technical vs. adaptive
  - If you have not done anything, what will you do and what is your timeline?

Dr. Jeffery Roberts noted that this year's meetings have been focused on parents and community members. We discovered the need to better involve our community and listen to parents and alumni. The Community Diversity Committee was founded this past summer, 2020, to proactively get input. Community is in the majority while having these dialogues. The next meeting will be held in February 2021.

South Fayette School District invited districts to collaborate by participating in the SHOUT program where students learn how to be “helping hands” and promote diversity in the community.

The committee is currently open to students in grades 9-12 with the hope of including our middle school grade 8 students in the future. Districts that participate include Fox Chapel, Hampton, Kiski, Avonworth, Chartiers Valley, South Fayette, and Canon-McMillan.

Mr. Jacobs asked if Dr. Gadson, or any other consultants we have spoken to, have given opinions on traditional measures of success among diverse and nondiverse students, using those as a measure of success. Dr. Vitale stated that we have not had discussions related to numbers but rather our system and being inclusive and having discussions about equity when it comes to student learning. We want to make sure we are welcoming to all and ensuring inclusiveness.

#### H. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Vitale

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

##### Quantitative Data:

- There are currently five active staff cases (two at SHS, two HMS, one at CVE), and one active student case (HMS). (Grades 7-12 is not yet back and elementary, K-6, was only in four days last week). However, we do have 75 students and 12 staff fulfilling quarantines due to exposures outside of school primarily over winter break.
- **Community Transmission Rate** - Butler County is still listed as “substantial” in community transmission. To get back to “moderate” we need to have less than 100 new case in a seven-day period and hit other benchmarks like PCR positivity rate that would need to be lower than 10%.
- **Local data** - SV Zip Codes – when we first opened school, we were seeing four to five new cases on average in a week in our county. Now, we are seeing 150-200 new cases per day on average. Our latest 14-day rolling average for SV zip codes was 156 new cases per day.
- **New Thresholds for Closing an Individual School Building [Responding to COVID-19 Case\(s\) at School \(pa.gov\)](#)** (When looking at this chart, please know that all of our elementary schools are “medium” size and all of our secondary buildings 7-12 are considered “large” buildings based on current enrollment and PDE’s classifications.
- **Six feet social distancing “when unmasked” is now required** in schools when a county is in “substantial.” In the latest update from PDE & DOH, we must keep students six feet apart when they are eating. We cannot meet this standard in our five-day in person model. Only in cohort can we even come close to meeting this requirement. Even in cohort, this will be tough – but we will make it happen. Under the old rules it was “when feasible” at lunch and we used plexiglass. Plexiglass is a good mitigator but unfortunately does not meet the current guidance when the mask is down during eating.
- **COVID deaths** in County Butler county total 252 since the beginning of the pandemic (a majority have been in late November - December).
- **Staffing** continues to be critically low due to quarantines. If we hit 25 teachers in quarantine, we may not be able to staff our buildings. We are currently at 16 total staff in quarantine.
- **Quarantine time period** has been lowered to ten days in some circumstances.
- **Testing availability is still problematic;** however, a rapid test is now acceptable if NO known exposure and no symptoms. Rapid tests are limited locally.

##### Local Medical Experts

- **Dr. David Rottinghaus**, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs, Emergency Medicine Specialist at Butler Health System
- **Dr. John Love**, Butler Health System Infectious Disease Doctor
- **Dr. Greg Hellier**, UPMC Emergency Medicine
- **Fred Peterson**, school board member, background in public health

##### Butler County COVID Cases

- **PCR Positivity Rate** (most recent seven days January 1-7) = 14.4% (down from 16.5%)
- **Incidence Rate** (most recent 7 days January 1-7 per 100,000 residents) = 294.9 (down from the previous week at 317.2)
- **Differences in weekly confirmed cases** (most recent seven days vs. previous seven days -January 1-7 compared to Dec. 25-31) – down by 55 cases

- **Butler County Daily COVID rate** [Pennsylvania Data \(pa.gov\)](#) sort by county and expand graph to see a visual. The 14-day rolling average was 143.1 (this is the lowest 14-day rolling average since 12/11/20). We will see what the rest of this week brings, post-holidays.
- **Zip Code COVID Cases** [Pennsylvania Data \(pa.gov\)](#) click on tab at bottom to see specific zip codes in our school district
- **SV COVID Dashboard** [COVID-19 / SV COVID-19 Dashboard \(svsd.net\)](#)

**Statewide percent positivity for the week of January 1-7 came down to 14.4%.** [Pennsylvania Data \(pa.gov\)](#)

**COVID Vaccinations** – Dr. Vitale has been and will continue to advocate for teachers and other school employee groups to receive priority for the COVID vaccination. However, please note that the PADOH has a detailed vaccination plan already in place with tiered priority groups delineated. [COVID-19 Interim Vaccination Plan \(pa.gov\)](#)– see page 14 for educators. Teachers, school staff that work directly with students are in group “1b” – “**Critical Workers.**” Please know “1b” is not yet a group open to receive the vaccination in a majority of counties in Pennsylvania. However, all Butler County school nurses were included in the current group with frontline responders and offered vaccination at the Butler Hospital Vaccine Clinic this week. Some are even scheduled today. Dr. Vitale is happy for them and explains how fortunate we are to have our own hospital in this county that is committed to supporting our schools. She is hopeful that, as the Butler Hospital System receives more vaccine doses, it will continue to be offered to our frontline people (if they so choose). Dr. Vitale said she plans to work closely with union leaders and supervisors in non-union groups so that when the “1b” group opens for educators who work closely with children, she is prepared to assist the hospital in scheduling.

**EAP (Employee Assistance Program)** – We recognize that this pandemic has taken a toll on everyone’s mental health. With this in mind, our health care consortium has contracted with a company (Washington EAP) to provide information about life services, mental health services, etc. to our employees. More details to come this month. In the meantime, Dr. Vitale encourages any employee covered by our insurance plan in need of mental health services for themselves or their covered family members to call 1-800-241-5704 (this number is located on the back of the insurance card.)

**Grief** – Dr. Vitale urges anyone that has had a family member or friend pass away from COVID, or non-COVID related reasons, to seek free confidential assistance and or counseling from the Highmark Caring Place in Warrendale. [Highmark Caring Place: About Us — Locations, Warrendale region, Highmark Caring Place: Resources for Grieving Families during COVID-19](#)

### **Operational Questions:**

- **Why did elementary K-6 return before grades 7-12?**
  - COVID Transmission - According to the public health experts, all the latest research indicates that children ages 10 and below are not transmitting the virus like teenagers or adults (M. Olsterholm & PADOH). They are still getting COVID, but do not seem to be the ones transmitting it to others. While they are still getting the virus, much of our anecdotal research here at Seneca Valley has indicated that young children that contract the virus are getting it from their parents and grandparents. This would parallel what the health experts are telling us.
  - Academics - The remote environment, while challenging for students of all ages, is extremely challenging for our youngest learners.
  - Socialization – The older children typically have more social interaction options with social networks (sports, extracurriculars and virtual networks like social media and gaming) as compared to our youngest learners.

Last week PADOH/PDE issued new guidance regarding instructional models (1/7/21). The guidance permits blended (cohort) learning as an allowable option for elementary schools in counties experiencing Substantial Community Transmission. Seneca Valley began utilizing the cohort model for elementary students on 1/5/21.

The guidance DOES NOT recommend that the full-in person model of instruction be employed by any schools in substantial transmission counties.

Keeping our children in hybrid cohort is our best chance of keeping them in school longer while we are in “substantial”. It also permits us to have less quarantines as a result of close contact in school.

- **If ages 10 and below are not transmitting the virus like 11 and up, why not categorize grades 5 and 6 with our secondary schools?**
  - The data on ages 11-12 seem to also indicate a lower transmission rate but some health experts divide this age group. For instance, our Secretary of Health excluded children “over the age of 11” from testing or quarantining when traveling.
- **When can we return to the 5-day-a-week model?**
  - The PADOH and PDE made it very clear back in November that we must now stay in hybrid (cohort) until our county goes back to the “moderate” category for two consecutive weeks.
- **Data over winter break compared to Fall (staff safety)**  
Dr. Vitale stated, “In approximately 20 weeks (August 20 – December 22) or 125 days, we had only 40 staff members out of nearly 900 report that they had contracted COVID. However, over the winter break (while not in school) in only 12 days we had 12 staff members report that they were positive for COVID.
- **Will we have future long-term shutdowns where we must go fully remote?**
  - All future closures will be temporary and driven by COVID cases and this chart (until/if/when PDE and or the PADOH changes it again). [Responding to COVID-19 Case\(s\) at School \(pa.gov\)/Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19](#). Please note that all our elementary schools are considered “medium” and RGMS, IHS and SHS are considered “large.” During a temporary closure, adults will continue to come into our buildings, unless instructed otherwise by administration, and students will learn remotely.

#### **Medium Buildings (elementary schools)**

Four to six cases = three to seven-day closure

Seven or more cases = close 14 days

#### **Large Buildings (grades 7-12)**

Six to ten cases = three to seven-day closure

Eleven or more cases = close 14 days

Mr. Peterson suggested that the administration draft a letter of thanks to the Butler Health System for all the support and information they have provided to the district.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approve the following meeting minutes:
  - A. **Reorganization Meeting** – December 7, 2020
  - B. **Action Meeting** – December 7, 2020
4. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approve the treasurer’s report.
5. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approve the general fund bills.  
Grand Total: \$6,316,482.95
6. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approve the construction fund bills.  
Grand Total: \$5,590,141.23



7. **ADMINISTRATION** – Mr. DiTullio

- A. **Board Policies** – Approve the following board policies:
  - 1. Policy 212 – Reporting Student Progress, revised, first reading – Dr. McKinley
  - 2. Policy 217 – Graduation Requirements, revised, first reading – Dr. Palano
  - 3. Policy 218.4 – Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault, revised, first reading – Dr. McKinley
- B. **School Bus Drivers** – Approve the list of new bus drivers since September 21, 2020 for ABC Transit and Valley Lines.
- C. **Revised Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan** – Dr. Palano – Approve the revised phased reopening health and safety plan.

8. **INSTRUCTION** – Ms. Susan Harrison – Approve conference request.

9. **BUSINESS/FINANCE** – Mr. Mike Jacobs

- A. **Vo-Tech/Vo-Tech Authority Bond Refinancing** – Approve Resolution A and Resolution B regarding an agreement between the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School and the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical Authority regarding a proposed bond refinancing project.
- B. **ABC Transit Agreement Addendum** – Approve the ABC Transit Agreement Addendum.
- C. **Valley Lines, Inc. Agreement Addendum** – Approve the Valley Lines, Inc. Agreement Addendum.
- D. **Change Orders** – Approve the construction change orders for the new K-6 elementary school at Ehrman Road.
- E. **Budget Resolution** – Approve the budget resolution indicating that the district will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2021-22 fiscal year by more than 3%, which is the Act 1 index for the district as established by the Department of Education.
- F. **Bond Issue Resolution** – Authorize the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation bonds, Series of 2021 in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed twenty-seven million nine hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$27,975,000); covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity, redemption and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing a filing of required documents with the Department of Community and Economic Development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds.

10. **PERSONNEL** – Mr. Jeff Widdowson – Approve resignations, appointments, leaves, financial incentive program for professional substitutes, and memorandum of understanding.

11. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from the following:

December 7, 2020

- Mr. Mark Bidoli – Questions about Dec 7 email from the district
- Ms. Emily King – Suggestion for returning to cohort learning and note of thanks
- Ms. Julie Jones – Suggestions for remote learning

December 11, 2020

- Ms. Leigh Ptak – Question about remote learning on Fridays
- Ms. Stephanie Lane – Covid-19 vaccine and testing
- Ms. Jill Manns - Hockey
- Mr. Steve Elliott – Opening while in “substantial” and community transmission

December 16, 2020

- Ms. Gina Zigrossi – Mental health concerns with remote and cohort learning
- Ms. Deborah Bailey – Need for in-person instruction
- Ms. Stephanie Lane – Need for in-person instruction

January 4, 2021

- Mr. Bryan Patricca – Safety of all staff and children
- Ms. Beth Lauer – Need for in-person instruction
- Ms. Jill Hart – Remaining remote until full time, in-person
- Ms. Katherine Peterson – Political leadership, pandemic impact
- Ms. Dana Chappell – Clarification of virtual schedule made in Nov

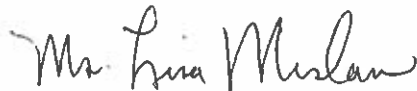
January 6 - 11, 2021

- Mr. Jerry DeRosa – Concern with return to in-person instruction
- Mr. Kyle Ford – Widespread testing results and lower positivity rates
- Mr. Mark Bidoli – Sport activities attendance and return to school
- Ms. Erin Donahue – Five day in-person instruction
- Ms. Sarah Cardosi – Five day in-person instruction and student mental health
- Ms. Beth Benson – Reuse of plexiglass

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT** was made by Mr. Tyler Bintrim regarding return to school and a new way of thinking regarding COVID-19, asking that the focus be more on five days of in-person instruction.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Ms. Lisa Mislan, Board Secretary