

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Teleconference - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

August 31, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. James Nickel, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – Mr. Nickel opened the meeting with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Nickel led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. 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 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; and a press representative.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

September 1	Act 80 Day
September 2	Virtual Student Orientation
September 3	Virtual Student Orientation
September 4	Virtual Student Orientation
September 7	Labor Day Holiday, District Closed
September 8	First Physical Day of School for Students, Cohort B, last names M-Z
September 9	First Physical Day of School for Students, Cohort A, last names A-L
September 10	In Person Instruction, Cohort B
September 11	In Person Instruction, Cohort A
September 11	Patriot Day
September 14	School Board Meeting, Zoom Teleconference, 7:00 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was heard from Ms. Stephanie Lane.

4. ADMINISTRATION ACTION – Mr. Eric DiTullio

A. Board Policies – Approved the following board policies.

1. #138 – Language Instruction Educational Program, revised, first reading.
– Dr. Marie Palano
2. #212 – Reporting Student Progress, revised, first and final reading. – Dr. Sean McCarty
3. #104 – Nondiscrimination in Employment/Contract Practices, revised, first reading – Ms. Kyra Bobak
4. #103 – Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices – revised, first reading – Ms. Kyra Bobak

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the policies as listed above.

5. INSTRUCTION ACTION – Ms. Susan Harrison

A. Grant Approvals and Disbursements – Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants.

1. The Highmark Foundation School Grant in the amount of \$3,000. The funds will be used to support programs in bullying prevention, environmental health, physical activity and nutrition education, and school-based health at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.
2. The Competitive Integrated Employment Grant funded by PaTTAN in the amount of \$30,000 to provide special needs students with community-based work experiences. Funds obtained will be used for additional job coaches, paid work experiences, curriculum, uniforms and transportation.

B. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar – Approved the revised 2020-21 school calendar.

C. Memorandum of Understanding – Seneca Valley Education Association (SVEA) – Approved the memorandum of understanding on livestreaming and virtual code of conduct between the Seneca Valley Education Association (SVEA) and Seneca Valley School District (SVSD) through July 2, 2021.

D. MIU IV Third Party Letter of Agreement for Non-Public Title I Services – Approved the Title I service agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for the 2020-21 school year.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve resolutions A, B, C, and D as listed above. Motion carried with all present voting in the affirmative.

E. Revised Health and Safety Plan for Return to Sport/Activity – Approved the revised Health and Safety Plan for Return to Sport/Activity.

Ms. Heather Lewis provided an update on the “competition phase” of the Health and Safety Plan for Return to Sport/Activity, noting that the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) voted to move forward with the fall sports season, leaving the decision to each school district. Protocols added include how the district will handle hosting home events and managing our teams as we travel to other schools, both in and out of the county. She noted that the parameters vary between counties. Some counties may allow band and cheerleader participation, some may not. The PIAA directed all districts in the Commonwealth to forbid attendance by anyone outside of the competing teams and, potentially, bands and cheer squads.

Ms. Lewis added that we will continue to advocate for some degree of fans in the stands, but as for now, there are no fans currently permitted. She also noted that the district will find alternate ways for parents and fans to watch students engage in sports, including streaming the games online.

One other challenge the no-fans policy presents to student-athletes is by forbidding college coaches from watching too, potentially impacting whether students are selected for scholarships. Ms. Lewis said the students will, as they have been in the past, be provided with game film.

Mr. DiTullio emphasized that the empty-stands rule comes from the state and not the district.

Ms. Whittle thanked Ms. Lewis and Mr. David Fuhrman for their hard work. She reiterated that we are providing these guidelines and protocols as given to us by the state, county and PIAA. Our hope is to get people in the stands and that will be dependent on how successful we are in the first two weeks.

Mr. Peterson asked about college coaches. Ms. Lewis noted that the recruiting experience will be the same as always in that all contests will be videotaped so that highlight films can be put together to send to colleges. College coaches will not, however, be permitted to attend in person.

Dr. Vitale acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Lewis and her department noting that her plan has been used by neighboring districts. Safety of all athletes is at the top of their priorities. Dr. Vitale closed by stating that the collaboration she has seen is nothing short of a miracle.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the Revised Health and Safety Plan for Return to Sport/Activity with those present voting in the affirmative.

F. Revised Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan – Approved the updated Health and Safety Plan for Return to School.

Dr. Palano reviewed the few minor updates to the plan as follows:

1. Hand Sanitizer: We are now asking that students carry their own hand sanitizer in a bottle of 3 oz. or smaller. It will not be provided on buses as outlined in the original plan, which is a directive that came from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).
2. Cyber Enrollment: We are now anticipating about 1,400 students to be enrolled in the cyber program. After the first survey, our first estimation was about 1,500 students.
3. Masking: The most recent guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) included clarity of masking while in school. Students can remove their masks for a designated break of ten minutes or less, when facilitated by a teacher.

Mr. Peterson asked if Vo-tech would have any interruptions. Dr. Vitale stated that Vo-tech will have separate buses and will go every day regardless of our current Cohort model. If their SV Cohort is not in session, they will be provided a ride to central locations within the district. The service and instruction at Vo-tech will not be disrupted.

Dr. Vitale added that we have moved 21.5 elementary teachers to full-time cyber. All of them are Pennsylvania-certified teachers and Seneca Valley employees. This is not the case with many external cyber charter programs. Cyber students will have a better, more enhanced cyber experience this year. Seneca Valley has approximately 50 cyber partners. We are the only public school that sells seats to other public and private schools to our cyber program.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio to approve the Revised Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan with those present voting in the affirmative.

6. **BUSINESS/FINANCES ACTION** – Mr. Mike Jacobs

- A. **COVID Facility Rental Surcharge** – Approved the COVID surcharge for all external group indoor and outdoor facility rentals in the amount of \$50, per date/per venue, to cover the additional costs of sanitizing and disinfecting.
- B. **Memorandum of Understanding – Corporate Security and Investigations** – Approved the memorandum of understanding with CSI Corporate Security and Investigations, for security services.
- C. **Transportation Contracts** – Approved the following transportation contracts.
- One family to transport their child to North Catholic.
 - One family to transport their child to Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.
 - One family to transport their child to Provident Charter School.
- D. **Cranberry Township Developer’s Agreement** – Approved the Developer’s Agreement with Cranberry Township.
- E. **Financial Incentive Program for Extended Day-to-Day Substitutes** – Expanded the financial incentive of \$300 to extended day-to-day substitutes who work the first 30 days of school, consecutively.
- F. **Financial Incentive Program for Day-to-Day Substitutes** – Expanded the financial incentive of \$300 to day-to-day substitutes who work the first 30 days of school, consecutively (except for Fridays in Cohort).

Mr. Randy Miller talked about the developer’s agreement noting that this is a very common process and has been reviewed by Mr. Hoffman, solicitor. The agreement includes all that is required to be in place to obtain the grading permit, which we did receive last week. Mr. Hoffman added that this is standard protocol.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to approve resolutions A, B, C, D, E, and F as outlined above with those present voting in the affirmative.

7. PERSONNEL ACTION – Approved resignations, termination, appointments, leaves, sabbatical, retirement as follows:

Resignations: *Professional* – Jana Greco; *Classified* – Jenny Conroy; Michelle Couch; Kaitlyn Baumann; Diane Heyl; *Contracted Services* – Benjamin Sherman

Termination: *Classified* – Richard Duff

Appointments: *Professional* – Jamie Douglas; Samantha Stewart; Halley Alexander; Ryan Pechulis; *Professional Substitutes* – Rebecca Watkins; Benjamin Blinn; Jenna Montelaro; Margaret Marciniak; Katie Carothers; Sinead Reeb; *Day-to-Day Classified Substitutes* – Larry Bell; Brian Clarke; Janice DeHart; Jill Hackenberg; Patricia Hayden; Susan Hazenstab; Carl Hortert; April Householder; Jennifer Keefer; Kristie Long; Tamara Mauk; Elizabeth Meyers; Theresa O'Malley; Barbara Rosenbaum; Ashwini Salunkhe; Kathy Sims; Kevin Spring; Patricia Stuebgen-Way; Benjamin Taylor; *Day-to-Day Professional Substitutes* – Brittaney Cejer; Anthony Chiappetta; Michelle Couch; Jennifer Erin; Ronald Evans; Melanie Killian; Alaina Kloc; Eric Krchmar; Melissa Kvasager; Rozann Lamberto; Shannon Lesack; Brittaney Lucas; Deborah Malley; Meg Miller; Melissa Moody-White; Kim Nagel; Angela Rebovich; Lauren Simpson; Julianne Skoner; Stephanie Vaughan; Zackary Weismann; Susan Werner; *Classified* – Joseph Laukaitis; Alden May; Mary Joe Chappel; Christina Dugan; Benjamin Taylor; Mikayla Adomaitis; *Supplemental Coaches/Clubs/Activities* – Tyler Flood; Eric Hudanick; Gabe Miller; Payton Skalos; Lexi Tofanelli; Les Alo; Dawn Walter; Jen Staudt; Bobi-Jean Alexander; Samantha Kochis; Cassandra Pagani; Madison Sinan; Robert Babick; Robert Matchett; Varden Armstrong; Melissa Armstrong; Sara Snyder; Katie Huttinger; Anna Bassin; Ashley Paschl; Dante Burns; P.J. Gatch; *Supplemental SV Academy of Choice Instructors* – Grace Rupik; Tracy Richards; Chelsea Miller; Susan Himic; Jennifer Exler; Karen Fornadel; Genevieve Morgan; Clint Weltner; Susan Gebhard; Mackenzie McGuire; Danielle Fagan; Bobbi Cooper; Jordan DiBucci; Sinead Reeb; Rebecca Whitney; Tracy Richards; Crystal Cypher; Kelly Weston; *Internship* – Alex Krajniak

Leaves: *Administration* – Robert Raso; *Routing Specialist* – Carolyn Klaum; *Professional* – Megan Majcher; Lindsey Read; Tara Peterson; Melissa Womer; Chessa Crum; Maria Landolina; *Classified* – Allisyn Pascarella; Kristine Hart

Sabbatical: Jeanne Probst

Retirement: *Classified* – Sandra Courson

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve resignations, termination, appointments, leaves, sabbatical, and retirement. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from the following, all related to return to school.
1. Ms. Gina Zigrossi
 2. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Myers
 3. Ms. Rebecca Harper
 4. Mr. Mike Bontatibus
 5. Ms. Tatiana Brower
 6. Ms. Jill Manns
 7. Mr. David Zimmerman
 8. Ms. Erin Donahue
 9. Ms. Sarah Cardosi
 10. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Capen
 11. Ms. Kari Zimmer
 12. Ms. Shannon Mihalacki
 13. Ms. Kim Rebholz
 14. Ms. Nicole Sylves
 15. Ms. Jean Wood
 16. Mr. Frank Kreider
 17. Ms. Emily Gauthier
 18. Mr. Geoff Zimmerman
 19. Mr. Robert Schweitzer
 20. Dr. Peter Sylves
 21. Mr. and Mrs. Ty Bintrim
 22. Mr. Walter Regal
 23. Ms. Laura Frenz
 24. Ms. Crystal Brown
 25. Mr. Brock Seeley
 26. Mr. Sarosh Sepai
 27. Ms. Amanda Westerman
 28. Mr. Justin Page
 29. Ms. Melissa Campbell
 30. Mr. Mark Bidoli
 31. Mr. Duane Cerra
 32. Ms. Dorilyn Holmes
 33. Ms. Laura Melucci
 34. Ms. Andrea Tucker
 35. Ms. Jennifer Edwards
 36. Ms. Kelly Bender
 37. Ms. Missy McCullough
 38. Ms. Jennifer Knier
 39. Ms. Stacie Gilliland
 40. Mr. and Mrs. Brad Tresky
 41. Mr. Mike Manipole
 42. Ms. Jennifer Shattahi
 43. Ms. Rachel Smith
 44. Ms. Kathy Edwards
 45. Ms. Kate Kiggins
 46. Ms. Carla Barnhart
 47. Mr. and Mrs. Ty Bintrim
 48. Ms. Rachel Petelin

Mr. DiTullio inquired about his Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) nomination and asked for paperwork by the end of the week. He confirmed that an electronic signature is acceptable. Mr. Nickel responded that he would sign the paperwork this week.

Mr. Nickel stated that he saw the Buildings and Grounds Update report and noted that it was very exciting to see the pictures of progress being made on the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center. Ground leveling has started and there is now access to the site.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal items.

Mr. James Nickel, President



Ms. Lisa Mislán, Board Secretary