



Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

MINUTES

November 18, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. James Nickel, Board President, called the meeting to order.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – Mr. Nickel opened the meeting with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Jade Webb-Higgs, a third-grader at Haine Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, *I Led the Pledge*, by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. Annie Mersing, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Timothy Hester, Rev. Reid Moon, Mr. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Jr., Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff Widdowson. Ms. Susan Harrison was 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; Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletics Director; Ms. Kristen White, Haine Elementary School Principal; Ms. Erica Drennan, Third Grade Teacher at Haine Elementary School; Attorney David Mongillo, from the Solicitor's office; and a press representative.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Linda Andreassi announced the following student/staff recognition:
 1. Seneca Valley's high schools, including the senior high and intermediate high, grades 9-12, were recently notified that they have earned accreditation by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools, a worldwide leader in accreditation and continuous school improvement. Accreditation is a multifaceted evaluation process that schools and school systems voluntarily participate in to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards.
 2. The Seneca Valley Junior Reserved Officers' Training Corps has been named a 2019-20 "Honor Unit with Distinction" by the U.S. Department of the Army. The Department of the Army presented this award to JROTC units that maintained an exceptionally high standard of performance during the 2018-19 school year.

3. Seneca Valley Band Seniors Kate Scanlan (trombone) and Sean Scott (baritone saxophone) were recently selected to participate in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-National Honor Ensembles in Orlando, Fl. Over 500 students from 49 states and territories were selected to perform in the National Music Ensembles. Miss Scanlan was selected as the only student from Pennsylvania to perform in the National Jazz Ensemble and Mr. Scott was selected as one of only eight students from Pennsylvania to perform in the National Concert Band.
4. Seneca Valley Senior Kiara Lin was named Miss Pennsylvania Teen USA 2020 and will represent the Commonwealth in the 2020 Miss Teen USA Pageant. Miss Lin is a LEAD Ambassador at Seneca Valley High School and plans to pursue a degree in dentistry upon graduation.

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

November 27 – December 2	Thanksgiving Break: District Holiday, No School for Students & Staff
December 3	School Board Reorganization Meeting, 5:00 p.m., IHS Auditorium
December 19	SV Senior Holiday Event, 9:30 a.m., IHS Café/Auditorium – BACKUP
December 23 – January 1	Winter Break: No School for Students & Staff

- C. **Honor Roll of Service** – Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Honor Roll of Service recognized Mr. Jim Nickel and Mr. Reid Moon for eight years of volunteer service to the Seneca Valley School Board.

Dr. Vitale, on behalf of the School Board and Administration, presented tokens of appreciation to Mr. Nickel and the Rev. Moon. Many members of the Board shared their heartfelt stories involving the Rev. Moon and thanked him for his many years of service both on the School Board and as a bus driver for the district.

- D. **Fall Sports Update** – Ms. Heather Lewis provided the following fall sports update: Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Varsity Golf and Boys' Soccer brought home section titles, with Girls' Soccer and Football making playoff appearances.

The following individuals had personal success:

1. Football:
 - All Big 56 1st team = 2 (Josh Kaltenberger, Ethan West)
 - All Big 56 2nd team = 6 (Kevin Meeder, Matt Stanger, Jim Royal, Evan Smith, Conor Hayes, Gabe Lawson)
 - All Big 56 HM = 1 (Josh Miller)
2. Boys' Soccer
 - All Big 56 1st team = 2 (Luke Rupert, Ben Francis)
 - All Big 56 2nd team = 2 (Justin Stopar, Chase Thomas)
 - All Big 56 HM = 2 (Zach LaValle, Mason Baldwin)
 - Big 56 Coach of the Year = George Williams
 - All WPIAL = 3 (Rupert, Francis, Stopar)
 - WPSCA & WPIAL Player of the Year and All State = 1 (Rupert)
3. Girls' Soccer
 - All Big 56 1st team = 2 (Breana Valentovish, Morgan Sinan)

- All Big 56 2nd team = 3 (Norah Seibel, Mia Zec, Olivia Kamarec)
 - All Big 56 HM = 1 (Shannon O'Shea)
 - All WPIAL = 3 (Valentovish, Sinan, Zec)
 - All State = 1 (Valentovish)
4. Girls' Volleyball
- All Big 56 1st team = 1 (Sarah White)
 - All Big 56 2nd team = 2 (Mandy Altsman, Anna DeGraaf)
 - All Big 56 HM = 1 (Abby Adams)
 - WPIAL 4A All-Star (coaches assn) = 2 (Sarah White, 1st team) + (Anna DeGraaf, 3rd team)

During the NCAA early signing period, Seneca Valley had over a dozen student-athletes make their college commitment official to continue their academic & athletic careers at the NCAA Division I, II and III levels.

Six junior student-athletes attended the WPIAL's annual Sportsmanship Summit where they accepted, on behalf of the District, the 2018-19 Sportsmanship Award as chosen by a WPIAL committee of building principals. This is a reflection of how our student-athletes, coaches and community embrace the importance of creating a positive sporting experience.

E. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Senior High Activities
3. Intermediate High Activities
4. Middle School Activities
5. Athletics
6. Food Service
7. Tax Collections
8. Capital Projects Funds

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – There was no public comment.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** – October 7, 2019
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – October 21, 2019
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Approved the treasurer's report.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approved the general fund bills in the following amount:
Grand Total: **\$3,374,541.18**
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills in the following amount:
Grand Total: **\$1,065,838.61**

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve minutes, treasurer's report, general fund bills and construction fund bills. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Ms. Harrison absent.

8. ADMINISTRATION ACTION

- A. **Board Policies** – Approved the following board policies:
1. #705 – Safety, revised, second reading – Mr. Jeff James
 2. #805 – Emergency Evacuation of Schools, revised, second reading – Mr. James
 3. #905 – Citizen Advisory Committee, revised, first reading – Ms. Andreassi
 4. #908 – Parent and Family Engagement; revised first reading and adoption (no changes – annual update per Federal mandate) – Ms. Maria Palano
 5. #910 – Community Relations, revised, first reading – Ms. Andreassi
 6. #912 – Relations with Educational Institutions, revised, first reading – Ms. Andreassi
- B. **2020 School Board Meeting Dates** – Approved the 2020 school board meeting dates.

Mr. Peterson questioned the voting rights language in Board Policy #905 – Citizen Advisory Committee and suggested they be more clearly defined.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve board policies and school board meeting dates for 2020. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Ms. Harrison absent.

9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Club Status** – Approved club status for the following:
1. Seneca Valley “Z” Club (SHS) at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Intermediate High School Teachers: Jeanne Probst, Christina Hollowood, Katie Wolford and Marie McLachlan.
 2. Seneca Valley Slavic Languages Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Senior High School Teacher, Ms. Amy Seelbaugh.
- C. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
1. Using Gene Technology to Determine the Population of Environmentally Sensitive Freshwater Clams Grant funded by Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh in the amount of \$2,000. Funds obtained would be used to purchase a dual beam spectrophotometer which would aid in future DNA research. Requested by Intermediate High School Teacher, Mr. Tom Lavelle.
 2. Schools on the Move Grant funded by the University of Pittsburgh in an amount up to \$2,500 to support innovative school-based health, physical activity, wellness and well-being initiatives. Requested by Rowan Elementary School Teacher, Mr. Michael Pelloni.
 3. Teacher in the Workplace Grant funded by the PA Department of Education in the amount of \$25,000 to support the exposure of teachers to the employment skills required in today’s workforce. Requested by Supervisor of Gifted Education and Student Services, Jeff Roberts, and School Counselor,

Darla Lightner, for Ryan Gloyer Middle School, the Intermediate High School and the Senior High School.

4. Skateboarding Grant funded by the University of Pittsburgh in the amount of \$2,500 to implement a Skateboarding Program at Haine Elementary, similar to the program in place at Evans City Elementary School. Requested by Haine Elementary School Teacher, Tyler Mesisca.
- D. **Athletic Uniform Sale** – Approved the sale of obsolete athletic uniforms and warm-ups.
 - E. **Athletic Uniform Disposal** – Approved the disposal of old, unusable athletic uniforms and warm-ups.
 - F. **Student Adjudication** – Approved student adjudication #2019-20-02. (Executive Session)
 - G. **Student Trip** – Acknowledged the Academic Games trip to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the Academic Games National Tournament from April 17, 2020 through April 21, 2020 under the supervision of Ms. Julie Smith, Mr. Michael Stebbins and Mr. Jeremiah Friday. Students will miss three days of school.

Mr. Nickel motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve conferences, club status, grant disbursements, athletic uniform disposal, student adjudication and student trip. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Ms. Harrison absent.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **December Bills** – Authorized administration to pay December bills.
- C. **Amendment to Professional Services Agreement** – Approved Cannon Design's Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement for HRG to design the Roundabout at the intersection of Ehrman Road and the entrance road to the new K-6 Elementary & Middle School.
- D. **Supplies and Equipment Bids** – Authorized administration to seek bids for supplies and equipment for 2020-21.
- E. **Joint Purchasing Agreement Midwestern IUIV** – Approved the Joint Purchasing Agreement with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for 2020.
- F. **Bond Issue** – Approved the appointment of PNC Capital Markets, LLC, as financial advisor and Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, as bond counsel related to both outstanding and anticipated debt financings in connection with the school district's proposed and developing plans for capital improvements and facilities.

Ms. Bredl motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve budget transfers, December bills, amendment to professional services agreement, supplies and equipment bids, joint purchasing


agreement and bond issue. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Ms. Harrison absent.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Personnel items were discussed in an executive session held prior to this meeting.
- A. Resignations – *Director* – Chelsea Vazquez; *Classified* – Beti Mincey, Julia Moore, Tiffany Wells
 - B. Appointments – *Administration* – Erin Mazer; *Professional* – Carol-Lynn Dubovi; *Professional Substitutes* – Linda Ackley; *Day-to-Day Substitutes* – Denise Mejia, Aubrey Rader, Kirstin White, Elizabeth Kolor; *Classified* – Michelle Tresky, Catherine Rawson, Steven Trempus, Barbara Long; *Supplementals* – Rob Naylor, Michael Franciscus, Samantha Marak, Ray Peaco, Megan Meeder, Stan Zimmerman, Jay Roman, Lisa Wilson, Shaine Patsilevas, Kevin Locke, Jeremy Michael, Briena Nassan, Rachel McGourty, Christopher Strangfeld; *Student Stage, Sound, and Light Crew Members* – Megan Abel, Ella Butterfield, Emily Richards
 - C. Leaves – *Psychologist* – Kathleen Mahon; *Administration* – Kyle Leggett; *Professional* – Anita Hershberger, Lauren Miloser, Jessica Bickert, Teresa Bono, Kathy Wilson, Scott DeVivo, Amy Book, Karen Fornadel, Catherine Smolter; *Classified* – Karen King, Danielle Kolling, Linda Lipscak, Emerald Willis
 - D. Classified Substitute Rate Adjustment
 - E. Memorandums of Understanding – Approved MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association regarding the AP/College Board Supervisor Supplemental Position and MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association regarding Ashley Pattison
 - F. Retirement – *Professional* – Karen Kaiser

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. DiTullio, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, classified substitute rate adjustment, memorandums of understanding and retirement. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Ms. Harrison absent.

12. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from E.B. Peffer Company.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Reverend Moon motioned, seconded by Mr. Nickel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Ms. Harrison absent.
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal items.

Mr. James Nickel, School Board President


Ms. Annie Mersing, School Board Secretary