

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

MINUTES

October 21, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Eric DiTullio, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Kolton Walsh, a 4th grader at Evans City Elementary School, continued the board meeting initiative, “I Led the Pledge,” by opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Annie Mersing, Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Timothy Hester, Rev. Reid Moon, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Jr., Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff Widdowson, with Board President, Mr. James Nickel, 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. Jerry Miller, Special Education Director; Ms. Lauri Pendred, Evans City Elementary Principal; Mr. Andrew Teti, Evans City Elementary Assistant Principal; Attorney Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; and a press representative.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

October	National School Principal Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 21 – 25	National School Bus Safety Week
October 23 – 31	Red Ribbon Week
October 29	End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 5 – 12
November 4	Act 34 Hearing on New K-6 Elementary & Middle School

- B. **Financial Reports** – The following reports were provided in the backup materials:
 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** – September 9, 2019
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – September 16, 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: **\$2,599,754.32**
 7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approved the construction fund bills in the following amount:
Grand Total: **\$111,431.87**

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

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**

- A. **Board Policies** – Approved the following board policies:
 1. #105 – Curriculum Development, revised, second reading – Dr. Sean McCarty/Dr. Matthew McKinley
 2. #105.2 – Exemption from Instruction, revised, second reading – Dr. McCarty/Dr. McKinley
 3. #107 – Adoption of Planned Instruction, revised, second reading – Dr. McCarty/Dr. McKinley
 4. #212 – Reporting Student Progress, revised, second reading – Dr. McCarty
 5. #246 – Student Wellness, revised, second reading – Ms. Kyra Bobak
 6. #705 – Safety, revised, first reading – Mr. Jeff James
 7. #805 – Emergency Evacuation of Schools, revised, first reading – Mr. James
 8. #806 – Child Abuse, revised, second reading – Mr. James
 9. #806.1 – Megan’s Law, adoption, first and final reading – Mr. James
- B. **Mosaic Installation Agreement** – Approved the third-party letter of agreement for a mosaic installation in the new Aquatic Center between the Seneca Valley School District and Elizabeth Klevens Mosaics.

Mr. Peterson inquired if the revisions to Board Policy #212 – Reporting Student Progress were consistent with the recent changes to kindergarten and grade 1 progress reporting. Dr. McCarty confirmed the revisions to this policy were necessitated by the change in progress reporting for

kindergarten and grade 1. Dr. McCarty further reported the new system has been working well for staff and parents.

Dr. Vitale stated that local artist Elizabeth Klevens has been commissioned to design and install mosaic artwork which will adorn the foyer of the new aquatic center. Ms. Klevens will use harvested tile from the old swimming pool and utilize SV students and staff to construct the piece. The entire cost of this artwork will be reimbursed by the Seneca Valley Foundation.

Mr. Peterson motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve board policies and the mosaic installation agreement as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Nickel absent.

9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conferences.
- B. **Club Status** – Approved club status for the following:
 - 1. Seneca Valley Computer Science Club (SHS) at no cost to the District and under the supervisor of Senior High School Teacher, Ms. Diane Koegler.
 - 2. Seneca Valley Philosophy Club (SHS) at no cost to the District and under the supervision of Senior High School Teacher, Ms. Rebekah Grinnen.
- C. **Center Avenue Community School ES Program, Life Skills and Autistic Support Program, and Multi Disabilities Program** – Approved the student placement renewal agreement with Butler Area School District for the Center Avenue Community School ES Program, Life Skills and Autistic Support Program, and the Multi Disabilities Program for the term of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.
- D. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the following grants:
 - 1. Target Field Trip Grant in the amount of \$700 to take 4th grade students on a college and career awareness field trip. Requested by Christina Karmecy at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.
 - 2. Annie's Grants for Gardens in the amount of \$3,000 to help finance the school's garden project that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. All foods grown in the garden will be donated to a local food bank in Cranberry Township. Requested by Elizabeth Cavicchia and Nannette Farmer of Rowan Elementary School.
 - 3. American Heart Association Teaching Gardens Network Grant Program in the amount of \$2,500 to help finance the school's garden project that will help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. Requested by Elizabeth Cavicchia of Rowan Elementary School.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve conferences, club status, Center Avenue Community School ES program, life skills and autistic support program and multi-disabilities program and grant disbursements as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Nickel absent.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **Owner’s Representative Agreement** – Approved Eckles Construction as the Owner’s Representative for the New Maintenance Building at 162 Seneca School Road pending solicitor review of final agreement.
- C. **Purchase of Maintenance Truck** – Approved the Purchase of a 2020 F-350 Truck to replace the 1999 F-250.
- D. **Building Commissioning Services** – Authorized the administration to award building commissioning services for the new K-6 Elementary & Middle School on Ehrman Road to HF Lenz Company.
- E. **Delinquent Real Estate Taxes** – Approved the resolution regarding delinquent real estate tax sale.

Ms. Bredl motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve budgets transfers, owner’s representative agreement, purchase of maintenance truck, building commissioning services and the delinquent real estate taxes resolution as listed above. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Nickel absent.

- F. **Geothermal System for New K-6 Elementary & Middle School** – Approve the addition of a Geothermal System for the new K-6 Elementary & Middle School as an alternate for bidding.

Mr. Michael Corb of CannonDesign and Mr. David Kuretich of Tower Engineering recommended the Board not approve the Geothermal System for the new K-6 elementary and middle school based on the estimated cost of \$1.4 M and prolonged payoff period of the system. Mr. Peterson, hoping to utilize a geothermal system as a teaching tool in the new school, inquired if a hybrid system could be designed in a singular classroom at a lower cost. Mr. Kuretich stated a smaller system could be designed and agreed to provide the Board with an estimate. Mr. DiTullio asked the administration to begin considering the potential location of this hybrid system.

Ms. Bredl motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the addition of a geothermal system for the new K-6 elementary & middle school building as listed above. The motion failed to carry on a roll call vote with those present voting in opposition with Mr. Nickel absent.

11. PERSONNEL ACTION – Personnel items were discussed in an executive session held prior to this meeting.

- A. **Resignation** – *Classified* – Niki Wells
- B. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Mary Anderson, Zach Cene, Sinead McAnallen, Briana Nassan; *Classified* – Caitlin Whitney, Jamie Marcotte; *Supplementals* – David Fuhrman, Steve Campos, Eric Semega, Michael Henry, Jeff Gavin, Nancy Laslavic, Michael Caccamo, Nicole Rogos, Theodore “Jake” Calvin, Joe Montalbano, Grant McCabe, Ezekiel Stroupe, Drew Smith, Alex Fischer, Cory Johnson, Aaron Shafer, Mark Gartner

- C. **Leaves – Professional** – Rebecca Rockey, Leah Kalan, Amanda Weir, Christine Roe, LaVarr Stephens-Howling; ***Classified*** – Max Gandy, Troy Watson, Debra Neely
12. **COMMUNICATION** – No communication was received.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Peterson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Nickel absent.
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal items.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Vice-President


Ms. Annie Mersing, Board Secretary