

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

MINUTES

October 7, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. James Nickel, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Anna Ching, a 4th grader at Rowan Elementary, continued the board meeting initiative, “I Led the Pledge,” by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. **Roll Call** – Roll call by Ms. 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. James Nickel, Mr. Frederick Peterson, Jr., Ms. Kathy Whittle and Mr. Jeff 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, Communications Director; Mr. Randy Miller, Buildings and Grounds Director; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; Mr. Jerry Miller, Special Education Director; Ms. Chelsea Vazquez, Director of Advancement and SV Foundation Director of Development; Ms. Nannette Farmar, Rowan Elementary Principal; and a press representative.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Ms. Linda Andreassi announced that Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Sophomore Cooper Saniak received a full scholarship that covered 100% of his tuition from several major summer intensive camps, including PA Ballet, Ballet Met, Texas Ballet Theater and the Orlando Ballet. Mr. Saniak was also offered partial tuition for housing and year-round opportunities for intensive dance study.
- B. **Dates to Remember** – Ms. Andreassi announced the following dates to remember:

October	National Principals Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 14	Act 80 Day – No School for Students
October 14 – 18	National School Lunch Week
October 15	Grand Opening of Seneca Square for Board Members and Staff, IHS
October 21	School Board Meeting, Intermediate High Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
October 21 – 25	National School Bus Safety Week
October 23 – 31	Red Ribbon Week
October 29	End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 5 – 12

- C. **Cranberry, Jackson and Forward Townships Residential Development Update** – Dr. Tracy Vitale reported on the new residential developments in Cranberry, Jackson and Forward Townships. Dr. McCarty is in the process of mapping and projecting the number of students anticipated from these new developments and will report his findings to the Board in December 2019.
- D. **Real Estate Transaction Report – Business Matters, October 2019** – Dr. Vitale shared the details of the Real Estate Transaction Report published in the October 2019 edition of Business Matters which shows the continued increase in sales volume of real estate transactions within the District.
- E. **Limited Procedures Engagement Auditor’s Report** – Dr. Vitale provided the report of the Auditor General’s Office which cited no findings within the District. Dr. Vitale relayed this was a difficult and time-consuming process and thanked Ms. Lynn Burtner and Ms. Annie Mersing for their hard work. Mr. Nickel expressed his gratitude for the work of Administration in securing this favorable report.
- F. **Registration Facts Comparisons Report** – Dr. Vitale shared a Registration Fact Comparisons Report which detailed enrollment trends within the District. She relayed that although the District is growing at a slow pace, many neighboring districts are seeing a decline. Interestingly, exit interviews of parents leaving the District show a desire for full-day kindergarten. Administration is taking this consideration, as well as conducting further tracking of data, to ensure the District remains on this upward trend with enrollment. Mr. DiTullio stated he was pleased to see the increase in charter/cyber schools students returning to the classroom.
- G. **Seneca Square** – Mr. Gerald Miller, Director of Special Education, informed the Board of the opening of Seneca Square, the newest business venture of the District’s exceptional students. Seneca Square will be located in the IHS and will sell smoothies, assorted beverages and healthy snacks. Mr. Miller thanked a host of staff members for their support of this venture including, but not limited to: Darlene Carmack, Food Service Director; Buildings and Grounds Department and specifically, Jack McDermott, Supervisor of Custodial Services; Lynn Burtner, Business Manager; Ken Macek, AOC Teacher; as well as Jess Pyle and EG Sipp, Transition Coordinators. Mr. Miller believes this will be another positive endeavor, allowing our exceptional students to work longer hours and in diverse environments. Board members and staff will be able to enjoy a special evening opening featuring Seneca Square on October 21.
- H. **Agency Reports**
1. Vo-Tech – Mr. Nickel and Mr. Fred Peterson, Jr. reported Vo-Tech morale is at an all-time high and absenteeism is less than 3%.
 2. I.U. IV – Mr. Eric DiTullio reported the Intermediate Unit voted by unanimous decision to relinquish a parcel of land that proved to be too costly to develop.
- I. **Legislative** – Mr. Peterson reported legislation at the federal level is on hold as congress is in recess. At the state level, important topics currently being discussed include the following:

1. The proposal to convert school property tax to a use tax remains at an impasse.
 2. The Senate passed a bill to raise the minimum age to purchase vaping/tobacco products from age 18 to 21.
 3. House Bill 265 which primarily replaces references to "vocational-technical" with "career and technical" in the hopes of eliminating the stigma of "vo-tech" schools passed and has been sent to the Governor for signature.
- J. **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. **ACTION AGENDA**
- A. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- B. **Personnel** – Personnel items were discussed in an executive session held prior to this meeting.
1. **Resignations: Administration** – Cassandra Doggrell; **Classified** – Dale Cady, Carol Krebs
 2. **Appointments: Professional Substitutes** – Carlen Blackstone, Emily Grecco, Eric Krchmar, Rachel Petelin; **Classified** – Jennifer Byers, Michelle Couch, Jeanine Poleti, Rhonda Schwartz, Barbara Buchanan, Danielle Magill, Christine Zacherl, Mary Ratay, Irma Martinez; **Supplementals** – Dean Leventopoulos, Amanda Huey, Nicole Moorman, Joe Frank, Justin McCauley; **SV Academy of Choice OPT Instructors/Managers** – Larry Wendereusz, Camden Palmer, Nicole Duncan, Megan Oldenski, Jessica Kerr, Ezekiel Stroupe, Jenifer McMurray; **Department Chairs/Grade Level Coordinators** – Kristi Vandergrift, Shay Houser, Lindsay Mysliwicz, Audrey Buban
 3. **Leaves: Psychologist** – Daniel Bailey, **Professional** – Joseph Ohodnicki, Elizabeth Meinert, Tyler Mesisca, Lara Meyer, Noele Reynolds, Crystal Cypher, Laura Sauers
- C. **Student Adjudication** – Approved Student Adjudication #2019-20-01. (Executive Session)
- D. **Act 34 Resolution, Act 34 Hearing, and Act 34 Project Description Booklet** – Approved the Act 34 Resolution for the construction of a new K-6 elementary school located at Ehrman Road in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, in its entirety in the form presented and included in the Act 34 Project Description

Booklet, which resolution specifies a maximum building construction cost of \$60,571,183, a maximum total project cost of \$78,737,089, a public hearing on such project to be held November 4, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the Intermediate School auditorium, the advertisement of such hearing, the dissemination of Project description to the public, and the submission of all required information to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Board further approves the Project Description Booklet in substantially the form presented, subject to such non-substantive changes as are directed by the Department of Education, and directs its architects and the appropriate officers and administrators to advertise the Notice of Public Hearing, make the Project Description Booklet available to the public and the news media, conduct the public hearing, and make all required submissions to the Department of Education, and further directs the appropriate officers, administrators, architects, construction managers, financial advisors and legal counsel to take all such other actions necessary and proper for carrying out the Act 34 Resolution. The final Project Description Booklet will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, student adjudication, Act 34 resolution, Act 34 hearing and Act 34 project description booklet as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approve the following meeting minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** – September 9, 2019
 - B. **Regular Meeting** – September 16, 2019
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Approve the treasurer’s reports.
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS** – Approve general fund bills.
Grand Total: \$2,599,754.32
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** – Approve construction fund bills.
Grand Total: \$57,068.29
8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION** – Approve the following board policies:
 - A. #105 – Curriculum Development, revised, second reading – Dr. Sean McCarty/Dr. Matthew McKinley
 - B. #105.2 – Exemption from Instruction, revised, second reading – Dr. McCarty/Dr. McKinley
 - C. #107 – Adoption of Planned Instruction, revised, second reading – Dr. McCarty/Dr. McKinley
 - D. #212 – Reporting Student Progress, revised, second reading – Dr. McCarty
 - E. #246 – Student Wellness, revised, second reading – Ms. Kyra Bobak
 - F. #705 – Safety, revised, first reading – Mr. Jeff James
 - G. #805 – Emergency Evacuation of Schools, revised, first reading – Mr. James
 - H. #806 – Child Abuse, revised, second reading – Mr. James
 - I. #806.1 – Megan’s Law, adoption, first and final reading – Mr. James

Mr. Peterson inquired as to the requirements of the “certified safety committee” referenced in Board Policy #705 – Safety. Ms. Burtner stated this committee is sanctioned by the PA Department of Labor and must meet certain criteria including required trainings and meeting

schedules. Having this committee qualifies the District for a discount on Workers' Compensation insurance rates. Mr. Peterson further inquired about the eye protection requirements in this same policy and suggested the same should be added for hearing protection.

9. INSTRUCTION ACTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.
- B. **Club Status** – Approve 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** – Approve 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 Disbursement** – Grant 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. Blueprint for Learning Grant by the Remake Learning Network provided by the Hillman Family Foundation, Grable Foundation and CS Benedum Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 for construction and support of CVE's CIRC program. Requested by DeeAnn Graham at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.

Reverend Moon stated he is fascinated by the number of students wanting to participate in the philosophy club. Dr. McKinley believes the spark of interest stems from the success of the philosophy class.

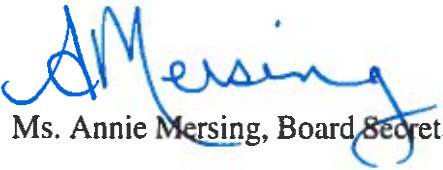
10. BUSINESS/FINANCE ACTION

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **Owner's Representative Agreement** – Approve 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** – Approve the Purchase of a 2020 F-350 Truck to replace the 1999 F-250.

Mr. Peterson asked if construction of the new maintenance building would be completed before winter. Mr. Randy Miller relayed construction is tentatively scheduled to be completed before the end of November.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** – Mr. Jeff Widdowson – (Executive Session)
12. **COMMUNICATION** – Communication was received from Alicia Zevola.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. James Nickel, Board President



Ms. Annie Mersing, Board Secretary