

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium - 7 p.m.

### Minutes June 3, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – In memory of:

Landon Redpath, kindergarten student at Rowan Elementary, who passed away suddenly on May 28. He will be fondly remembered for his sweet soul, electric personality and an immense love for his Mario games.

Nancy Olinger, who passed away on May 24. The late Ms. Olinger taught business education at Evans City High School and then Seneca Valley Senior High School for a combined 35 years.

Myrna Hanna, who passed away on May 25. The late Ms. Hanna was a beloved administrative assistant with 28 years of service upon her retirement from Seneca Valley.

We ask that you please keep in your thoughts their family, friends, colleagues and classmates during this time.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - “I Led the Pledge” – Cameron Moldovan, second grader at Rowan Elementary School.
  - C. **Roll Call** – by Ms. Benson, School Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Nick Brower, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Fred Peterson, Mr. Jeff Widdowson and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Ms. Susan Harrison was not in attendance.
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
    1. It is with our deepest appreciation that we congratulate the following 2023-24 Seneca Valley School District Retirees for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the School District and its students. This group represents over 600 years of combined service:
      - Janet Becker – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Reading Teacher - 27.5 Years

- Julie Blackburn – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School - Third Grade Teacher – 26 Years
- Lynn Burtner – Business Manager – 14 Years
- Keith Chrestay – SV Senior High School Counselor - 25 Years
- Valerie Damiani – Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Administrative Assistant - 16 Years
- Jennifer Fiscus – Rowan Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher - 23 Years
- Nannette Farmar - Rowan Elementary School Principal – 16 Years
- Deborah Gray - Rowan Elementary School Speech Therapist - 18.5 Years
- Patricia Griest – SV Intermediate High School Gifted Support Teacher – 24 Years
- Karen Greenawalt – SV Senior High School Administrative Assistant - 27 Years
- Rebecca Hester – Rowan Elementary School Gifted Support Teacher – 33 Years
- Erin Kerr – Rowan Elementary School Reading Teacher - 23 Years
- Jan Kovacevic – Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School Speech Therapist - 15 Years
- Brenda Lynn – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Paraprofessional – 27 Years
- Marie McLachlan – SV Intermediate High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher - 22 Years
- Kelly McDonald – Rowan Elementary School CIRC Teacher/Librarian - 32 Years
- Tracey O'Toole – SV Intermediate High School Chemistry Teacher - 31 Years
- Amy Palaski – SV Senior High School Chemistry Teacher - 15 Years
- Lauri Pendred – Ehrman Crest Elementary School Principal - 21 Years
- Catherine Rawson - Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Technology Paraprofessional – 4 Years
- Robert Raso – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Assistant Principal – 35 Years
- Noele Reynolds – Haine Middle School Art Teacher – 29.5 Years
- Deborah Stocklas – Haine Elementary/Middle School Nurse Paraprofessional - 14 Years
- Linda Starosta – Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School Nurse - 24 Years
- John Sulia – SV Senior High School Custodian- 19 Years
- Ann Wise – SV Intermediate High School Paraprofessional - 22 Years
- Stanley Zimmerman – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Art Teacher - 26 Years

Dr. Vitale recognized that, together, the retirees worked for SV for 610 years. She shared her gratitude for all that they have done and congratulated them on their retirement.

Mr. DiTullio shared that the professionals that are retiring have navigated the use of technology,

COVID and the challenges with mental health. He recognized that they did more than teaching and that they should be proud for all that they have done.

Mr. Brower echoed the comments by Mr. DiTullio and thanked each of them for helping to build our community and nation.

2. Seneca Valley robotics and engineering students were joined by other schools from southwestern Pennsylvania for the annual Sea, Air and Land Challenge, held at Seneca Valley Senior High School on May 2. Hosted by the Penn State Applied Research Laboratory, the Sea, Air and Land Challenge is a STEM initiative in which teams of high school and/or middle school students design and build robotic vehicles which are used to compete in challenges that mimic missions encountered by the military, national security agencies and first responders. There were 100 students that competed in the Sea, Air and Land Challenge, and SV's Land Team clinched first place in the Land Challenge. The event was led by Joe Logsdon, SV Senior High School Applied Engineering & Technology Teacher.
3. The Butler Art Center recently hosted a high school art exhibition that was open to regional school districts. Twelve Seneca Valley students had their art on display and three were presented with awards, including a first-place painting award for Allison Patinski, sophomore. Students were led by Jason Woolslare, SV Senior High School Art Teacher.

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

June	
June 6	Last Day of School for K-11
June 7	Professional Development (Act 80) Day
June 10	School Board Regular Meeting
June 10	Transportation begins for ESY placements and Summer Programs
June 10-August 1	SVAOC Cyber Session and Summer Camps
June 14	Release of K-6 Student Reports of Progress and 7-12 Report Cards
June 14	Flag Day
June 16	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 20	Summer Begins
June 21	Seneca Valley's Kennywood Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 9	Athletics & Activities Summer Drug & Concussion Testing – SHS, 3-7 p.m.
July 10	Athletics & Activities Summer Drug & Concussion Testing – SHS, 8 a.m. – noon, 1-3 p.m.
July 30	Athletics & Activities Summer Drug & Concussion Testing – SHS, 3-7 p.m.
July 31	Athletics & Activities Summer Drug & Concussion Testing – SHS, 8 a.m. – noon, 1-3 p.m.
July 31	Deadline for Alternative Bus Stop Requests

July 31	Transportation Request Form deadline for non-public student transportation
August 1	Seneca Valley Foundation Gift of Hope Golf Classic
August 1	Due date for all Fall Sport Athletic Paperwork
August 5	School Board Work Session
August 12	School Board Regular Session
August 14	New Teacher Induction
August 15	New Teacher Induction
August 22	First Day of School for the 2024-25 School Year

**Summer Programs – Funded by ESSER (Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund)**

June 10-13	Summer Program, Grades 10-11 at SHS, 9 a.m. – noon
July 15-18 and July 22-25	Summer Program, Grades 6-7 at RGMS, 9 a.m. - noon
July 15-18 and July 22-25	Summer Program, Grade 8 at IHS, 9 a.m. - noon

**English as a Second Language (ESL) Elementary Program**

July 15-18 and July 22-25	ESL Around the World Summer Camp, Grades K-5 at Haine Elementary, 9 a.m. - noon
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**English as a Second Language (ESL) Secondary Program**

July 22-25	ESL Pathfinder Workshop, Grades 6-12 at RGMS, IHS and SHS, 9 a.m. - noon
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Mr. DiTullio asked when the All-Staff Welcome Back event would be. Ms. Andreassi shared that will be on August 16.

C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Hester announced that the next meeting will be on June 6, 2024.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. DiTullio announced that all of the positions have been filled and that their next meeting will be in the fall.

D. **Legislative** - Mr. DiTullio shared The House of Representatives and Senate were in session in May, with the House returning on May 20, and the Senate returning June 3. The budget is the area of interest and there are ongoing negotiations.

The House Democrats are pushing a bill to create a new Basic Education Funding System which would address the findings in the Basic Education Funding Commission Majority Report from January 2024.

The Senate passed a Personal income tax reduction and the Senate Education Committee approved Senate Bill 795.

House Bill 1367 was amended by the House Education Committee. This bill requires the State Board of Education to revise the existing state standards for health, safety and physical education to address student mental health awareness.

Mr. DiTullio reported that Public School Retirement System (PSERS) meetings were held on May 30 and 31. He shared that the fund had an increase of \$3.7 billion for the nine months ending March 31, 2024, finishing at a fund value of \$76.51 billion. For the period ending December 31, 2023, the fund, NET OF FEES, outperformed the benchmark for the quarter, 1-year, 3-year, 5-year, 7-year, 10- year, 15-year and 20-year time frames.

- E. **Drug Testing Results** – Dr. McKinley provided a report with results collected from July 1, 2023-May 14, 2024, noting that there were 4,432 tests given, and that the District’s positive rate was 1.7% with the national average being 4%.

Mr. DiTullio shared that the results are extremely favorable.

Mr. Peterson raised the question as to why those that have medical marijuana cards and test positive are counted in the positive rate. Dr. McKinley shared that it is something that the company has to report. Mr. Peterson also asked what Dr. McKinley attributes the success to. Dr. McKinley shared that the policy, follow up tests and drug assessments all play a part in reducing the rate of positive results.

Dr. Vitale shared that the drug testing requirements begin in seventh grade, but that in elementary and middle school, the students begin to hear about the dangers of drugs and have an opportunity to participate in the Reality Tours that are provided in the community.

- F. **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. ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

- B. **Personnel** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:

1. **Resignations** – *Classified* – Nicole Magerl, Kathy Ricker, *Supplemental* – Bethany Bowen, Jordan Sadley
2. **Appointments** – *Administration* – Taisia Papariella, Trisha Butschle, *Professional* – Margaret Halferty, Andrew Musacchio, Gabriel Miller, McKenna Roach, *Professional Substitutes* – George Panzak, *Classified* – Amy

Taylor, *Classified Substitutes* – Carla Rearick, *Supplementals* – Wess Brahler, Val McGee, Ray Peaco, Dan Dickey, Grant McCarthy, Steve Campos, Kevin Locke, Justin Burgh, Justin Burgh, Mike Pelloni, Gabe Miller, Chris Eden, Harrison Kozlow, Elliott Pater, Mickey Flood, Nathan Flood, Eric Semega, Brandon Taylor, Oliver Wiehe, Andrea Morrisard, Markus Muenck, Walberto Lopez-Aviles, Sara Coon, Jen North, Shannon Perry, Tracy Richards, Lara DiFrishia, Jackie Hoover, Lisa Tyson, Allen Deep, Caitlin Cindrich, Brian Croach, P.J. Gatch, Erica Guidroz, Katie Huttinger, Hunter Karenbauer, Athena Konidaris, Bruce Lazier, Cassandra Pagani, Robert Traugh, Victoria Hahn, Alexis Helsel, Varden Armstrong, Melissa Armstrong, Bobi-Jean Alexander, Robert Babick, Sara Snyder, Laura Wise, Elaine Duggan, Katie Wise, Megan Wise, Kathryn Henderson

3. **Addendum to Contract** - Approved the Addendum to Contract.
  4. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Chelsea Bernardo, Kayla Hixon, Kyle Leggett, Kyle Leggett, Hannah Hendershot, *Classified* – Amanda Jamison
  5. **Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Seneca Valley School District and Cassandra Doggrell.
  6. **Affiliation agreement** – Approved an Affiliation Agreement with Seneca Valley School District and Westminster College.
  7. **Memorandums of Understanding** – Approved the MOUs with Seneca Valley Education Association.
- C. **Student Adjudications** – Approved the following student adjudications:
1. #2023-24-18
  2. #2023-24-19
  3. #2023-24-20
- D. **Board Policy** - Approved board policy 221 Pupils – Dress and Grooming – revised, third and final reading.

Mr. Brower motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve personnel, student adjudications and the board policy. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- E. **Board Policy** – Approved board policy 425 Professional Employees – Dress and Grooming – revised, third and final reading.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl, to approve board policy. The motion carried on a roll call vote with seven members voting “yes” and Mr. Widdowson voting “no.”

#### 4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** – May 6, 2024
- B. **Action Meeting** – May 13, 2024

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$4,038,975.81

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$231,671.16

8. **ADMINISTRATION**A. **Board Policies** -

1. Approve board policy 332 – Employees – Working Periods – revised, first reading.
2. Approve board policy 212.1 – Academic Integrity – new, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
3. Approve board policy 218 – Student Discipline – revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
4. Approve board policy 815 – Responsible Use of Internet and AI – revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
5. Approve board policy 815.1 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education – new, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.

B. **Pennsylvania School Board Assoc. (PSBA) Voting Delegate** – Appoint Ms. Kari Zimmer as the voting delegate for the PSBA Delegate Assembly meeting on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

Mr. DiTullio thanked Ms. Zimmer for being the PSBA Voting Delegate.

9. **INSTRUCTION**A. **Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Services Agreement** – Approve the AIU services agreement for special education services for the 2024-2025 school year.B. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.

Mr. Peterson shared that one of the conferences up for approval is for Dr. Vitale to attend the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) International Delegation conference in Spain/Portugal. Dr. Vitale shared that AASA will offset the cost by \$2,500 and that during her time there she will be studying schools.

C. **Club Hope** - Approve the establishment of Club Hope at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Courtney Williams effective for 2024-25 school year.D. **Community Clean-Up Club** – Approve the establishment of Community Clean-Up Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Madelyn Cornman effective for the 2024-25 school year.E. **2024 Graduates** – Approve the list of Seneca Valley graduates for 2024.

- F. **Pittsburgh Ballet House** – Approve the SV Academy of Choice Instructional Services Agreement with Pittsburgh Ballet House for 2024-25.
- G. **Glade Run Lutheran Services Mental Wellness Services Agreement** – Approve the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide mental wellness services with eight therapists for the 2024-25 school year.
- H. **Grant Disbursement** – Grant permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, the Public School Facility Improvement Grant through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$905,106.97 to fund the roof replacement project of Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School. This grant requires a 25% Match from the district and approval of the attached resolution.

Mr. DiTullio shared that the CVE roofing project was included in the budget and that if we received this grant, that would be great for the budget.

#### 10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Stepping Stones Agreement** – Approve the one-year renewal agreement with Stepping Stones, Inc. to provide extended-day services in each elementary school for the 2024-25 school year.
- B. **Budget Transfers** - Approve budget transfers.
- C. **Homestead and Farmstead Resolution** - Approve the 2024-2025 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution per Act 1 - Taxpayer Relief Act.
- D. **Act 511 Taxes** - Approve re-enactment of the following Act 511 Taxes:
  - 1. Flat Rate Occupation Tax - \$10
  - 2. Earned Income Tax – 1%
  - 3. Real Estate Tax – 1%
- E. **Summer Actions** - Authorize the administration to approve:
  - 1. Year-end budget transfers
  - 2. Outreach Partnership of Technology (OPT) agreements
  - 3. June and July bills
- F. **Liability Insurance** – Approve the sanction of the following groups to work on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District and intention to provide that the District’s liability insurance to cover these groups for the 2024-2025 school year: PTA, PTO, SV Boys’ Lacrosse, SV Indoor Track and Field, SV Ice Hockey, SV Inline Hockey, SV Slow Pitch Softball, SV Bowling, SV Competitive Cheer, SV Fencing, SV Ultimate Frisbee, SV Unified Bocce, JROTC, After Prom Committee, Booster groups, Seneca Valley Foundation and all Board approved student clubs.
- G. **Insurance Premiums** – Approve insurance premiums for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as provided by First National Insurance Agency.



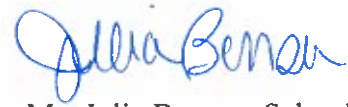
- H. **Capital Reserve Transfer** – Authorize the transfer of \$660,000 from the general fund to the capital reserve fund representing surplus funds from the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This represents allocations set aside in the current year for curriculum which were not used.
- I. **Athletic Training Services Agreement** – Approve a five-year renewal agreement with Allegheny Health Network to provide athletic training services as well as medical assistance services performed in connection with the school’s athletic program.
- J. **Booster Group Resolution** – Approve the Booster Group Resolution for the 2024-2025 school year.
- K. **Ticket Prices**
1. Approve the athletic ticket prices for the 2024-25 school year with no changes as follows: football reserved seating \$8/entry; football pre-sale adult general admission \$6/entry; football pre-sale student general admission \$4/entry; all football tickets at the gate \$6/entry; all other sports adult general admission \$5/entry; all other sports student general admission \$3/entry.
  2. Approve a student or adult annual athletic pass for the 2024-25 school year at a cost of \$50 for the year. The pass will allow entry into all Seneca Valley sponsored home athletic events. Pass does not allow for entry to any away or any WPIAL and/or PIAA playoff event.
- L. **Facilities Rental Fees** – Approve the facilities rental fees for the 2024-25 school year with no changes.
- M. **Bid Awards** – Award the professional lawn care contract to Funyak Landscapes, L.P. for District wide lawn care services. Pending solicitor review and approval.
- M. **Final 2024-2025 General Fund Budget** – Approve the final general budget for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$176,200,022 with a proposed millage increase of 5.38 mills (4%).

Mr. DiTullio shared that he is supportive of the 2024-2025 budget and thanked everyone for all of the work that they put into the budget.

11. **PERSONNEL**
12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – No communication has been received since the School Board Meeting on May 13, 2024.
13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Jacobs to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel items.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, President



Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary