

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

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

Minutes

June 10, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. DiTullio led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 - C. **Roll Call** – by Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary, showed the following members in attendance: Ms. Leslie Bredl, Mr. Nick Brower, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Fred Peterson, Mr. Jeff Widdowson and Ms. Kari Zimmer.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Mr. LaVarr Stephens-Howling, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Acting Assistant Principal and student council advisor, was recently awarded the Region A Middle School Advisor of the year from the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC). As PASC Region A Middle School Advisor of the year, he was chosen from representatives in a 10-county area: Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren. Mr. Stephens-Howling is now in the running for the PASC State-Level Advisor of the Year.
 2. The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon recently placed seventh in the nation and earned four individual national medals at the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) National Competition. Seneca Valley represented Pennsylvania in the competition as the current state champions and was led by Mr. David Reichard, Seneca Valley Senior High School teacher and Academic Decathlon coach.
 3. We congratulate two Seneca Valley JROTC cadets, recent graduate Logan Randall and rising senior Wesley Marks, for qualifying to compete in the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Three-Position Air Rifle (3PAR) National Championship taking place June 21-22, in Port Clinton, Ohio.

4. Congratulations to Ronny Royhab, a 2024 Seneca Valley graduate, who was recently named the 2024 Butler County Area Vocational Technical School (BCAVTS) Student of the Year. Mr. Royhab, who attended the culinary arts program at BCAVTS for the past three years, was chosen for his leadership, trust worthiness and responsibility in creating a positive school environment while being respectful to both peers and teachers. He is a SkillsUSA District 10 Gold Medalist for his excellent culinary efforts and currently works a custom cake and cookie business.

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

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 16	All-Staff Welcome Back Event
August 22	First Day of School for the 2024-2025 School Year

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

June 10-14	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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- C. **All-Star Award Winner, June 2024** – Terry Seilhamer, Chief of Police, Jackson Township Police Department was recognized and presented the All-Star Award by Director of Safety and Security Mr. Jason Young. Mr. Young shared that Chief Seilhammer has been a staple in the SV community and is often seen at sporting events with his officers and is always at School Board Meetings.

Dr. Vitale recognized that Chief Seilhammer has a way of being tough, doing his job and treating people with respect. She continued by sharing that he is a role model for so many people; children, staff and the officers that he leads. Chief Seilhammer recognizes the balance between the chain of command leading a police unit and the chain of command in a school; and he recognizes that we need to work together to make our schools safe. She thanked him and congratulated him on his retirement.

Mr. Widdowson thanked Chief Seilhammer for his years of service and wished him the best in his retirement, recognizing his stellar reputation.

Mr. Peterson acknowledged that the role of a policeman in a school is never easy, thanked him for his service and wished him well in his retirement.

Mr. DiTullio echoed all the comments previously made. He thanked Chief Seilhammer for always making them feel safe and for all that he did behind the scenes. Mr. DiTullio shared his appreciation, thanking Chief for everything.

D. **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**

- 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: \$235,103.16

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve the minute's, 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.

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

1. Approved board policy 332 – Working Periods – revised, first reading.
2. Approved board policy 212.1 – Academic Integrity – new, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
3. Approved board policy 218 student Discipline – revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
4. Approved board policy 815 – Responsible Use of Internet and AI – revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
5. Approved board policy 815.1 – Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education – new, first reading. Pending solicitor review and approval.
6. Approved board policy 340 - Employees – Responsibility for Student Welfare – revised, first reading.

Policies to be retired:

7. Policy 440 - Professional Employees – Responsibility for Student Welfare – retire, first reading.

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

Mr. Jacobs thanked Dr. McKinley for the policies related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and asked him to provide additional information regarding professional development for AI. Dr. McKinley shared that the Central Office staff has been meeting for a few months where they have created Guiding Principles to be used for AI use, adherence to existing policies and educating the students and staff about AI. Dr. McKinley shared that some professional development has already taken place and they are in the process of planning additional professional development. Mr. VanScoyoc, Director of IT, runs a summer academy where teachers will get Act 48 credit for attending; additionally they are planning several professional development days throughout the next school year regarding AI. In regard to student learning, teachers have been getting students more comfortable with AI. Starting next school year, in eighth grade, staff will be incorporating AI in some of the curriculum with the goals of trying to improve their literacy of AI, addressing the risks of AI and decision making around AI.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve board policies and the PSBA voting delegate. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Services Agreement** – Approved the AIU services agreement for special education services for the 2024-2025 school year.
- B. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- C. **Club Hope** – Approved the establishment of Club Hope at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Courtney Williams effective for the 2024-2025 school year.
- D. **Community Clean-Up Club** – Approved 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 2024-2025 school year.
- E. **2024 Graduates** – Approved the list of Seneca Valley graduates for 2024.
- F. **Pittsburgh Ballet House** – Approved the SV Academy of Choice Instructional Services Agreement with Pittsburgh Ballet House for 2024-2025. – Dr. McKinley
- G. **Glade Run Lutheran Services Mental Wellness Services Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide mental wellness services with eight therapists for the 2024-2025 school year.
- H. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission for and to disburse:
1. 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 resolution.
 2. McDonald's MAC Grant in the amount of \$500 requested by Ms. Stacey Harding. Funding will be used to support a cross-curricular project involving Language Arts, Social Studies and Mathematics in Ms. Stacey Harding's class.
 3. FRESH into Freshman Year Grant in the amount of \$4,000 requested by Mr. Chet Henderson and Ms. Quincy Gildea. Funds will be used to support the FRESH into Freshman Year transition program.
 4. The Haine Middle School Garden and Beyond Grant in the amount of \$18,862.60 requested by Ms. Annie Mersing and Ms. Erin Wilcher. Funds will be used for supplies to create a school garden which will include aquaponics and embryology components.
- I. **Student Trip** – Approved the secondary band trip to Norfolk, Virginia, from April 25-28, 2025, under the supervision of Mr. Varden Armstrong, Mr. Robert Babick and Ms. Sara Snyder. Students will miss two days of instruction. This will be at no cost to the district.
- J. **Renaissance Learning, Inc. Agreement** - Approved agreement with Renaissance Learning, Inc. to utilize the STAR assessment tool as the universal screening measure for students in grades 3-8. This includes the licensing fee for the STAR

assessment tool, training, and ongoing support. Pending solicitor review and approval.

- K. **School Reconfigurations (Pennsylvania Department of Education)** - Approved the reconfiguration plans for Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, Ehrman Crest Elementary School, Haine Elementary School, and Rowan Elementary School to include extended day kindergarten programs.

Mr. Brower asked Dr. Palano to share the benefits for the Renaissance Learning, Inc. Agreement over the existing program. Dr. Palano shared that administrators and a group of teachers spent time this school year piloting different universal screeners. The three points that brought them to the decision of this program include ease of use regarding administering the assessment, timeliness of administering the assessment, and that this assessment is normed daily. Additionally, this program will connect more easily to some of the other electronic supplemental resources that we have in our District.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services Agreement, conferences, Club Hope, Community Clean-Up Club, 2024 graduates, Pittsburgh Ballet House, Glade Run Lutheran Services Mental Wellness Services Agreement, grant disbursements, student trip, Renaissance Learning, Inc. Agreement and School Reconfigurations (Pennsylvania Department of Education). The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE** - Mr. Mike Jacobs

- A. **Stepping Stones Agreement** – Approved 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** – Approved budget transfers.
- C. **Homestead and Farmstead Resolution** – Approved the 2024-2025 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution per Act 1 – Taxpayer Relief Act.
- D. **Act 511 Taxes** – Approved 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** – Authorized the administration to approve:
1. Year-end budget transfers
 2. Outreach Partnership of Technology (OPT) agreements
 3. June and July bills
- F. **Liability Insurance** – Approved the sanction of the following groups to work on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District and intention to provide the District’s liability insurance 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** – Approved insurance premiums for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as provided by First National Insurance Agency.
- H. **Capital Reserve Transfer** – Authorized 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** – Approved a five-year renewal agreement with Allegheny Health Network to provide athletic training services as well as medical assistance services provided in connection with the school’s athletic program.
- J. **Booster Group Resolution** – Approved the Booster Group Resolution for the 2024-2025 school year.
- K. **Ticket prices**
 - 1. Approved 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. Approved 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 al Seneca Valley sponsored home athletic events. Pass does not allow for entry to any away or any WPIAL and/or PIAA playoff events.
- L. **Facilities Rental Fees** – Approved the facilities rental fees for the 2024-25 school year with no changes.
- M. **Bid Awards** – Awarded the professional lawn care contract to Funyak Landscapes, L.P. for district wide lawn care services.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester to approve the Stepping Stones Agreement, budget transfers, Homestead and Farmstead Resolution, act 511 taxes, summer actions, liability insurance, insurance premiums, capital reserve transfer, athletic training services agreement, booster group resolution, ticket prices, facilities rental fees and bid awards. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- N. **Final 2024-2025 General Fund Budget** – Approved the final general budget for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$176,200,022 with a proposed millage increase of 5.32 mills (4%).

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Ms. Bredl to approve the Final 2024-2025 General Fund Budget. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

11. **PERSONNEL** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:
- A. **Resignations** – *Professional* – Madison Hoffman, *Classified* – Kristie Moran, Melissa Lopez
- B. **Appointments** – *Director* – Daniel Hackenberg, John Brush, *Professional* – Tara Peterson, Alisha Nist, *Professional Substitutes* – Steffany Adair, Jessica Adam, Christine Alexander, William Allen, Mary Barb, Dana Barclay, Holly Blizman, Denyse Bruni, Erin Burkhart, Tammy Cantella, Ann Cheman, Nolan Colaric, Christina Coles, Any Crawford, Michael Cristallino, William Crummy, Nicoletta Donofrio, William Duderstadt, Haylee Fleishman, Michelle Follett, Jean Forti, Jessica Gasior, Laura Gutauskas, Isabella Harris, Kristine Hattman, Carmen Householder, Denise Howell-Longello, Heather Husband, Jennifer Keefer, Deborah Kennedy, Carol Korn, Nicole Laborie, Kathy Mahony, Kimberly Maravich, K. Adele Marks, Lori McCann, Brianne McDonough, Jessica McKenzie, Jessica McNulty, Christine Michael, Tabatha Mill, Stephen Miller, Douglas Moore, John Nicotra, Benjamin Pasternak, Mary Paterson, Sherree Pawlowski, Michael Pendred, Amy Perschke, Sophia Puricelli, Joanne Ranayhossaini, Amanda Rusnock, Deborah Santilo, Sarah Schneider, Sherri Schubert, Rachel Schulte, Jill Schulz, Erin Scott, Lisa Seibel, Michele Semrau, Thomas Snyder, Marcia Sopher, Madison Speicher, April Stadtmiller, Robert Taylor, Zackary Weismann, Tracey Williams, Kathy Williamson, Theresa Wolf, *Classified* – CSM John Kortz, Valerie Kirk, Cody Grupp, Ryan Cleaver, *Classified Substitutes* – Kara Patrick, Tracy Semega, Gina Cillo, Carrie Young, *Security* – Amber Christy, Bradly Cichra, Logan Ellsworth, Christopher Hoch, Adam Knapp, Heather Schrecengost, *Supplementals* – Bobbi Lyn Cooper, Priya Rupik, Beth Benson, Kristi Seethaler, Adelina DiTullio, Kathleen Kessler, Kristin Robinson, Hannah Hamilton, Rachael Gales, Billie Jo Pepper, Kate Henderson, Elizabeth Cavicchia, Aimee Kaczmarek, Andrea DeFabbo, Joni Klotz, Gabriella Harding, Melissa Cornibe, Jessica Jacobs, Teresa Coleman, Candace McComb, Linda Weismann, Lisa McCombs, Mary Jo Burglund, Carey Beachem, Julie Fornadel, Alvin Mullett, Erin Sypien, Jacqueline Eriksen, Melissa Womer, Jennifer Shipe, Shannon Zolkowski, Brittany Hartle, Heather Mays, Mackenzie Kacsur, Abigail Russell, Danielle Reynolds, Christine Roe, Tabatha Karman, Aaron Shafer, Jason Woolslare, Megan Bonistalli, Maria Brooks, Ken Macek, Kasey Kraus, Michele Russo, Kristin Vogan, Lara DiFrischia, Carrie Ehrenberger, Kara Andres, Jennifer Durst, Amy Calder, Wendy McQuiston, Victor Giannotta, Barry Murray, Todd Schoeffel, Howard Keebler, Michael Stebbins, Blake Walter, Steven Miller, Tom Magill, Kurt McNaught, Robert Babick, Varden Armstrong, Elizabeth Williams, Lisa Tyson, Traci Kuntz, Julie Smith, Tom Lavelle, Courtney Williams, Kelly Weston, Jennifer Cenna, Jason Ruggeri, Rebekah Grinnen, Amanda Chaousy, Eva Herman, Catherine Smolter, Joshua Husband, Roger Hardy, Stephen Wolfe, Sarah Deeds, Christina Hollowood, Jeffrey Fraser
- C. **Contracted Services** – *Artists in Residence* - Ashley Babick, William Brewer, Perry Gatch, Mark Jackovic, Mila Shadel, Brian Stahurski, Emily Tarantino, *Pittsburgh Ballet House* – Sae-Young Kang, Mallory Marinack, Emily McGoey, Robyn Naugle, Lindsay Peters
- D. **Leaves** – *Professional* – Lora Nickel, Ashley Pile, Chelsea Patricca, Rebecca Ganter

- E. **Tenure** – Sarah Bertsch, Alaina Coon, Christine Estvanik, Kristin Greene, Brittany Iellimo, Haley Landolina, Brenna Miller, Margaret Mollura, Jenna Montelaro, Tara Morrison, Kelsey Pappas, Kelsey Stauffer, Rebecca Watkins, Phoebe Winey, Bethany Wolford
- F. **Classified and Administrative Adjustments**
- G. **Agreements** – Approved agreements with Seneca Valley School District and Steven Trempus and Tiasia Papariella.
- H. **Retirement** – *Classified* – Patricia Ball
- I. **Affiliation Agreement** – Approved affiliation agreement with Seneca Valley School District and Point Park University.
- J. **Memorandums of Understanding** – Approved two MOUs with Seneca Valley Education Association.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower to approve resignations, appointments, contracted services, leaves, tenure, classified and administrative adjustments, agreements, retirement, affiliation agreement and Memorandums of Understanding. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- 12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the June 3, 2024, public agenda:
 - a. Nicole Boone and Michael Schilchtkrull
 - b. Lauren Setter
- 13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson, motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 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 this meeting to discuss personnel items.

Mr. Eric DiTullio, President

Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary