

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION Seneca Valley Senior High School Auditorium - 7 p.m.

Minutes

February 10, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Grant Morley, sixth grader at Haine Middle School, continued the board initiative, "I Led the Pledge" by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - 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. Students in the Seneca Valley Orchestra program recently participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 2, 3 & 5 Orchestra Festival at Collegiate Academy in Erie, Jan. 9-11. Of special note, Seneca Valley sophomore bassist Benny James earned first chair, marking a historic first for Seneca Valley as he is the first-ever first-chair bassist. As a result of auditions, six Seneca Valley students now advance to the PMEA Western Region Orchestra Festival in Johnstown, Pa., later this month. Students are led by Sarah Miller and Millie Shay, secondary orchestra instructors.
 2. A total of 18 Seneca Valley Band students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Band Festival held at Mercer Area High School from Jan. 22-24. Based on audition results, nine SV students were selected to move on to the PMEA Region 1 Band Festival to be held in March at Ambridge Area High School. Students are led by Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Brian Croach and Sara Snyder, secondary instrumental instructors.
 3. Seneca Valley choir senior Ayla Alexander recently earned a position in the 2025 National Association for Music Education's All-Eastern Treble Choir. The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-Eastern Honors Music Festival convenes every two years and brings together the finest high school

musicians from 11 eastern states. Through a highly competitive selection process, Miss Alexander was chosen for this prestigious event to take place April 24-25, in Hartford, Connecticut.

4. The Seneca Valley School District is honored to welcome Dr. Eric Eshbach, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Principals Association, and Mr. Michael Allison, Regional Service Specialist for the Pennsylvania Principals Association, as they formally present the 2025 Pennsylvania Outstanding Assistant Principal Award to Jeremy Womer, Assistant Principal of Haine Middle School (HMS). As Pennsylvania's honoree, Mr. Womer is now in contention for the esteemed NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year award.

Dr. Eshbach and Mr. Allison were in attendance to present Mr. Womer the 2025 Pennsylvania Outstanding Assistant Principal Award. Dr. Eshbach shared that Mr. Womer has a pride in his role, demonstrating it through his enthusiasm for his students, school and fellow administrators.

Mr. Allison shared that he had the pleasure of leading the site visit team that visited Haine Middle School. The team was able to see firsthand the team approach and collaboration by Mr. Womer and Dr. Erin Wilcher, Principal. He shared that Mr. Womer is integral in working with teachers and students and supports the many school clubs, including outdoor learning, cooking programs, e-sports and the Future Teachers Club. Mr. Allison commented that they visited when the school was holding Cultural Day, and they had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see the presenters and students participating. Mr. Allison also shared that teachers described Mr. Womer as powerful in building connections with students and families, always knowing their names, and often reinforcing their out-of-school activities. It was a consensus of the site visit committee that Mr. Womer leads with passion and care, and his focus is the students. He concluded by saying that HMS has a tremendous team and congratulated Mr. Womer on being the 2025 Pennsylvania Outstanding Assistant Principal.

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

February 14	Inclement Weather Makeup Day for January 3 closure – students and staff will be in session
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 17	President's Day – Staff In-Service Day – No School for Students
February 27-March 2	SV All-School Musical, "The Spongebob Musical" will be held in the SVIHS; tickets available at Tickets for The SpongeBob Musical in Harmony from ShowClix (https://www.showclix.com/event/svspongebobmusical)
February 28	Ramadan Begins
February 28	SVAOC End of Second Trimester, Grades K-6

- C. **All-Star Award, Winner, February 2025** – Ms. Natasha Cumba-Gonzalez, Paraprofessional at Haine Middle School, was recognized and presented the All-Star Award by Dr. Erin Wilcher, Haine Middle School Principal. Dr. Wilcher

recognized Ms. Cumba-Gonzalez as a paraprofessional in their Short-term Enhancement Program (STEP) classroom, sharing that she is consistently going above and beyond in her own professional development and strives to support students, including translating for those in need. Ms. Cumba-Gonzalez is known for her calming presence during student crisis and her commitment to the school community inspires others. Ms. Cumba-Gonzalez is often seen comforting English as Second Language (ESL) students that need help as they transition to the school culture and procedures. Dr. Wilcher also shared that she is an asset to the District and her diverse skills and commitment make her deserving of the All-Star Award. Mr. DiTullio thanked Ms. Cumba-Gonzalez for all she does. Dr. Vitale shared how proud everyone is of her, thanked and congratulated Ms. Cumba-Gonzalez.

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. **Action Meeting** – January 13, 2025

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$4,642,535.23

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$820,266.45

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

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Board Policies** –

1. Approved board policy 616 – Payment of Bills – second, final reading.
2. Approved board policy 227.1 – Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Athletic Programs, Extracurricular Activities, and Student Drivers – second, final reading.
3. Approved board policy 249 – Anti-Bullying – revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review.

- B. **2025-2026 School Calendar** – Approved the 2025-2026 school calendar.
- C. **Local District Holidays** – Approved the resolution regarding local district holidays for the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Zimmer, to approve board policies, the 2025-2026 school calendar and local district holidays. The motion passed on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc Agreement** – Approved the Services Agreement with Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. regarding the Tri-County Business-Education Partnership Career Awareness mini-grant in the amount of \$2,000 that was recently awarded to the Raider Robotics program for costs associated with student competitions.
- C. **Student Trips** -
 1. Approved Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander to take one student to Bushnell Performing Arts Center in Hartford, CT. for the All-Eastern Choir. Student will miss two days of instruction. Costs will be covered from budgeted monies.
 2. Approved Col. Keebler, JROTC instructor at SHS, to take students to Gary Anderson CMP Marksmanship Center in Camp Perry, Ohio, Feb. 12-15, 2025. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
 3. Acknowledged Ms. Amy Seelbaugh to take students to Greece and Italy from March 27-April 4, 2026. Students will miss one day of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District. ACIS travel agency will be used.
 4. Approved Ms. Sarah Miller and Ms. Millie Shay, RGMS/IHS Orchestra teachers, to take students to Richland High School in Johnstown, PA. for Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Regions, Feb. 20-22, 2025. Students will miss two days of instruction.
 5. Acknowledged Ms. Julie Parenti to take students to Spain from June 11-19, 2026. The trip is at no cost to the District. Passports travel agency will be used.
- D. **Book Disposal** – Approved the sale, donation, or recycling of obsolete books from Ryan Gloyer Middle School.
- E. **Cray Youth and Family Services Agreement** - Approved the Cray Youth and Family Services Agreement to provide alternative education for student and provision for delivery of special education services for the 2024-2025 school year.
- F. **Unified Champion Schools Memorandum of Understanding** - Approved the MOU between the Special Olympics Pennsylvania and Ryan Gloyer Middle School for Unified Champion Schools (Indoor Bocce) for the 2024-2025 school year.
- G. **Magic School, Inc. Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Magic School, Inc. for educational technology software in the amount of \$27,500 for the remainder of the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

- H. **Consultant Agreement** - Approve the consultant agreement with Hannah Brimkov to provide psychological evaluation services for special education evaluations, gifted evaluations, and requested consultation as needed for the 2024-2025 school year.
- I. **Grant Disbursement** – Grant permission for and to disburse, the RGMS Fitness Center Upgrade Grant in the amount of \$12,132.86 requested by Ms. Annie Mersing. Funds will be used for new flooring, paint, storage and accessories for the RGMS Fitness Center.
- J. **PA Connecting Communities Memorandum of Understanding** - Approve the MOU with PA Connecting Communities to provide individual transition services to students and address employment and independent living skills for the 2024-2025 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- K. **Master's Level Speech Language Pathologist Stipend** - Approve the master's level Speech Language Pathologist stipend for school-based extern placements grant, funded by Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) in the amount of \$5,000 for the spring 2025 semester.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve conferences, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. Agreement, student trips, book disposal, Cray Youth and Family Services Agreement, Unified Champion Schools Memorandum of Understanding, Magic School, Inc. Agreement, consultant agreement, grant disbursement, PA Connecting Communities Memorandum of Understanding, and the Master's Level Speech Language Pathologist Stipend. The motion passed on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **Tax Collector Compensation Resolution** – Approved the resolution establishing tax collector compensation for the years 2026-2027 through 2029-2030.
- C. **Audit Acknowledgement** - Acknowledged the local audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
- D. **Interlocal Participation Agreement with BuyBoard** - Approved the Interlocal Participation Agreement with BuyBoard to allow Seneca valley School District to become a member of this National Purchasing Cooperative.
- E. **Photography Services Agreement** - Approved the K-12 portraits agreement with Jostens, Inc. through the 2027-28 school year.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve budget transfers, tax collector compensation resolution, audit acknowledgment, Interlocal Participation Agreement with BuyBoard and the photography services agreement. The motion passed on a voice 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. **Appointments** – *Professional Substitutes* – Lauren Walsh, *Classified* – Sunrei Kwen, Julia Benson, *Supplemental* – Amanda Kalin, Shelly Droz, Danielle Fagan, *Internship* – Sonya Kerns
 - B. **Leave** – *Classified* – Margaret Beggy
 - C. **Sabbatical** – Nicole Morrow
 - D. **Retirements** – *Administration* – Dr. Matthew McKinley, *Professional* – Sharon Kramer, Jeffrey Fraser

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to approve appointments, leave, sabbatical and retirements. The motion carried on a voice 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 February 3, 2025, public agenda:
- a. Hillary Wingard
 - b. Stephen de Vries
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing to come before the board, Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Widdowson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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