

# Seneca Valley School District



## SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

### Minutes

**March 3, 2025**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
  - A. **Moment of Silence** – We are deeply saddened to share the passing of retired Athletic Director and Seneca Valley Football Coach Mr. Terry Henry. Mr. Henry was a beloved member of our staff from 1984-2004, where he guided the Raider Football team to its first-ever WPIAL Championship game. A member of the Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame, Mr. Henry was also inducted into the Butler County Hall of Fame, the Minor Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Scholastic Football Coaches Hall of Fame. But he was more than just a coach, he was known for the positive impact he had on all who knew him. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends during this time.
  - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Kinley Eiseman, third grader, Haine Elementary School, continued the board initiative, “I Led the Pledge” by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - C. **Roll Call** - by Ms. Annie Mersing, Acting 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. **ACTING SCHOOL BOARD SECRETARY** – Approved Antoinette Mersing as Acting School Board Secretary for purpose of this March 3, 2025 meeting of the Board of School Directors.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the Acting School Board Secretary. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present, voting in the affirmative.
3. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
  - A. **Student/Staff Recognition** –
    1. Four Seneca Valley Vo-Tech students earned top honors at the SkillsUSA District 10 Competition; a program offered through the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS). Competing against students from a 15-region area, these talented students showcased their skills across various disciplines. Sophomores Tucker Ray and Elizabeth Semenenko, senior Nathan Taylor and junior Gavin Uber each secured Gold Placements in their respective

categories: entrepreneurship, promotional bulletin board, photography and ad design. Their first-place finishes qualify them for the state conference, which will be held in Hershey, April 2-4.

2. Seneca Valley seniors Eric Chen and Ophelia Crano have been named finalists in the 70th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program held by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). These SV standouts are two of approximately 15,000 finalists and will now advance to the next level of the program where they have the opportunity to earn National Merit Scholarships and, ultimately, the Merit Scholar® title.

Ms. Andreassi congratulated and welcomed Eric Chen and Ophelia Crano to the meeting. Mr. Peterson, Ms. Harrison, Mr. DiTullio and Dr. Vitale all shared their congratulations for this honor.

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

March	
March 3	First Day for all PIAA Spring Sports
March 5	Ash Wednesday
March 7	End of Second Trimester, Grades K-6
March 8	SAT Testing – Seneca Valley Senior High School
March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 10	School Board Regular Meeting – 7 p.m. SVIHS Auditorium
March 14	The holiday of Holi
March 20	Spring Begins
March 21	Snow Make up Day #2 – If no snow makeup day is needed, this will become a vacation day
March 24	Act 80 Day – No School for Students
March 24	SVAOC End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
March 26	End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
March 30	Eid al Fitr Begins
April 2	Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day
April 4	Report Card Release, Grades 7-12
April 5	ACT Testing – Seneca Valley Senior High School

Mr. DiTullio shared that the week of March 3 is Inclusion Week and SV will end the week with the “Polar Pop” benefiting Special Olympics. Additionally, he shared that the SV Ice Hockey team is in the first round of playoffs, playing on March 3.

- C. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Proposed Budget** – Dr. Regina Hiler presented the 2025-26 proposed Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) operating budget. Ballots will be given to each school board member to cast their vote at the March 10 School Board Meeting. The ballots are due back to the BCAVTS by March 26.

Dr. Hiler went through the budget page-by-page. The budget shows an increase of 7.595% from last year with the Seneca Valley School District's portion rising by \$58,405.

Mr. Hester thanked Dr. Hiler for her presentation and shared his disappointment in the increase. He shared the importance of evaluating each program and asked that there be an emphasis on this.

Ms. Harrison asked for a breakdown that shows the number of students that are enrolled in each of the programs. Additionally, she asked how the increase in SV students participating next year will affect the capacities of the programs. Dr. Hiler shared that the Vo-Tech principal has been working with the SV administration to ensure that students who are not able to get into their first choice, will move into their second choice.

Mr. Brower asked for confirmation regarding the adult education classes that are offered and if they are self-funded. Dr. Hiler confirmed that they are self-funded and only offered if there are enough students registered to cover the costs associated with the class.

Mr. Peterson thanked Dr. Hiler for her presentation and shared that we want to support the programs offered at the Vo-tech. He challenged her and the Joint Operating Committee to look at all areas in the budget and make future changes.

Mr. DiTullio commented that only 15 years ago, the District had less than 100 students that attended the Vo-tech. Currently there more than double that amount of students attending and said that it is a testament to the programs that are offered. Mr. DiTullio asked Dr. Hiler if there is a plan to accommodate the future increase of students. Dr. Hiler shared that they continue to monitor the labor market needs and will make adjustments as needed.

**D. Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech – No additional update.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio shared that there was a meeting on February 26. The general operating budget is on the March 10 agenda for a vote and he recommended that it be approved. The total is \$649,000 for all the member districts and this total has not changed in 30 years.

Additionally, he invited the Board to attend The Arts Program Reception at Grove City College on March 22. Students will have their artwork displayed and it will be available for purchase.

- E. Legislative** - Mr. DiTullio shared that the Governor has shared his budget proposal which includes a significant increase for public education. The budget is in the negotiation stages and due by June 30.

At the federal level, the funding is continuing to be released and, at this time, our District has not been affected. The District receives approximately \$4 million to support programs such as Title IV, Title I and Title IIA. The Board has made a commitment that Special Education will always be a top priority of this District.

**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

#### 4. ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Public Comment** – Public comment was heard from Mr. Todd O'Shell regarding the transportation contract.
- B. **Student Trip** – Approved Mr. Varden Armstrong and Mr. Robert Babick, IHS/SHS Band Directors, to take students to Ambridge Area High School for Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Region Band, March 6-8, 2025. Students will miss one day of instruction.
- C. **Transportation Contract** – Approved the transportation contract proposal for First Student for the 2025-2026 through the 2031-2032 school years. Pending final solicitor review.
- D. **Personnel** – Approved the following personnel items that were discussed in executive session held prior to the meeting:
  1. **Resignations** – *Classified* – Kelly Lockwood, Mikayla Adomaitis, Alicia Shao
  2. **Appointments** – *Classified* – Tiffany Boots, *Supplementals* – Karen “Julie” Fornadel, Elliott Pater, Ryan Balog, Abigail Haynie, Dan Acklin, Chris Titus, Ben Mattes, Karissa Lambert, Halley Alexander, Harrison Kozlow, Misha Shearer, Megan Kennedy, Andrea Morrisard, Ryan Balog, Shelly Droz, Danielle Fagan, Steve Strelick, Dean Leventopoulos, Michael Stebbins, Brian Pesavento, Cam Palmer, George Williams, Mark Perry, Brett Poirier, Mickey Flood, Nathan Flood, Eric Semega, Aaron Parker, Kevin Holman, Wayne Baker, Josh Plunkard, Tim O'Shea, Kim Retkowski, Jenna Montelaro, Katherine Peterson, Susie Irwin, Casey Ridgely, *Internship* – Sarah Hackenberg, *Practicum* – Chelsea Bennardo
  3. **Leaves** – *Administration* – Tresa Amoscato, *Professional* – Sandra Bilbao, Nina Grinnell, Rebecca Watkins, Laura Blazejewski, Lindsay Bergstrom, Emily Knauss, Elizabeth Meinert, Taylor Marsinetti, Lindsay Mysliwiec, Cameron Maurer, *Classified* – Cindy Choura, Zackary Magill, Zackary Magill
  4. **Retirements** – *Professional* – Barry Murray, Joseph Rubaker, Judi Spinelli, Jodi Albert, Anita Duffy, *Classified* – Margaret Fennell
- E. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve the student trip, transportation contract, personnel and conferences. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** – February 3, 2025
- B. **Action Meeting** – February 10, 2025

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

7. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$8,522,260.69

8. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$901,939.99

9. **ADMINISTRATION**

- A. **Board Policy** – Approve board policy 249 – Anti-Bullying – revised, second and final reading.
- B. **Board Meeting Dates** – Approve the August 2025 through June 2026 School Board Meeting Dates.

10. **INSTRUCTION**

- A. **Student Trips** –
  - 1. Approve the middle school ski trip to Telluride, Colorado, from January 14-20, 2026, under the supervision of Mr. Mickey Flood. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
  - 2. Approve Head Cross Country Coach Steve Strelick, along with assistants, to take the boys and girls Cross County Teams, to Jennerstown, PA for a pre-season training camp from August 15-17, 2025. Students will not miss instruction and there is no cost to the district.
- B. **Instrument Donation** – Approve the donation of outdated dulcimers from Haine Middle School to the Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Chapter of the Orff-Schulwerk Association.
- C. **Cray Youth and Family Services Agreement** - Approve the agreement with Cray Youth and Family Services to provide special education programming for students through the Cray Education Center Private Academic School for the 2024-2025 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- D. **Watson Institute Service Agreement** - Approve the service agreement with The Watson Institute to provide training and consultation as needed for the 2024-2025 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- E. **Athletic Equipment Disposal** – Approve the disposal of old, unusable, non-certified athletic equipment – softball helmets.

11. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

5 7 4 0

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **2025-2026 MIU IV General Operating Budget** – Approve the 2025-2026 Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV General Operating Budget in the total amount of \$4,442,185 with Seneca Valley's contribution being \$161,240.
- C. **Capital Asset Protection, Inc. Security Contract** - Approve the security contract with Capital Asset Protection, Inc.
- D. **Waste Management Renewal Agreement** - Approve the renewal agreement with Waste Management of Pennsylvania for waste removal services.
- E. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) 2025-2026 Budget**  
– Approve the BCAVTS proposed budget with budgetary reserve for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$7,351,613.

Mr. Brower requested that items “B” and “E” be separate voting blocks at the meeting on March 10.

12. **PERSONNEL**

13. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** – The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the Feb. 10, 2025, public agenda:

- a. Charles Zugell
- b. James Hulings
- c. Taylor Russell and Eric Blackwell
- d. Kevion and Amanda Latham
- e. Rafael Hydalgo

Ms. Zimmer recognized the staff, students and community members who supported the All-School Musical.

Mr. Widdowson echoed Ms. Zimmer's comment and shared how wonderful the show was.

- 14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.
- 15. **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