

Seneca Valley School District



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

Minutes

February 9, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Lukas Alabran, grade 3, SVAOC, 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: Mr. Nick Brower, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Mark Gartner, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Ms. Allyson Mazzoni, Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft and Ms. Kari Zimmer.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. On January 19, Gretchen Burr of the Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4 School District recognized Dayna Gulish of Rowan with the UP Award, which stands for *Unlocking Potential*. The award honors excellence in supporting students through Assistive Technology.

Dayna was recognized for her outstanding work with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), including submitting referrals for students in the new Rowan classroom, consistently modeling AAC use, and supporting both students and staff. Her leadership has encouraged classroom staff to actively model AAC as well, strengthening communication supports for students across the classroom.

This recognition highlights the positive impact of collaboration and effective Assistive Technology practices in supporting student success.
 2. Seneca Valley High School students recently gained firsthand insight into cancer research during a visit to the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. Forty-five students toured the facility, explored cutting-edge research and met professionals representing a wide range of healthcare and science careers. Through personal stories and real-world connections, students learned there is no single path into healthcare, while seeing how classroom learning translates

into meaningful, impactful careers. The experience sparked curiosity and expanded students' perspectives on futures in medical research and healthcare.

B. **Dates to Remember** – Mr. Ian Hunter announced the following dates to remember:

February	National Black History Month
February 13	Inclement Weather Makeup Day for December 2 closure – students and staff will be in session
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 16	President's Day – Staff In-Service Day – No School for Students
February 17	Ramadan Begins
February 18	Lent Begins
February 26	SVAOC End of Second Trimester, Grades K-6

C. **All-Star Award, Winner, February 2026** – Mrs. Lisa Martin, Special Education Paraprofessional, Rowan Elementary, was presented the All-Star Award by Dr. Tina Wentz, Rowan Elementary Principal. Dr. Wentz shared that Mrs. Martin is the definition of team player, always stepping in with a positive attitude and a willing heart. She also shared that Mrs. Martin understands that supporting students takes everyone working together. Mrs. Martin consistently shows up for the students and her colleagues. Some of Mrs. Martin's best qualities are her empathy and care that allow her to connect with students in a way that makes them feel safe, understood and valued. Mrs. Martin's impact is felt throughout all of Rowan. The students are better because of her, the staff is stronger because of her and our school community is brighter because of her.

Mr. Hester shared that Mrs. Martin loves Rowan, the kids, her job and that he has never seen her not smiling. He recognized how kind she is and thanked her for the job that she does.

Mr. Gartner recognized that the job of a paraprofessional can be one of the most difficult jobs in a school, but also one of the most rewarding. He thanked her for all that she does.

Mr. DiTullio echoed the comments shared and recognized that the role of a paraprofessional has unique challenges, sharing his appreciation for all that she does.

D. **Instruction Update** – Dr. McCarty, Dr. Palano and Dr. Roth provided an instruction update. The presentation focused on K-12 initiatives and the first item that Dr. McCarty shared was the *Profile of a Learner*. He reminded those in attendance that the *Profile of a Learner* is on the District website and the interactive model there provides additional information. Dr. McCarty highlighted that the *Profile of a Learner* provides an overview of a child from K-12th grade as they move through the system. He highlighted the importance of an educator's job is how they prepare students for the future. He pointed out that as Dr. Palano and Dr. Roth continue the update, it will be evident that the focus is on the K-12 perspective.

Dr. McCarty addressed career pathways, career readiness and that workforce development has been an area that they have taken great interest in over the past

few years. These focus on giving students opportunities to discover what jobs are available and how the skills they have may fit those jobs of the future.

Dr. McCarty shared his enthusiasm with the work that has been done along with the experiences inside and outside the school building that give students experiential learning opportunities. Some examples that he provided are shadowing in the field, where students conduct research similar to what is happening in the workforce. For example, analyzing our stream water. They are evaluating all the different experiences and evaluating how they can grow and incorporate them across the K-12 systems.

He also shared that the scheduling season is currently happening and that one of the newer courses being offered from a state perspective is Personal Finance. Dr. McCarty reminded the Board that Personal Finance is not a new course for SV, but they have re-examined the course, by taking a creative approach to how they wanted students to access this course. Math, social studies, family consumer science and business teachers worked with Dr. Roth and Dr. McCarty during curriculum meetings to develop the course and are looking at state requirements to further enhance it.

Dr. Palano spoke on MTSS in K-6 and that there is a focus on some of the foundational skills in both literacy and math, understanding how important they are for future success. The MTSS framework was shared, highlighting that it has been molded to our schools and our community. It also provides a measuring tool to ensure that they are meeting every student where they are. She spoke on core instruction and that the focus is what is delivered in the classrooms across the District. Administrators and teachers work collectively to ensure that there is a solid progression of skill in literacy and math.

In tier 2 of the MTSS model, the focus is on students who may be identified as having some risk of not meeting end of year learning targets. In tier 2, they are very intentional about providing those students with timely interventions. In addition, their progress is monitored to ensure they're growing at an appropriate rate, to account for some of the catch-up growth.

Students in the tier 3 might need to intensify the level of support. Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) coincides with the MTSS framework. They are proactively analyzing where students are, meeting their needs and monitoring their progress to ensure that the students have the foundational skills that they need to be successful.

Dr. Roth presented that the K-6 and the 7-12 work together by looking at the 13-year continuum of a learner. They ensure that they provide for all of this in a way that will be useful. When looking at curriculum, instruction and innovation in K-6, you will see that they are looking at standards, resources being used and knowledge building. There is a focus on the standards of Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (STEELS) already in place.

There is a shift that begins to take place in grades 7-12 when discussing career readiness. In career readiness and workforce development, they focus on real world learning because this is a need.

From a K-12 perspective, you want to see progression of skill building, attention to detail in each student and where they are learning, so when they graduate, they are good, productive members of society.

In conclusion, the *Profile of a Learner*, is an interactive tool where you can see a clear definition and how it looks throughout different grades. Dr. Roth shared that they are focusing on content; but that content is not just taught through this lens, it is taught through the ten dispositions that make up the “Profile of a Learner.”

Ms. Zimmer asked for clarification on how the “*Profile of a Learner*” is embedded in the curriculum and how is it shared with the students. Dr. Palano shared that the K-12 curriculum committees work with the teachers to develop the “*Profile of a Learner*.” Dr. Palano shared that what makes it unique is when referencing the different grade bands, conversations are continuing with the professional staff, school counselors about what it looks like and how the content is taught through the dispositions. She shared that the “*Profile of a Learner*” is not a way to evaluate, but it is a way to support, moving from each grade level.

In addition, Ms. Zimmer asked in terms of 7-12th grade curriculum, for clarification on how administration reviews curriculum. Dr. McCarty shared that curriculum for every subject is addressed every year. They meet with their core content (English, Science, Math and Social Studies) a minimum of three times per year, where representatives for each subject are present. In addition to the curriculum, the resources and best practices are discussed in these meetings. Dr. McCarty shared that an advantage the District has is having an integrated IT department. With their help, curriculum adjustments can be made at any time and implemented in real time. Additionally, there are professional learning communities that give teachers the opportunity to meet on an ongoing basis. This allows teachers not in core content meetings to have discussions throughout the year, empowering them all to know what is best for student learning.

Mr. Jacobs commented on the “*Profile of a Learner*”, and that a few years ago Dr. McCarty walked him through MTSS. As he reflected on what he learned about MTSS, he recalled once when he was conducting employee reviews, he realized one area that they were being evaluated in was reading, writing, math and the others were different, but very similar, to how the District is teaching the students to learn. In his opinion, curiosity, perseverance, and others are as important as the reading, writing and arithmetic and will be just as important in life after high school.

Additionally, Mr. Jacobs asked for clarification about the Personal Finance class and the new state guidelines. Dr. McCarty shared that it will be a required class, but the District has time to ensure that all students take it. Dr. McCarty shared that this class is already being offered in the Program of Studies for students to take.

Dr. Vitale thanked Dr. McCarty, Dr. Palano and Dr. Roth for the presentation and the work that they do. She added that in her career, she has learned that as an educator, test scores were very important to her. However, she has since learned that teaching is about the whole child. She shared that the Program of Studies has grown so much with the amount of electives, along with online courses, College in High School courses and Advanced Placement courses offered. She encouraged the

Board to read the alumni interviews that are published in the SV spotlights and Raider Pride about their education at SV and how it set them apart for their future.

In addition, Dr. Vitale shared about the robust Vo-tech program that is an additional option that many students participate in. She is proud to say that students who participate in the Vo-tech program are often employed before they graduate high school. For students that choose not to go to Vo-tech, many of those classes are also offered by SV teachers and students can take those classes here.

Lastly, there is a population of students that choose to go into the military after graduation, which is also quite noteworthy.

She shared that there is a lot to cover in these types of presentations, and that school boards need to focus on policy and finance. Because of this, it allows little time to talk with the Board and public about instruction. When you look at the whole child, and take into consideration culture, community, courses offered and opportunities, these are all indicators of successes that are not always reported in media reports about test scores.

Mr. DiTullio shared that while referencing the Program of Studies, he noticed that there are 44 math classes offered and that the district that offers the next closest to SV is 16 classes.

E. **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** – Public comment was heard from Mr. Jack McMillin on the topic of bond authorization, Mr. John Czolba on the topic of bond issues/structure, and Mr. Ryan Eggleston on the topic of middle school uniforms – basketball and administration.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Action Meeting** – January 12, 2026

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,580,181.70

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$216,359.22

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

8. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **2026-2027 School Calendar** – Approved the 2026-27 school calendar.
- B. **Local District Holidays** – Approved the resolution regarding local district holidays for the 2026-27 school year.

Mr. DiTullio shared that the 2026-2027 School Calendar has three snow days built into the calendar.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar and Local District Holidays. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Student Trips** –
 1. Approved Colonel Keebler, JROTC instructor at SHS, to take students to Gary Anderson CMP Marksmanship Center in Camp Perry, Ohio, February 11-14, 2026. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
 2. Approved Mr. Varden Armstrong and Mr. Robert Babick, IHS/SHS Band Directors, to take students to Sharon High School for Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) District Band, February 4-6, 2026. Students will miss two days of instruction.
 3. Approved the Academic Games League trip to Charlotte, NC, April 24-28, 2026, under the supervision of Ms. Julie Smith, Mr. Jeremiah Friday, Mr. Mike Stebbins and Ms. Jen Exler. Students will miss three days of instruction, and the trip is at no cost to the District.
- C. **Athletic Equipment Disposal** – Approved the sale or disposal of obsolete track timing equipment.
- D. **Book Disposal** – Approved the sale, donation, or recycling of obsolete books from Rowan Elementary School. –
- E. **Grant Disbursement** - Granted 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 \$561,210 to fund the fire alarm system replacement project at Haine Elementary/Haine Middle School. This grant requires a 25% match from the District in the amount of \$187,070 and approval of the resolution.

- F. **Watson Institute** - Approved the tuition agreement with The Watson Institute, The Education Center, for enrolled students during the 2025-26 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- G. **Bayada** - Approved the nursing services agreement with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. for individualized nursing services for students during the 2025-26 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- H. **Transition Services** - Approved the transition services agreement with Cares of Western PA to provide individualized transition services for participating students during the 2025-26 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- I. **University of Pittsburgh Services Agreement** - Approved the agreement with University of Pittsburgh to participate in the School Partnered Collaborative Care (SPACE) Study for the 2026-27 school year. Pending solicitor review.

Mr. Brower asked Dr. Doggrell for more information on Bayada. Dr. Doggrell shared that this is a new nursing service for a student that requires individualized nursing services during the school day.

Mr. DiTullio thanked Ms. Kirk for the work that she has done for the Public-School Facility Improvement Grant application.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Ms. Zimmer, to approve conferences, student trips, athletic equipment disposal, book disposal, grant disbursement, Watson Institute, Bayada, transition services and the University of Pittsburgh Services Agreement. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. BUSINESS/FINANCE

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **Audit Acknowledgement** - Acknowledged the local audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.
- C. **Insurance Broker of Record** – Approved to appoint Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. as the school district’s Broker of Record to coordinate the annual insurance renewals to begin with the 2026-27 policy period.
- D. **Naming Rights Agreement** – Approved the NexTier Bank Naming Rights agreement for Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000), payable in ten annual installments of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) each year, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2036.
- E. **Bond Issuance Resolution** - Authorized the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation (limited tax) bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$150,000,000 covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity, redemption and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing

the filing of the required documents with the Department of Community and Economic Development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds.

- F. **Food Service Equipment** - Approved the sale of any food service equipment that is deemed to have resale value and the disposal of any items that are not suitable for resale in a responsible manner.

Mr. Brewer, District Bond Counsel, shared that there is a blank in the Bond Issuance Resolution in section 1101, that was provided to the Board. This blank needs to be filled in as November 10, 2025 and the record should show that if the Board adopts the resolution, that that will be completed accordingly.

Mr. Brewer also shared his appreciation with Mr. Jacobs for reading the title of the resolution because it is the intent that it will encapsulate everything that is being done. If approved, the Board is authorizing the maximum amount for the purpose that is specified with the Intermediate school project, and it sets out the items necessary to get this project up for financing. The intent is not to get the financing done in the immediate future, but to set the stage for what needs to be done to pay the cost of the construction as it is ongoing.

Mr. DiTullio asked Mr. Brewer if the Board operates effectively, has the right structures in place, what could improve, which decisions he supports, and how past and current actions shape his view of the District as a bond issuer. Mr. Brewer responded that the Board has maintained a very high bond rating that he believes is AA+, noting that there are very few districts in PA that have a bond rating that high. Additionally, historically the District has negotiated bond sales with a selective underwriter and he doesn't believe that they have all been with PNC (prior to PNC, the bond sales were with Janney). For financing this large, the recommendation is to sell on a negotiating basis because the District will need the underwriter to market bonds to a larger audience. If you forced a competitive sale, it would only raise the spectrum that the bidders who bid on those bonds will leave themselves a lot of cushion because that will be a lot of debt to move. A negotiated sale allows you to measure the risk. The District has hired an independent financial advisor, PFM, who is well known throughout the Commonwealth of PA, and one of the largest independent financial advisors in the country. They will be the ones designing the bond issue, advising the Board what their recommendations are and then PNC will be instructed to sell the bonds according to their models. Mr. Brewer believes that this is a strong way to go about this.

Mr. Brewer explained that the financing is being recommended on wrap around basis and that this is done by 100% of his clients. By doing this, you can manage your overall debt. The reasoning why school districts do this is because of an unintended consequence of Act 1.

Mr. Jacobs thanked Mr. Brewer and commented that the maximum resolution is not to exceed the maximum. This is challenging for him as his expectation is to not borrow the full amount and pay the yield that is on the rate in the resolution. He acknowledges that Ms. Kirk and the administration share the same expectations and he recognizes that there are a lot of variables that can happen in the next four years. Additionally, he thanked Ms. Kirk

and agrees with the hiring of PFM advisors to ensure that the District is getting a market rate for the total cost of issuance, including from the underwriters.

Mr. Brewer thanked Mr. Jacobs and acknowledged that the not to exceed number is not what they are expecting to borrow in the end. It is there as a technical requirement that is needed under state law to leave space in the perimeters resolution so that you can accommodate the various debt structures that will come in each series. It allows you to only borrow what is needed. The other reason is that the state makes it clear that to do a perimeter resolution, they want to see total overall debt, total amount of principal amortizing each year and the interest rate.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Ms. Zimmer, to approve budget transfers, audit acknowledgment, insurance broker of record, naming rights agreement, bond issuance resolution and food service equipment. The motion carried 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. **Resignations** – *Classified* – Karen Morrison, *Supplemental* - Christina Hollowood

B. **Appointments** – *Professionals* – Jacqueline Edmisten, *Professional Substitutes* – Victoria Hoburg, Hailey Kochan, Gwendolyn Lloyd, Bianca Mazur, Brenda Serbicki, Madison Cossin, *Classified* – Tricia Steinmetz, Fawn Thomas, *Classified Substitutes* – Nicole Sloka, *Supplementals* – Tom Magill, Bill Parenti, Cam Palmer, Mickey Flood, Spencer Murray, Grey Hayward, Karen “Julie” Fornadel, Ryan Balog, Elliott Pater, Dan Acklin, Halley Alexander, Jeannie Orend, Mike Conlon, Nicole Lollo, Maura Pasquale, Lisa Tyson, Jeannie Orend, Megan Meeder, Ashley Watkins, Lisa Ridenour, Val McGee, Paul (PJ) Blinn, Wes Brahler, Steve Strelick, Wes Brahler, Steve Strelick, Daniel Dickey, Morgan Peaco Quick, Anastasa Williams, Craig Gehm, Jen North Durst, Zack Duda, Craig Gehm, Anastasa Williams, Zack Duda, Jen North Durst, Marissa Bitonti, Bria Giovannelli, Catherine Lochner-Trejchel, Andrew Musacchio, Ashley Turici, Megan Kelly, Jeff Beavers, Logan Burnsworth, Jon Young, Shelly Droz, John Hickman, McKenna Christy, Colleen Krause, Mary Jo Burglund, Katherine Flach, Kaitlin Jarvie, Sharon McSwaney, Shannon Perry, Michelle Rogozinski, Julie Stanek, Tim Dubovi, Julie Glenz, Philip Sassaman, Todd Winters, Thomas Dinoti, Victor Giannotta

C. **Leaves** – *Director* – Evan Hunter, *Professionals* - Ava Mosbacher, Kelly Vu, Renae Brown, Sharon McSwaney, Courtney Williams, Emily Thelen, Danielle Reynolds, Robert Babick, *Classified* – Michelle Spatafore, Dakota Honneffer, *Security* – Amber Christy

D. **Retirements** – *Professionals* – Jamie Zeigler, Todd Schoeffel, Cynthia Peterson, Traci Kuntz

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves 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 2, 2026, public agenda:
- a. Michael Pokrzywinski
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 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