

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

Minutes

March 2, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Enyssa Mertz – grade 3, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary, 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, Mr. Tim Hester, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Ms. Allyson Mazzoni, Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Ms. Susan Harrison was absent.
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition** –
 1. Multiple Seneca Valley Vo-Tech students earned top honors at the SkillsUSA District 10 Competition, a program through the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School. Students from across the region competed at the New Castle School of Trades in a variety of technical skill and leadership contests.

Gold medalists advancing to the state competition are:

Mara Josephson - Grade 11
Elizabeth Semenenko - Grade 11
Kylee Brennan - Grade 12
Alessandra Johnston - Grade 12
Caroline Panyon - Grade 12
Odessa Quinlan - Grade 12
Gavin Uber - Grade 12

They will compete at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania State Competition in Hershey, April 8–10, for a chance to advance to nationals.
 2. 70 Seneca Valley students competed in the SV KidWind Challenge on Feb. 6 at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center. The event featured 17 teams of fourth graders from Ehrman Crest Elementary and Haine Elementary, along

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with fifth graders from Haine Middle School, showcasing creative wind and solar energy designs.

Students designed and tested small-scale wind turbines and solar-powered environments, applying hands-on engineering and presenting their projects to judges.

Students were coached by Seneca Valley teachers and staff who supported the KidWind Club and helped guide teams throughout the competition.

Mr. Hester commented on the SkillsUSA Competition and that it is one of the most exciting things that he gets to do as a member of the BCAVTS Board. He shared that the projects are not average projects. They are designed to get students to work together in a group, where they come up with a project idea and then present the project. He highlighted that when the students get to participate in this competition, they meet other students who are also doing the same things and it allows them to learn from their peers.

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

March	
March 2	First Day of all PIAA Spring Sports
March 3	End of Second Trimester, Grades K-6
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 9	School Board Regular Meeting – 7 p.m. – SVSHS Auditorium
March 12-15	SV All School Musical, "Disney's Frozen the Musical" will be held in the SVIHS; Tickets are available for purchase on ShowClix by visiting: Tickets for Disney's Frozen, the Musical in Harmony from ShowClix
March 13	Report of Student Progress Release Grades K-6
March 14	SAT Testing – Seneca Valley Senior High School
March 16	Snow Makeup Day #2
March 19	Eid al Fitr Begins
March 19	SVAOC End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
March 20	Spring Begins
March 21	ACT Testing – Seneca Valley Senior High School
March 24	End of Third Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
March 29	Palm Sunday
March 30-April 3	Spring Break, No School for Students and Staff
April 1	Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day
April 1	Passover Begins
April 3	Good Friday
April 5	Easter
April 6	Act 80 (Professional Development) Day, No School for Students
April 10	Orthodox Good Friday
April 11	ACT Testing – Seneca Valley Senior High School
April 12	Orthodox Easter

- C. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Proposed Budget** – Dr. Regina Hiler presented the 2026-27 proposed Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) operating budget. Ballots will be given to each school board member to cast their vote. The ballots are due back to the BCAVTS by March 30. These ballots will be opened at the JOC meeting on April 8.

Dr. Hiler went through the budget page-by-page. The proposed budget shows an increase of 3% from last year with the Seneca Valley School District's portion at \$892,274. This represents a 1.19% increase from last year.

Mr. DiTullio shared that in the past 15 years, the District saw the enrollment number nearly double. In addition, he shared that the BCAVTS has seen enrollment across the board nearly double.

Mr. Brower thanked Dr. Hiler for working with representatives from the District and other districts to get to this budget. He recognized the work and time that went into it. He shared his appreciation to her and the entire staff for this budget and for all that they do at the BCAVTS for the students.

Ms. Zimmer encouraged the Board members to take time to go tour the BCAVTS. She thanked Dr. Hiler for her flexibility and willingness to allow her to tour the facility previously.

Mr. Hester reminded the Board that last year they voted "no" on the 2025-26 proposed budget. Since then, they have had hard conversations that led to Dr. Hiler and her team creating the proposed budget that she shared. He noted that they were able to keep the healthcare cost rise at less than 3%. In addition, there were courses that had very little participation and that they have all been corrected. Lastly, regarding charter schools, there were a lot of discussions and negotiations to come to a fair compromise between BCAVTS and the charter schools. He believes that this helped significantly. Mr. Hester thanked Dr. Hiler and his recommendation is that the Board pass the proposed budget.

Dr. Vitale shared that the increase in enrollment numbers are due to the wonderful programming and opportunities offered at BCAVTS. She is happy to see the shift in our community and our parents that this is a great pathway available for our students. Dr. Vitale shared that they have had to work on attendance at BCAVTS and complimented Dr. Hiler on her efforts to increase attendance.

Mr. Gartner expressed his support of the BCAVTS and the lifelong skills that the students that attend benefit from.

D. Agency Reports

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Hester shared that he would provide an update at the next meeting.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. DiTullio shared that they have received a clean audit report. Next week, Interim Executive Director, Brenda Marino and Business Manager, Maureen Werwie, will be at the meeting to share the 2026-27 Proposed General Operating Budget. Lastly, they have appointed two board members to fill vacant seats due to recent resignations.

E. Legislative - Mr. DiTullio shared that the Senate is currently in recess and set to return to office on March 16, with the House reconvening on March 23. Senate Bill 194 which modernizes the public notice requirements by giving school districts and local government flexible, cost-effective options to meet their advertising obligations. Additionally, House Bill 1291, would maintain the requirement for

Districts to publish in an accredited newspaper if one exists. He noted that Pennsylvania's public notice laws have not been updated since 1976 and that currently school districts can only use printed newspapers to meet the legal notice requirements.

PSERS – Mr. DiTullio shared that any teachers hired after 2019, will be receiving a check from a class action lawsuit. He noted that these checks are legitimate and can be cashed.

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** – Public comment was heard by Mr. Douglas Boyd on the topic of IHS and PAC project requests.

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

1. **Resignations** – *Classified* – Paige Miller, Tammi Dahl Rosso, Megan Reno, *Supplemental* – Mackenzie Kascur, Brittany Hartle
2. **Appointments** – *Administration* – Dr. Samantha Schmitt, *Professional Substitutes* – Jonathan Apicella, Colin Celani, Leisa Lewis, Amanda Longello, *Classified* – Heather Byrom, Irma Martinez, *Classified Substitutes* – Catherine Lusty, Karen Morrison, *Supplementals* – Mackenzie Gaydosh, Misha Shearer, Megan Kennedy, Carrie McNally, Tyler Messica, Sinead Reeb, Shauna Stupak, James Sutkowski, Ryan Rice, James Sutkowski, Ryan Rice, Karissa Lambert
3. **Leaves** – *Professional* - Lauren Calderone, Shauna Stupak, Ciara Was, Heather Kusick, Sydney Heeter, Morgan Wager, Megan Orloff, Sarah Barone, *Classified* – Amy Barkley, Pamela Weis, Paula Nicklas, Megan May, Dina Tompkins, *Security* – Bradly Cichra
4. **Retirements** – *Professional* – Carol-Lynn Dubovi, Darla Ramirez-Lightner, Beth Clegg, Chris Clutter, Sandra Bilbao, Jacqueline Larson, *Classified* – Rose Walsh

C. **Student Adjudications** – Approved the following student adjudication waivers:

1. #2025-26-10
2. #2025-26-11

Mr. DiTullio motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, retirements and student adjudications. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. DiTullio congratulated and welcomed Dr. Samantha Schmitt for being hired as the Haine Middle School Assistant Principal.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** – February 2, 2026
- B. **Action Meeting** – February 9, 2026

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,511,790.36

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**

Grand Total: \$1,013,386.98

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

- A. **Kennywood Picnic** – Approve Friday, June 19, 2026, as the Kennywood picnic date for 2026.

9. **INSTRUCTION**

- A. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.
- B. **Grant Disbursement** – Grant permission to apply for and to disburse, the following:
 - 1. Chemical and Genetic Analysis of a Local Waterway Grant in the amount of \$900, funded by the Grable Foundation and requested by Mr. Tom Lavelle. Funds will be used for the biology class and students from the biotech lab to work together to delineate our campus waterway in terms of fish inhabitants and water quality.
 - 2. Traverse Climbing Wall for the Inclusion of Students Grant in the amount of \$7,500, funded by Highmark Foundation and requested by Ms. Ashley Salman and Mr. Tyler Mesisca. Funds will be used for a traverse climbing wall.
- C. **Book Disposal** - Approve the sale, donation, or recycling of obsolete books from Connoquenessing Valley Elementary, Ehrman Crest Elementary, Ehrman Crest Middle School, Haine Elementary, Haine Middle and Rowan Elementary Schools.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.

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- B. **Naming Rights Agreement** – Approve an addendum to the existing agreement with the Khara Family for naming rights of the baseball field for Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), payable in ten annual installments of Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) each year, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2035.
- C. **Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) 2026-2027 Budget** – Approve the BCAVTS proposed budget with budgetary reserve for the 2026-27 school year in the amount of \$7,571,783.
- D. **2026-2027 MIU IV General Operating Budget** – Approve the 2026-27 Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV General Operating Budget in the total amount of \$4,552,816 with Seneca Valley's contribution being \$161,240. The official amount of the contribution is calculated on October 2026 PIMS information.

11. **PERSONNEL**

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the February 9, 2026 public agenda:

- a. Jack McMillin
- b. Dicky Nassar
- c. Carrie Dillon
- d. Eric Fogle
- e. Linda Weismann
- f. Jeremiah Friday
- g. Douglas E. Boyd, P.E.
- h. Sandy Thompson
- i. Phil Sbrolla
- j. Douglas Boyd
- k. Julie Jones
- l. Daniel and Cheryl Perry

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Brower motioned, seconded by Mr. Savitt-Kraft, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 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