

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

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

Minutes

April 20, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sumayyah Elsherif – grade 4, Ehrman Crest Elementary 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: Mr. Eric DiTullio, Mr. Mark Gartner, Ms. Susan Harrison, Mr. Tim Hester, Ms. Allyson Mazzoni, Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Mr. Nick Brower and Mr. Mike Jacobs were absent.
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition** –
 1. Congratulations to the Seneca Valley Raiders Ice Hockey Team – Back-to-back Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) Class 3A Champions.

Coach Tyler Mesisca thanked the School Board members for having the team attend and for recognizing their accomplishment.

Ms. Harrison, Mr. Hester and Ms. Zimmer congratulated the team and shared that they are proud of their accomplishment.

Dr. Vitale congratulated all the coaches, athletes and their families on this accomplishment. She asked the captains to share with the Board what they learned the most by being a part of this team. They shared commitment, always showing up, care, how to balance school, home, personal life and that these are all valuable life lessons.

Mr. DiTullio echoed the comments that were previously shared and that this team has set a high standard for the years to come.
 2. Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Education, was formally awarded the Distinguished PreK-12 Educator Award at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education’s Distinguished Alumni Awards on April 15.

The award honors and acknowledges his longstanding service to students, families and educators.

3. Seneca Valley Assistant Athletic Director Mr. Nii Sowa-Doku was recognized as the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) Assistant Athletic Director of the Year on March 19. The award honors his outstanding leadership and dedication to student-athletes and the Seneca Valley community.
4. CVE Principal Jeremy Womer was recognized as a Distinguished Young Alumnus by Clarion University of Pennsylvania on February 27. The Distinguished Young Alumnus award recognizes graduates who have achieved significant professional accomplishments and demonstrated meaningful service to their communities early in their careers.
5. Two Seneca Valley students, Dahlia Marcin and Beckett Lowry, were named 2026 Carson Scholars, a prestigious honor recognizing outstanding academic achievement and commitment to service. Selected from among 706 students nationwide, both demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity and dedication to their communities. Each student will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship, along with a medal and certificate. They were formally recognized at the Carson Scholars Fund's Annual Pittsburgh Awards Banquet on April 12.
6. Administrators and teachers from Ryan Gloyer Middle School were recognized with multiple honors at the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE) State Conference. The school also earned its fifth redesignation as a PA Don Eichhorn "Schools to Watch," highlighting excellence in academics, equity and student support. In addition, several members of the RGMS community were individually honored. Eighth grader Rex Woodard received the Joan Jarrett Student Award. Health teacher, Ms. Ashlyn Pry was recognized for the Learning to Teach & Teaching to Learn: Student Teacher Recognition Award. Learning Support teacher, Ms. Katie Wisniewski earned the PAMLE Promising Practitioners Award: New Teacher Award.
7. Seneca Valley art students earned top honors in the 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, with three students receiving Gold Key awards, 10 earning Silver Keys and nine receiving Honorable Mentions. Gold Key winners Evan Heneghan, Hope Reep and Audrey Wolfe will advance to national-level judging in New York City. The awards highlight the creativity, talent and dedication of Seneca Valley's student artists across multiple grade levels. Students were recognized during the regional awards event held March 7.

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

April	Autism Awareness and National Child Abuse Prevention Month
April 20-24	PSSA Testing for grades 3-8
April 22	Administrative Professionals Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 23	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
April 23-25	NFL Draft in Pittsburgh

April 25	I Love CVE Fun Run
April 28	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
May 1	School Lunch Hero Day
May 2	SAT Testing, SVSHS, 7:30 a.m.

- C. **Yellowstone National Park Student Trip Presentation** - Mr. Kenneth Cahall introduced students that had the opportunity to attend the recent trip to Yellowstone National Park. Students enthusiastically shared highlights and photos from their trip with those in attendance. Highlights included snow shoeing, observing long horned antelopes, preparing and cleaning up from meals, the history of the bison and working on research projects.

Mr. Friday thanked the Board for providing the opportunity for this group of students to go on this trip. He shared that this trip provided more than being able to go to a museum as they were working with scientists to create and collect data that was added to current studies that are going on about the snowpack, as well as some of the animal migration that they are currently having. In addition, he shared that this trip provided life lessons, such as navigating without cell phones for the length of the trip, cooking their own meals and trying new foods.

Members of the Board were excited to ask the students questions regarding the trip and the students were equally excited to share their experiences. Some questions were:

- How many of you was this your first time traveling without your parents? – All of them.
- Do the bison rub? – Yes.
- How many of you feel that this was the best field trip that you have ever been on? – All of them!
- How would the trip have been different if you were permitted to have your cell phones with you? – The students would not have had the opportunity to connect as much. Phones did not cause distractions and instead of having them, they had opportunities to do other things together and to build relationships.
- Did you experience a buffalo jam? – Yes!

Dr. Vitale thanked Mr. Cahall and Mr. Friday for leading these students on this wonderful experience. She also thanked the parents for entrusting these teachers with their children and for seeing the value in student trips.

- D. **All-Star Award, Winner, April 2026** – Ms. Michelle Feil, Paraprofessional, was presented the All-Star Award by Dr. Bridget Miller, Ehrman Crest Elementary School Principal. Dr. Miller shared that Ms. Feil has had a profound impact on the students and staff. Ms. Feil works with the students that have the most significant behavioral needs where she builds authentic, compassionate and trusting relationships. Through the connections and collaborative work with the classroom teacher, Ms. Feil has helped so many students. Dr. Miller continued by sharing that Ms. Feil's calm, gentle, compassionate nature makes the perfect combination in making every child feel seen, heard and valued, meeting them where they are. She shared that some of her most important work is helping the students learn to build friendships through relationships, by modeling empathy, compassion and acceptance. She changes lives, strengthens our school community and she reminds

everyone where the true heart of education lies. Dr. Miller was honored to recognize and congratulate Ms. Feil on this award.

Mr. DiTullio recognized and thanked Ms. Feil for all that she does.

E. Agency Reports

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Hester reported that there is a large group of students going to Georgia to present their projects. In addition, approximately nine students who will be graduating this spring already have a full-time job lined up.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that there will be a meeting on April 22. In addition, he shared that he is on the agenda to be approved for nomination as the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Board Member.

- F. Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the Senate returned to session on April 20 and that the House will return next week. Two items were voted out of the House Committee: House Bill 1706 – Mental Health Awareness – Students and Coaches and House Bill 1558 – Diaper Changing Stations in Restrooms. Additionally, House Bill 41 is being brought to the House floor for voting consideration. This bill aims to amend the Public-School Code to allow the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association to create separate championship playoffs for public and private schools. Lastly, the State House passed a \$53.2 billion spending plan that was identical to Gov. Shapiro's budget proposal.

PSERS – Mr. DiTullio shared that at the March meeting, as of December 31, 2025, the fund had a value of \$87.5 billion and that this is up \$3.8 billion for the fiscal year \$8 billion since December 31, 2024. In addition, there are approximately 250,000 active members. Lastly, it is 65% funded with projections standing consistent that will increase to 90% in the next six years.

PSBA – Mr. DiTullio shared that the 2026 PSBA Delegate Assembly will be held, in-person, on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 9 a.m. at Cumberland Valley School District's Mountain View Auditorium. The District can send up to three Board Members to attend.

Voting delegates officially represent the entire entity in the following ways:

- Receive reports from the PSBA president, chief executive officer and treasurer.
- Receive the election results for PSBA leadership, including PSBA Governing Board officers, Zone Representatives and Sectional Advisors.
- Consider proposals recommended by the PSBA Platform Committee and adopt the legislative platform for the coming year.
- Consider and act upon any proposed changes to the PSBA Bylaws.

The Board will need to submit the delegates to PSBA by June 26th.

G. 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 by Ms. Julie Jones on the topic of Vo-tech.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –
 - A. **Work Session** – March 2, 2026
 - B. **Action Meeting** – March 9, 2026
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**
Grand Total: \$18,453,486.78
7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**
Grand Total: \$1,268,798.87

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Ms. Mazzoni, 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. **MIU IV Board Member** – Approved the nomination of Mr. Eric DiTullio as a Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV Board Member for the term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.
 - B. **Settlement Agreement** – Approved the settlement agreement with R.N.
 - C. **Research Studies** – Approve the following research studies:
 1. Doctoral Candidate, Ms. Sarah Parish, SVAOC Assistant Principal, to conduct a dissertation study on Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). Specifically, researching whether differences exist in student benchmark growth when targeted intervention support is delivered through face-to-face instruction in a drop-in center environment versus synchronous virtual support within the online program.
 2. Mr. Timothy Eiler, Ehrman Crest Middle School Principal and Point Park University doctoral candidate, to conduct research to study the role of critical collective reflection within Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), including teacher surveys and brief principal interviews. This research study has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.
 3. Approve the request for retroactive permission for select Ehrman Crest Middle School teachers to participate in an IRB-approved study conducted by Point Park Universities Doctoral Candidate, Mr. Travis Lee, Director of Curriculum at

Huntingdon School District. The study will examine the role of transformational leadership within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) structures in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Savitt-Kraft, to approve the MIU IV Board Member, settlement agreement and research studies. The motioned carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.
- B. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission to apply for and to disburse, the following: -
 - 1. Gross Movement Studio Grant in the amount of \$7,500, funded by the Highmark Foundation and requested by CVE Administration. Funds will be used to purchase equipment and curricular resources to create a Gross Motor Movement Studio at CVE.
 - 2. CVE Book Vending Machine Grant in the amount of \$5,000, funded by the Dollar General Youth Literacy Grant and requested by Ms. Erin Stewart and Ms. Kristine Hart. Funds will be used to purchase and stock the CVE book vending machine.
- C. **Student Trips** – Approved the following student trips:
 - 1. The middle school ski trip to Sun Valley, Idaho, from February 10-16, 2027, under the supervision of Mr. Mickey Flood. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
 - 2. Mr. Jeremiah Friday and Ms. Linda Weismann to take six students to Madison, Wisconsin, for the KidWind World Challenge, May 17-22, 2026. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
 - 3. Approved Mr. Varden Armstrong, Mr. Robert Babick, Ms. Sarah Miller, Ms. Chessa Crum, Mr. Kyle Masson, Ms. Matilda Shay and Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander to take band, choir, and orchestra students to the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) All-State Conference from April 22-25, 2026. Students will miss three days of instruction.
 - 4. Approved the Academic Decathlon Team to travel to Garden Grove, California, from April 22-25, 2026, under the supervision of Mr. David Reichard. Students will miss three days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.
- D. **Athletic Uniform Sale and Disposal** – Approved the sale, donation or disposal of obsolete athletic uniforms and equipment bags.
- E. **Stat Staffing** – Approved the services agreement with Stat Staffing for individualized nursing services for students during the 2025-26 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- F. **Children's Institute** – Approved the services agreement with The Day School at The Children's Institute for enrolled students during the 2026-27 school year. Pending solicitor review.

- G. **Bradley Center** – Approved the agreement for educational services with the Bradley Center for enrolled students during the 2026-27 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- H. **Glade Run Lutheran Services** – Approved the agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide mental health services for students during the 2026-27 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- I. **Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP)** – Approved the agreement to participate and comply with the PA Medical Assistance Program for the 2026-27 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- J. **Intergovernmental Agreement with MIU IV** -Approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with the MIU IV to arrange and plan appropriate allocation of services and resources for the 2026-27 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- K. **Special Education Plan** – Approved the District’s Special Education Plan submission for 2026-2029 to the PA Department of Education.
- L. **Resource Adoption** – Approved the adoption of the K-6 Into Reading/Into Literature English Language Arts resource.

Ms. Harrison asked Dr. Doggrell if the school year is correct in the Stat Staffing agreement. Dr. Doggrell confirmed that it is.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve conferences, grant disbursements, student trips, athletic uniform sale and disposal, Stat Staffing, Children’s Institute, Bradley Center, Glade Run Lutheran Services, Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program, Intergovernmental Agreement with MIU IV, Special Education Plan and Resource Adoption. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **CVE Re-Roofing Project** - Approved Amrize Building Envelope, LLC d/b/s/ Duro-Last Roofing, through the government cooperative purchasing program - The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Vendor Agreement for the CVE Re-roofing Project for areas H, I, J, K, M, N, & O.
- C. **Senior High School Re-Roofing Project** - Approved Amrize Building Envelope, LLC d/b/s/ Duro-Last Roofing, through the government cooperative purchasing program - The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Vendor Agreement for the SHS Re-roofing Project for areas W, U, & T.
- D. **Equipment Disposal** - Approved the sale of the equipment that is deemed to have resale value and the disposal of any items that are not suitable for resale in a responsible manner.
- E. **Depository/Treasurer** - Appointed NexTier Bank as depository for the 2026-2027 school year.

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Gartner, to approve budget transfers, CVE Re-Roofing Project, Senior High School Re-Roofing Project, equipment disposal and depository/treasurer. 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** – *Professional* – Margaret Halferty, Carrissa Miller, Melanie Wingertsahn, *Classified* – Janean Yeater
- B. **Appointments** – *Routing Specialist* – Jack Krug, *Professional Substitutes* – Avery Arena, Alexander Dowling, Erin Ference, Karen Hezlep, Kaylin Latkovic, Emma Meinert, Mikayla Miller, Taylor Pastore, Jenna Pierce, Meghan Witwer, *Classified* – Nilmini Ranaweera, Kimberly Dunbar, *Supplementals* – Julia Roy, Aubrey Erdos, Arla Baker, Rafael Sevilla-Serrano, Justin Burgh, Austin Myers, Jennifer Exler, Eric Fogle, Jennifer Shipe, Margaret Kishbaugh, John Schmidt, Danielle Fagan, William Crummy, Ronald Butschle, Evan Magill, Christine Alexander, Michael Stebbins, Chad Robertson, Jennifer Kaufman, Susan Berlin, Kimberly Magill, John Nicotra, Dr. Rebecca Rockey, Deanna Christopher
- C. **Leaves** – *Professionals* – Kelly Vu, Kyle Leggett, Adria Herlihy, Dena Marnik, Chelsea Bennardo, Teresa Coleman, Nicole Bassi, Hannah Sheldon, Ashley Graham, Mary Gentile, Kate Oliver, Kate Oliver, Rebekah Grinnen, Carrissa Miller, Eleano Sgro, *Classified* – Megan May
- D. **Retirement** – *Classified* – Michelle Eppinger
- E. **Agreement** – Approve Settlement Agreement with Seneca Valley School District and SVEA Union Employee.

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Ms. Savitt-Kraft, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, retirement and an agreement. 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 March 9, 2026, public agenda:
- a. Tara Himes
 - b. Kathryn Mason
 - c. Karli Szveda
 - d. Justin Hewitt
 - e. Emerson Tomko
 - f. Lexie Elliott
 - g. John Nickum
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 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