

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

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

Minutes

May 4, 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** - Henry Meyer – 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, Ms. Allyson Mazzoni, Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Mr. Mike Jacobs was absent.
2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Student/Staff Recognition** -
 1. Four Seneca Valley students earned top honors at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, winning gold and silver medals in events such as job interviewing, career investigation, interior design and Pennsylvania menu planning. Gold medalists Fletcher Boice and Jilly Kreke will advance to the National FCCLA Competition in Washington, D.C., while Leah Paxton also earned gold and Georgie Guzzo received silver. The club, led by Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Carrie Ehrenberger, also earned recognition in national programs and won first place in the conference poster contest.
 2. Haine Middle School fifth grader Alec Phipps was named a 2026 Litter Hawk Youth Award winner after earning second place in the fifth-grade category of a statewide competition sponsored by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Alec’s award-winning essay was selected from more than 500 entries that encouraged students to share concerns about litter through art, writing or video. He was recognized during an April 2 ceremony at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, where winning entries were on display through April 30.
 3. Two student teams from Haine Elementary and Middle School have earned invitations to the KidWind World Championship, taking place May 17-20 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The solar team from Haine Elementary School, “Einstein Extraordinaires,” designed a solar environment that contained

a solar laboratory, gardens and shed. At Penn State, they won the Solar Spirit Award. The team is composed of Kevin Husband, Maddox Pindroh, Brayden Hauck, Garrett Schiela and Ronav Mistri. The SV Wind Power team from Haine Middle School, "Airborne Military Ducks" won the second-place award. After designing and testing a variety of different gear ratios and blade designs, the team created a turbine with four gears and six identical blades made of corrugated plastic. The team consists of Ihsan Sirazee, Auggy Semblante, Jesse Wabiszewski and Everett Williamson. Both teams are coached by fourth grade teacher Linda Weismann and gifted support teacher Jeremiah Friday.

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

May	Mental Health Awareness Month
May	National Military Appreciation Month
May 4-8	Advanced Placement Testing
May 5	National Teacher Appreciation Day
May 6	National School Nurse Day
May 10	Mother's Day
May 11-14	Keystone Exams
May 11	2025-2026 SV Retirement Reception & Recognition, 6:30 p.m., SVIHS Cafeteria
May 14	Remake Learning Day - Stream Guardians: A Professional Development Day for Educators on Fly Fishing and Utilizing Streams for Engaging Environmental Education at RGMS, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
May 15	Staff In-Service Day – No School for Students
May 16	Prom – Grand March begins at 5:30 p.m.
May 16	Armed Forces Day
May 21	Center for Biotechnology Open House, 6-7:30 p.m., SVIHS Library and Labs; <u>RSVP by May 15</u>
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff
May 28	Graduation Day (May 29 is Rain Date)
May 30	Seneca Valley 3rd Annual Best Buddies Walk, 9 a.m. – Noon, North Boundary Park; Signup at <u>Seneca Valley Best Buddies Walk</u> (runsignup.com)
June 5	Last Day of School for Grades K-11
June 8	Staff In-Service Day

Mr. DiTullio thanked those on the School Board and in attendance that have been in the military for their service.

- C. All-Star Award, Winner, May 2026** – Mr. Jade Feathers, First Student Driver and Dispatcher, was presented the All-Star Award by Dr. Tony Babusci, Director of Transportation and Operations. Dr. Babusci shared that Mr. Feathers has an exceptional understanding of the transportation operations, with a working knowledge of all 135 vehicles on the road each morning and afternoon. Dr. Babusci recognized that the knowledge that Mr. Feathers has regarding routes and drivers is extremely impressive. Even with the long hours that Mr. Feathers puts in on a regular basis, Mr. Feathers remains patient, calm and consistently kind to students and staff. Dr. Babusci recognized that school bus drivers are often the first and last representative of the

District that a student sees each day and that anyone who observes Mr. Feather's route can see that the students enjoy being on his bus. For his outstanding work ethic, professionalism, reliability and genuine connection to students, Dr. Babusci was honored to recognize Mr. Feathers with this award.

Ms. Zimmer congratulated Mr. Feathers on this accomplishment and shared that she has heard great things about him throughout the community.

Mr. DiTullio recognized and thanked Mr. Feathers for going above and beyond in all that he does.

Dr. Vitale expressed her gratitude to Mr. Feathers, sharing that he is a prime example of great community and that no one can dispatch quite like he can.

D. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Hester shared that there is no report at this time.
2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that they are currently accepting applications for the Executive Director position through June 12. They would like to hire the new Executive Director at their meeting on September 23.

In addition, there are currently eight openings on their Board and only six applicants. Due to this, there will not be ballots sent and the six applicants will be elected by affirmation. This will still leave them short by two members of the full board.

E. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio reported that the following have been voted out of the House:

1. House Bill 41 – PIAA Playoff Reform
2. House Bill 830 – Parental Notification of Bullying
3. House Bill 2176 – Social Media Literacy
4. House Bill 2218 – School Counselor Support

The following have been voted out of the House Education Committee:

1. House Bill 1045 – Seizure Recognition in Schools
2. House Bill 1877 – Recognizing Biliteracy
3. House Bill 2117 – Asthma Medication in Schools
4. House Bill 2307 – Special Education Contingency Fund
5. House Bill 2425 – Career and Technical Education Curriculum Modernization Grant Program
6. House Bill 2436 – Talent Recruitment Account
7. Senate Bill 1014 and House Bill 1814 – Cell Phone Bans

In addition, House Resolution 368 – Commercial Property Value Study, has been voted out of the House Local Government Committee.

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. ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.
- B. **Student Adjudication** – Approved student adjudication waiver #2025-26-12.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve the student adjudication. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- C. **Proposed Final 2026-2027 General Fund Budget** - Approved the proposed final general fund budget for 2026-2027 in the amount of \$187,031,763 with a proposed millage increase of 5.03 mills (3.5%) and authorize the budget to be made available for public inspection.

Mr. DiTullio shared that 60% of the 3.5% (approximately 3 mills) increase is due to a 12.46% increase in medical costs with an additional 40% of the 3.5% (approximately 2 mills) increase is due to the cost of inflation.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve the Proposed Final 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Kirk shared that the Proposed Final 2026-2027 General Fund Budget will be available in the District Central Office and will be on the District website. The vote for the final budget will take place at the June 8 School Board meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **Action Meeting** – April 20, 2026

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**
Grand Total: \$2,584,017.43

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**
Grand Total: \$11,694.44

8. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Research Study** - Approve Ms. Beth Allen-Boyle, Ehrman Crest Elementary School Teacher, to conduct a doctoral research study within the District titled "*Reimagining Tools for Teachers: A Qualitative Study of Generative AI and K-12 Educators' Perceptions Amid the National Teacher Shortage.*" The study will explore how general and special education teachers use generative AI to address

workload, burnout, and challenges related to the teacher shortage, using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Job Demands-Resources (JD-R) Model as frameworks. This study is approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and includes a survey to K-12 staff, with participation strictly voluntary.

- B. **Board Meeting Dates** – Approve the August 2026 through June 2027 School Board Meeting Dates.
- C. **Board Policy** – Approve board policy 217 – Graduation Requirements – first and final reading.
- D. **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Agreement** – Approve the PSBA Policy Services Member Agreement for the 2026-27 school year.
- E. **Settlement Agreement** – Approve the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release with CH&D Enterprises, INC.

Mr. Gartner shared his concerns with approving Board Policy 217 – Graduation Requirements. He shared that as the policy is written, this policy will eliminate .5 credit of Physical Education/Health requirement for high school students and replace it with a personal finance course that has been mandated by the state.

Mr. Gartner continued by stating that he has concerns anytime it is considered to cut wellness opportunities for students. He shared that it is frequently discussed that our nation is in a health crisis. It is not just a mental health crisis, but also a physical health crisis. He shared that the physical health crisis is pushing up to 50% of the youth population nationwide who are prediabetic or have type 2 diabetes. The mental health crisis is also steeped in a physical inactivity crisis.

He requested that the Board consider alternatives so that the personal finance course can fit into the course requirements without eliminating a .5 credit of Physical Education/Health. Mr. Gartner shared that the District exceeds many neighboring school districts requirements for Physical Education/Health, and he applauds this and is asking that the District continue to lead in this capacity.

Mr. Gartner referenced the books, The Anxious Generation and Spark that support the information that he has shared. He continued by saying that it is known that when students are physically active and educated in physical activity, physical education is not a place to go burn off calories, it is a place to learn how to be a physically active adult. He shared his concerns about the trend of online physical education and is encouraging the Administration and Board Members to table this issue while looking at alternatives.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Student Trip** – Approve Ms. Kelly Weston, Ms. Megan Oldenski, Ms. Erin Bosley and Mr. David Lowe to take students to the PJAS State Competition at Penn State University, from May 17-19, 2026. Students will miss two days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the District.
- B. **Conferences** – Approve conference requests.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

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- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approve budget transfers.
- B. **Stepping Stones Agreement** – Approve the one-year renewal agreement with Stepping Stones, Inc. to provide extended-day services in each elementary school for the 2026-27 school year.

11. **PERSONNEL** – Approve resignation, appointments and leaves.

12. **LETTERS SENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** - The following constituents communicated through the SVSD school board email account after posting the April 20, 2026, public agenda:

- a. Julie Jones
- b. Natalia Pimenova
- c. Laura Moad

Mr. Brower shared that at the end of April, Academic Games and Academic Decathlon teams participated in Nationals, bringing back many medals for their accomplishments.

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