

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

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

Minutes

June 8, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** – The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
 - B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. DiTullio led 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. The Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology welcomed families, community members and staff to its annual Open House on May 21, where students showcased 18 independent research projects and provided tours of the lab's advanced scientific equipment and technology. The program gives students hands-on experience with university-level research techniques, often through work completed outside of class and without course credit. Attendees also participated in interactive biotechnology activities and learned about the role of new research tools, including Geneious software, in student projects.
 2. Four Ryan Gloyer Middle School eighth-grade students, Kimani Whetstone, AJ Hart, Autumn Peterson and Ashawn Peterson, along with students from nine other districts, partnered with Wonder Media and veteran animation executive Terry Thoren to help create the animated film *Finding Alice in Wonderland* over a nine-month period. The students took ownership of key aspects of the project, including scriptwriting, background design and voice-over recording, while collaborating with students from nine other school districts. Through the experience, they developed valuable skills in creativity, communication, teamwork, problem-solving and technology integration while learning the realities of the creative production process. The completed film premiered on May 22 to family members and supporters, with Seneca Valley's participation made possible through sponsorship from The Grable Foundation. The entire film can be viewed

using this [LINK](#). The work by Seneca Valley students begins at the 29:31 mark.

3. Four Seneca Valley sophomores were recognized for their outstanding work in the 2026 Waldman Arts & Writing Competition, which challenged students to reflect on the importance of human connection and preserving humanity during the Holocaust. Einin Wolf-Johnston earned first place in the high school 3-D art category and was named the competition's overall grand prize winner for her quilt honoring a Pittsburgh Holocaust survivor. Additional school winners included Noah Eckels for his essay, Yousef Alibrahim for his poem and Noah Kimmel for his painting. The students were honored at the May 12 awards ceremony at Chatham University, where participants from grades 6-12 competed for scholarships, prizes and certificates.
4. Seneca Valley has been named one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, earning the prestigious designation for the fourth time. The award recognizes districts that demonstrate exceptional commitment to providing students with access to high-quality music education and is based on factors such as funding, participation, instruction and community support. This achievement can be credited to the dedication of the students, staff, District families and the community. The recognition highlights Seneca Valley's strong tradition of musical excellence and the many accomplishments of its student musicians at the regional and state levels.

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

June	
June 12	Release of K-6 Student Reports of Progress and 7-12 Report Cards
June 14	Flag Day
June 15-August 6	SVAOC Cyber Sessions and Summer Camps
June 19	Juneteenth
June 19	Seneca Valley's Kennywood Day
June 21	Summer Begins
June 21	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 7	Summer Drug Testing, Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals
July 8	Summer Drug Testing, Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals
July 28	Summer Drug Testing, Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals
July 29	Summer Drug Testing, Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals
July 30	Due date for all Fall Sport Paperwork
August 3	School Board Work Session, 7 p.m. – SVIHS Auditorium
August 6	Seneca Valley Foundation Gift of Hope Golf Classic
August 10	PIAA Start of Fall Sports (Football, Golf)
August 10	School Board Regular Session, 7 p.m. – SVIHS Auditorium
August 11	Summer Academy for SV Professional Staff
August 17	PIAA Start of Fall Sports (All Other Sports)
August 17	All-Staff Welcome Back Event
August 20	First Day of School for the 2026-27 School Year

C. **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 comments were heard from:

- A. Jack McMillin on the topic of tax increase.
- B. Julie Jones on the topic of planning.
- C. Pat Stirling on behalf of Charles Scott on the topic of budget.
- D. Chet Jack on the topic of millage increase.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **Work Session** – May 4, 2026
- B. **Action Meeting** – May 11, 2026

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**
Grand Total: \$2,560,888.25

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**
Grand Total: \$2,250,302.87

Mr. Hester 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. **Act 26 MOU** – Approved the Act 26 Memorandum of Understanding between Seneca Valley School District and local law enforcement agencies.
- B. **Pennsylvania School Board Assoc. (PSBA) Voting Delegate** – Appointed Allyson Mazzoni and Kari Zimmer as the voting delegate (s) for the PSBA Delegate Assembly meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2026.
- C. **Research Study** – Approved Doctoral Candidate, Ms. Priya Rupik, to conduct a qualitative exploratory case study, conducted as part of doctoral research and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), examining early childhood educators' perspectives on professional development for inclusive practices. The study will explore how educators perceive the alignment between inclusive practice training and their instructional needs, identify areas for improvement, and examine teachers' willingness to apply inclusive strategies in their classrooms. The study

will gather feedback from approximately ten Seneca Valley educators through questionnaires and virtual focus groups to identify opportunities to strengthen inclusive practices and to inform more effective and relevant professional development.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve the Act 26 MOU, PSBA voting delegates and research study. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- D. **Labor Contract** – Approved the labor contract between the Seneca Valley Educational Support Personnel (SVESP) and Seneca Valley School District effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Savitt-Kraft, to approve the labor contract. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. DiTullio shared that the labor contract is a five-year labor agreement between SVSD and SVESP. Negotiations between SVSD and SVESP began in August 2025 and SVESP voted to accept the new contract on June 2. The newly approved contract covers 161 District administrative assistants, paraprofessionals and technology assistants. Under the five-year agreement, they will receive an average salary rate increase of 4%. To offset some of this, SVESP agreed to health care concessions and has agreed to develop a healthcare committee that will meet annually to review and address future healthcare cost concerns. He recognized and thanked SVESP for all that they do for the District. He also thanked the negotiation team for their time and work on this labor contract.

9. INSTRUCTION

- A. **Clubs** – Approved the establishment of the following clubs:

1. The Senior High School A.I.M. Club (Awareness, Inclusion, Mentorship) at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Dyanna Boosel, effective for 2026-27 school year.
2. The Senior High School Pickleball Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsors Ms. Shay Houser, Ms. Torrie LaMantia and Ms. Sarah Smith, effective for 2026-27 school year.
3. The Ryan Gloyer Middle School Engineering Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Caroline Combemale, effective for 2026-27 school year.
4. The Ryan Gloyer Middle School Climate Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Caroline Combemale, effective for 2026-27 school year.
5. The 1940s Radio Hour Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Jessica Kavanagh, effective for 2026-27 school year.

- B. **Student Trips** – Acknowledged the following student trips:

1. Ms. Julie Parenti, IHS teacher, to take students to Costa Rica, November 19-26, 2026. Students will miss three days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the District.
2. Ms. Renae Brown, RGMS teacher, to take students to Rome, Italy, July 14-21, 2027. The trip is at no cost to the District.

3. Mr. Jeremiah Friday and Mr. Kenneth Cahall to take interested sixth grade students to Yellowstone National Park to conduct scientific research, April 10-15, 2027. Students will miss four days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the District.

C. **Student Trips** – Approved the following student trips:

1. The Seneca Valley Girls Basketball program (Varsity & JV) trip to Orlando, FL, December 27-31, 2026, under the supervision of coaches Dorothea Epps, Julia Fornadel, Amanda Kalin and Krystal Epps. The trip is at no cost to the District.
2. The secondary band trip to Orlando, FL, April 7-11, 2027, under the supervision of Mr. Varden Armstrong, Mr. Robert Babick and Ms. Sara Snyder. Students will miss three days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the District.
3. The middle school ski trip to Sun Valley, Idaho, January 13-19 2027 (previously approved for February 10-16, 2027), under the supervision of Mr. Mickey Flood. Students will miss three days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the District.
4. The secondary chorus trip to Norfolk, VA, April 22-25, 2027, under the supervision of Mr. Kyle Masson and Ms. Chessa Crum. Students will miss two days of instruction. This trip is at no cost to the district.

D. **Grant Disbursements** – Granted permission to apply for and to disburse, the following grants:

1. The Flag Football-In-School Grant, in the amount of \$440, funded by GenYOUth and requested by Dr. Erin Wilcher and Mr. Tyler Mesisca. Funds will be used to purchase flag football equipment.
2. The Empowering Students through Positive Reinforcement Grant, in the amount of \$1,000, funded by Kades Margolis Mini Grant (PA Principals Association Conference) and requested by Ms. Jessica Scerbo. Funds will be used to fund a variety of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) rewards and schoolwide incentive opportunities.

E. **Cray Youth and Family Services** - Approved the agreement with Cray Youth and Family Services, The Cray Education Center Private Academic School for enrolled students during the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

F. **Cray Youth and Family Services** - Approved the agreement with Cray Youth and Family Services, Cray Challenges alternative education program for enrolled students during the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

G. **Glade Run Lutheran Services** - Approved the day student education agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services, Glade Run Academy for enrolled students during the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

H. **MHY Family Services** - Approved the agreement with MHY Family Services, Longmore Academy, for enrolled students during the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

- I. **Tuition Agreement** - Approved the tuition agreement with Riverside Beaver County School District to provide special education programming for enrolled student during the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- J. **2026 Graduates** – Approved the list of Seneca Valley graduates for 2026.
- K. **Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit** - Approved the contract for special education programs and services with Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit for enrolled students during the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- L. **Student Assistance Program (SAP) Agreement** - Approved the agreement with Butler County Human Services Center for Community Resources to provide consultative, pre-assessments, and referrals through SAP Liaison services for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.
- M. **Book Disposal** - Approved the sale, donation, or recycling of obsolete textbooks from Connoquenessing Valley Elementary, Ehrman Crest Elementary, Ehrman Crest Middle, Haine Elementary, Haine Middle and Rowan Elementary Schools.
- N. **Memorandum of Understanding** - Approved the memorandum of understanding with the Education Support Professionals Association to allow adjusted work schedules during the instructional recess of the summer of 2026.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Gartner, to approve clubs, student trips, student trips, grant disbursements, Cray Youth and Family Services, Cray Youth and Family Services, Glade Run Lutheran Services, tuition agreement, 2026 graduates, Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit, Student Assistance Program (SAP) agreement, book disposal and Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

- A. **Budget Transfers** – Approved budget transfers.
- B. **Consultant Agreement** - Approved the Consulting Services Agreement with Butler, Agnew & Associates for the 2026-27 fiscal year for business office and payroll support services. Pending solicitor review.
- C. **Homestead and Farmstead Resolution** - Approved the 2026-27 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution per Act 1 - Taxpayer Relief Act.
- D. **Summer Actions** - Authorized the administration to approve:
 - 1. Year-end budget transfers
 - 2. Outreach Partnership of Technology (OPT) agreements
 - 3. June and July bills
- E. **Act 511 Taxes** - Approved re-enactment of the following Act 511 Taxes:
 - 1. Flat Rate Occupation Tax - \$10
 - 2. Earned Income Tax - 1%
 - 3. Real Estate Transfer Tax - 1%

- F. **Single Audit Engagement Letter** - Approved the engagement letter with Turnley Robertson & Associates for the 2025-2026 fiscal year Single Audit report & financial statements.
- G. **Real Estate Tax Collector Audit Engagement Letter** - Approved the engagement letter with Turnley Robertson & Associates to conduct audits of three taxing districts covering the 2025 real estate tax duplicate.
- H. **Liability Insurance** - Approved the sanction of the following groups to work on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District and intention to provide that the District's liability insurance covers these groups for the 2026-27 school year: PTA, PTO, SV Boys' Lacrosse, SV Indoor Track and Field, SV Ice Hockey, SV Inline Hockey, SV Slow Pitch Softball, SV Bowling, SV Competitive Cheer, SV Fencing, SV Ultimate Frisbee, SV Unified Bocce, JROTC, After Prom Committee, Booster Groups, Seneca Valley Foundation and all Board approved student clubs.
- I. **Booster Group Resolution** – Approved the Booster Group Resolution for the 2026-27 school year.
- J. **Ticket Prices** -
 - 1. Approved the athletic ticket prices for the 2026-27 school year with no changes as follows: football reserved seating \$8.00/entry; football pre-sale adult general admission \$6.00/entry; football pre-sale student general admission \$4.00/entry; all football tickets at the gate \$6.00/entry; all other sports adult general admission \$5.00/entry; all other sports student general admission \$3.00/entry.
 - 2. Approved a student or adult annual athletic pass for the 2026-27 school year at a cost of \$50.00 for the year. The pass will allow entry into all Seneca Valley sponsored home athletic events. Pass does not allow for entry to any away or any WPIAL and/or PIAA playoff event.
- K. **Facilities Rental Fees** - Approved the facilities rental fees for 2026-27.
- L. **Bid Awards** – Awarded the Secondary Campus Overflow Parking Culvert Project to E & G Development, Inc. Pending solicitor review and approval.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve budget transfers, consultant agreement, Homestead and Farmstead Resolution, summer actions, Act 511 taxes, single audit engagement letter, real estate tax collector audit engagement letter, liability insurance, booster group resolution, ticket prices, facilities rental and bid awards. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

- M. **Final 2026-2027 General Fund Budget** - Approved the final general fund budget for 2026-2027 in the amount of \$186,166,390 with a proposed millage increase of 5.03 mills (3.5%).

Mr. Jacobs shared his appreciation from the community on the feedback that has been received on the budget. Thirty-seven million dollars in the general fund is 2 ½ months of our expenses – every district in Butler County has more than two months of funds in their general fund. Mr. Jacobs believes that there is room to tighten this number up but he does not believe that is a problem. In his opinion, the challenge the District faces is spending. In the last four years, spending has

increased on average 5.5% each year and he believes that is unsustainable. He shared that there is a difference between unsustainable and wasteful and he does not believe that it is wasteful. Much of this increase has been spent on teachers, special education, transportation and security. He believes that the District needs to do a better job of getting the increase to between 3-3.5% to make it more sustainable and this would cause less of a burden on the taxpayers.

This year, while there is a proposed tax increase, the spending increase is 3.5% - he appreciates the administrations effort to continue to cut this number while going through the budget process. He shared that 3.5% does include \$2.1 million of an increase in medical and \$1.4 million includes the debt service from the IHS project. He believes that they have looked for many places to cut or reduce the budget. The remaining budget is up only 1.5%. He feels more confident in how they are flattening the curve on the spending. Unfortunately, there is a decrease in state funding and the tax increase is needed to balance the budget and he will be voting for the budget. In the past when Mr. Jacobs has voted against the budget, it was his opinion that it was unnecessary at the time or unsustainable going forward – he believes that this is necessary and he believes that we are on a path for the spending to be more sustainable.

Mr. DiTullio shared comments regarding the fund balance and the use of the fund balance. He explained that the budget is built within the PA law and school code. Money has been put into the building fund, there are multiple bond issuances, and it is always being evaluated. The District has bond counsel and outside counsel who also looks and advises. There are 13 years of independent audits on the District website. The Board is always looking to build to the future to ensure that the District is in the right place – reminder that the 2025-26 graduating class was 606 students and this years kindergarten class is the covid babies with a larger kindergarten class.

Mr. Brower shared that he understands that the tax increase is not desired but he believes that this increase reflects a school district that assures that students at all levels are receiving the best education and educational opportunities. The District does all that it can to develop thoughtful and aware citizens. As discussed over the months, they are not quick to develop or execute and everything is diligently thought through. The framework of courses and extracurricular activities help students grow into life-long learners for all opportunities post-graduation – all due to the help of teachers, paraprofessionals, transportation and maintenance staff. He believes that this budget does support all students and is in support of it.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve the Final 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. The motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Ms. Mazzoni and Mr. Gartner voting no.

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

- A. **Resignations** – *Professional* – Dr. Joshua Sektnan, *Classified* – Amber Christy, Loretta McCafferty
- B. **Appointments** – *Administration* – Quincy Gildea, *Classified* – Deborah Foster, *Professional Substitutes* – Jessica Adam, Thomas Adams, Christine Alexander, William Allen, Mary Barb, Lisa Bruggeman, Ronald Butschle, Elise Caldwell, Ann Cheman, Amy Crawford, Michael Cristallino, William Crummy, Jean Forti, Jeffrey Fraser, Marissa Garraux, Kristine Hattman, Gregory Hayward, Carmen Householder, Denise Howell-Longello, Heather Husband, Deborah Kennedy, Carol Korn, Elizabeth Lindey, Jamie Madder, Kimberly Maravich, Dana Mathews, Lori McCann, Tabatha Mill,

Sherree Pawlowski, Heather Perricone, Amy Perschke, Joanne Ranayhossaini, Carly Renwick, Eric Rogalsky, Sherri Schubert, Jill Schultz, Lisa Seibel, Michele Semrau, Eliza Simmons, Thomas Snyder, Marcia Sopher, Cindy Speck, Madison Speicher, Linda Starosta, Mackensie Waag, Kathy Williamson, Carol Wilson, *Classified Substitutes* – Callie Bruno, Frederick Buchanan, Julia Castio, Deena Costantini, Gretchen Haburjak, Travis Hall, Patricia Hayden, Deanna Kolarosky, Elizabeth Marthens, Irma Martinez, Kara Patrick, Mary Rasmussen, Tanya Rubright, Tracy Semega, Christina Utter, Carrie Young, Richard Zimmer, Michele Aymar, Natalie Boyer, Cindy Choura, Krya Fazio, Kristie Long, Karen Morrison, Teresa O'Malley, Nicole Ratliff, Calynn Rosenbaum, Kathy Sims, Nicole Sloka, Patricia Stuebgen-Way, Naomi Yarzebinski, Carol Youkers, *Supplementals* – Steve Lodovico, Jason Levis, Marianne Aboutanos, Suzanne Aboutanos-Fellerman, Eric Armstrong, Maria Brooks, James Bull, Cory Cavanaugh, Caroline Combemale, James Comunale, Jennifer Curry, Crystal Cypher, Anthony DeRosa, Lara DiFrischia, Jennifer Durst, Matthew Durst, Jason Farone, Katie Flanigan, Lance Frederick, Mackenzie Gaydosh, Kathleen Greppi, Marlese Hames, Michael Henry, Shay Houser, Jeffrey Johns, Alex Krajniak, Bria Koch, Jennifer Lamoreaux, Katherine Langley, Christopher Lantzy, Dean Leventopoulos, Megan Loewy, Laura Lugarich, Ezekial Lux, Kenneth Macek, Rachelle Magnani, John McFeeley, Sarah McKissick, Megan Meeder, Sylar Meier, Brenna Miller, Rebecca Mutschler, Brienna Nassan, Robert Naylor, Megan Oldenski, Jessica Ott, Andrew Parker, Julie Parenti, Michael Pelloni, Linda Plesniak, Matthew Pournaras, James Pyle, Jeffry Richards, Tracy Richards, Chad Robertson, Linda Runatz, Erin Schollaert, Alicia Scopellite, Brenda Serbicki, Amy Seelbaugh, Heather Sibeto, Kelly Skwortz, Catherine Smolter, Allison Springer, Michael Stebbins, Kristin Vogan, Gioia Warecki, Kevin Wildrick, Joy Winters, Bethany Witt, Stephen Wolfe, David Zelner, Xiaojing Zhang, James Ziegler, Elaine Duggan, Karen Christopher, Brandi Ruiz, Kara Patrick, Bria Koch, Madeline Dulac, *Internships* – Ari Zahavi, Ann McKetta

C. **Leaves – Professionals** – Shauna Stupak, Zora Mosley, Amanda Kalin

D. **Contracted Services – Consultant** – Linda Andreassi, *Consultant* – Dr. Matthew McKinley

E. **Renewal** – Dr. Tracy Vitale

F. **Classified and Administrative Adjustments**

G. **Memorandums of Understanding** –

1. Approved MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.
2. Approved MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.
3. Approved MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.
4. Approved MOU with Seneca Valley Education Association.
5. Approved MOU with the Seneca Valley Custodial ESPA-PSEA-NEA Association.

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, contracted services, renewal, classified and administrative adjustments and Memorandums of Understanding. 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 June 1, 2026, public agenda:
- a. Paul and Nicole Christman
 - b. Julia Folk
 - c. Joel Folk
 - d. Julie Jones
 - e. Brian Cathcart
 - f. Rob Reeb
 - g. David Toole
 - h. Frank Thomas

Mr. Brower shared that the SV Marching Band Pie Fest is on August 13.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** – With nothing further to come before the board, Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Ms. Mazzoni, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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