Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

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

Minutes

September 14, 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 Seneca Valley School Board and District Administration sadly join our community in mourning the loss of Dr. Anne Koch who passed away on August 2. Dr. Koch taught at CVE from 1993 until her retirement in 2019. Not only did Dr. Koch share her knowledge with her students, but also her compassion, enthusiasm and belief in the importance of life-long learning. She will be deeply missed.

   B. **Pledge of Allegiance** – "I Led the Pledge" – Hannah Martinez – Grade 2 – Rowan Elementary.

   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. Mike Jacobs, Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Mr. Tim Hester and Ms. Allyson Mazzoni were absent.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

   A. **Student/Staff Recognition** –

      1. Seneca Valley Haine Middle School teacher Mr. KC Cahall has been selected as a 2026 Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association (PSTA) Award Winner, receiving the Donald Keys Excellence in Science Middle School Teaching Award. The award recognizes Cahall's outstanding contributions to science education and his dedication to students, colleagues and the broader science education community. He will receive the award in October.

      2. Haine Elementary School teacher Dr. Jeremiah Friday has been selected as one of just 27 educators to serve as an official STEM Pioneer in the National STEM Teacher Corps Pilot Program, a four-year initiative funded by the National Science Foundation and led by Penn State University, The College of New Jersey and West Virginia University.

   Dr. Kristen White, Haine Elementary Principal, introduced Dr. Friday and shared that Dr. Friday demonstrates unwavering dedication to the students, staff and school community. She continued by saying that he is an integral part of the Haine Elementary team, devoting countless hours to expanding STEM opportunities for students and creating meaningful

experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Dr. Friday models life-long learning for students and colleagues, while continuing to seek opportunities to partner with others to strengthen programs and to cultivate integration. She also shared that Dr. Friday's passion for STEM education has left a lasting impact on our school community. Dr. White congratulated Dr. Friday on his well-deserved recognition.

Dr. Cassandra Doggrell, Director of Special Student Services, shared that in addition to what Dr. Friday contributes to Haine Elementary, he is recognized as a leader and a key member of the gifted department. She shared that Dr. Friday is an exceptional collaborator, life-long learner and someone who is always looking for ways to improve his craft and enrich the life of his students. In the elementary gifted department, his impact is evident of his commitment to student-centered learning and the continuous pursuit of innovation. In addition, Dr. Friday is an educator who presents regularly at conferences regionally and nationally who pushes the District in a direction that leads to better learning for the students.

Dr. Doggrell asked a colleague to summarize Dr. Friday in a few words and they shared, "He is always searching for ways to improve his craft and his community along with it." She shared that she believes that this statement perfectly says who Dr. Friday is, bringing passion and a student-centered approach to all he does. Dr. Doggrell acknowledged that it is a privilege to learn and work alongside Dr. Friday, sharing her congratulations to him for this accomplishment.

Mr. Jacobs recognized Dr. Friday and shared his appreciation for all that he does for his students, congratulating him for this accomplishment.

Dr. Vitale commented that she loves what Dr. Friday does in the classroom, sharing that one of the things that she admires about Dr. Friday is that he applies the strategies he knows that work for gifted children and uses them for all his students. Dr. Vitale shared that she is proud of him and that he is worth a million dollars to everyone in the District. She thanked and congratulated him.

B. **Dates to Remember** –

September	
September 15	National Information Technology (IT) Professionals Day
September 20	Yom Kippur begins
September 21	In-Service Day – No School for Students
September 22	Autumn Begins
September 24	Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, 7 p.m., SHS Auditorium
October 2	National Custodial Workers Recognition Day
October 3	SAT Testing, 7:30 a.m., SHS
October 5	School Board Work Session Meeting, 7 p.m., SVIHS Auditorium
October 8	SV Homecoming Carnival (5 p.m.) and Parade (7 p.m.), Secondary Campus
October 9	SV Homecoming Court Recognition and Football Game, 6:30 p.m., NexTier Stadium
October 10	SV Homecoming Dances, 7-10 p.m., IHS and SHS
October 10	World Mental Health Day

October 21	Roblox Safety and Online Predators Presentation with PA State Policy, 6 p.m., Haine Elementary and Middle School

C. **Agency Reports**

1. Vo-Tech - Mr. Brower shared that at the September 3 meeting, they reviewed the summer activities, maintenance and updates to the facility that were completed over the summer. In addition, he shared that it has been a great start to the school year.

   Mr. DiTullio shared that we have 240 students, about 15% more than last year, attending Vo-Tech for the 2026-27 school year.

2. I.U. IV - Mr. Eric DiTullio shared that after the recent board interview, they are close to finalizing who the new director will be.

Mr. DiTullio shared that there area about 250,000 active teachers and administrators in the state, payroll is very strong with growth outpacing inflation which is results in a positive impact to the Districts rate. He also shared that he has previously reported that we would see the PSERS rate peak around the year 2035 to over 40% and they are now estimating that this peak will be closer to 38%. After 2035, they are anticipating that the rate will cut in half and will begin to go down until it gets to a normal cost rate of 3.71%.

Another important item to note is how well the performance is. He shared that currently we are at 69-70% funded, with the target of 80% and the target date of 2040. The return for the fiscal year to date is 11.3%, the 7-year return is 8.42%. For the outperforming pensions, there is a very balanced approach.

Mr. DiTullio emphasized that after 2035, the PSERS rate will cut in half and then again in half.

D. **Legislative** - Mr. Eric DiTullio did not have an update.

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** – There was no public comment.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **Work Session** – August 3, 2026
B. **Action Meeting** – August 10, 2026
C. **Special Meeting** – August 17, 2026

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT** 5942

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**
2026 – 2027 Grand Total: $5,493,597.88

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**
2026 - 2027 Grand Total: $3,239,678.51

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. **Truancy Memorandum of Understanding** – Approved the Truancy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Seneca Valley School District and the Butler County Court of Common Pleas.

B. **Federal Program Allocation Spending Plan** - Acknowledged the federal program allocation spending plan for the 2026-2027 school year.

C. **PSBA 2027 Officer Elections Slate of Candidates** - Elected the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) officers.

D. **Board Policies** – Approved the following:

1. Board policy 704 – Maintenance – new, first reading.
2. Board policy 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance, revised, first reading.
3. Board policy 908 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement – first and final reading, Federal Program annual review.
4. Board policy 204 – Attendance – revised, first reading. Pending solicitor review.

E. **Student Adjudication** – Approved student adjudication waiver #2026-27-01.

Mr. DiTullio explained that the reason that there is not discussion regarding the PSBA Officer Slate of Candidates is because there are no seats with more than one person in the running.

Mr. DiTullio acknowledged that there were some questions asked regarding the Truancy MOU over the weekend. He thanked administration for the time they spent over the weekend answering those questions.

Mr. Savitt-Kraft motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to approve the Truancy Memorandum of Understanding, Federal Program Allocation Spending Plan, PSBA 2027 Officer Elections Slate of Candidates, board policies and student adjudication. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION**

A. **Conferences** – Approved conference requests.

B. **Pittsburgh Art Region Agreement** - Approved the affiliate partner agreement with the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc. for administration of a Scholastic Art & Writing Awards regional program for the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

C. **Student Trip** – Approved the Orchestra trip to Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, Tennessee, March 31-April 4, 2027, under the supervision of RGMS and IHS Orchestra Directors, Ms. Sarah Miller and Ms. Matilda Shay. Students will miss two days of instruction and the trip is at no cost to the District.

D. **Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT)** - The Seneca Valley School Board authorized the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV (MIU IV) to submit an application on behalf of the District to continue participation in the regional ELECT program consortium. If awarded, the Board further authorizes MIU IV, as administrator of the consortium, to implement the ELECT program on behalf of the District, including receipt and expenditure of grant funds and execution of program activities as outlined in the approved application and consortium agreement.

E. **Non-Public Title I Services Agreement** - Approved the Third-Party Letter of Agreement for Non-public Title I Services with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2026-27 school year.

F. **Non-Public Title I Services Agreement** - Approved the Third-Party Letter of Agreement for Non-public Title I Services with the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV for the 2026-27 school year.

G. **Green Team Club (MS)** - Approved the establishment of the Ryan Gloyer Middle School Green Team Club at no cost to the District and under the supervision of volunteer sponsor Ms. Jaden Mackneer, effective for 2026-27 school year.

H. **Grant Disbursement** - Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved, The SV Center for BioTech Grant in the amount of $8,230, funded by Target and requested by Ms. Gildea, Mr. Lavelle and Mr. Carson. Funds will be used to support the purchase of a NanoDrop Lite Microvolume Spectorphotometer to enhance hands-on student research in genetics, microbiology, and environmental science.

I. **Schoolwide Plans** – Approved the 2026-27 Schoolwide Plans for Haine Elementary School (Title I School Plan), Haine Middle School (Title I School Plan), and Ryan Gloyer Middle School (Title I School Plan).

J. **Teacher Created Materials (TCM) Agreement** – Approved the TCM Agreement to provide in-person professional learning workshop to provide professional development focused on supporting English language learners. Title III Funds will be utilized for this program.

K. **Consultant Agreement** - Approved the consultant agreement with Suzanne DaSilva to provide School-Based Access Program management and coordination for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

L. **The University School Enrollment Contract** - Approved the contract with The University School for the provision of educational services for enrolled student for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

M. **Highmark Caring Place Foundation Agreement** - Approved the agreement with Highmark Caring Place Foundation to provide school-based peer support group for grieving children and adolescents for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

N. **Butler County Community College** - Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with Butler County Community College for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

O. **Carlow University** - Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with Carlow University for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

P. **La Roche University** - Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with La Roche University for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

Q. **University of Pittsburgh** - Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with University of Pittsburgh for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

R. **Point Park University** - Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with Point Park University for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

S. **Robert Morris University** - Approved the concurrent enrollment agreement with Robert Morris University for the 2026-2027 school year. Pending solicitor review.

T. **Athletic Uniform & Equipment Disposal** – Approved the disposal of obsolete athletic uniforms and equipment.

Mr. DiTullio asked Dr. Palano for confirmation regarding Non-Public Title I Services. He explained that this is money from the Federal Government that flows through the District for the non-public schools and that we are responsible for the audits. Dr. Palano confirmed as a recipient of Title I funds, the requirement is to abide by the regulations. The District receives a Title I allocation and then are required to determine a per-pupil amount for any generators attending a non-public school that would have attended our designated Title I buildings – which this year are Haine Elementary, Haine Middle School and Ryan Gloyer Middle School. Typically, we have to provide them services that qualify under Title I, which is usually reading and math support for any Seneca Valley student struggling in our non-public schools. She clarified that we do not give the non-public schools the funds, we keep the funds but provide the services. In short, we contract with the AIU III for any schools in Allegheny County and with the MIU IV for any schools in Butler County that our children attend. This is how we provide those services until the funds are fully expended.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Gartner, to approve conferences, Pittsburgh Ballet House Agreement, student trip, Education Leading to Employment and Career Training, Non-Public Title I Services Agreement, Non-Public Title I Services Agreement, Green Team Club (MS), grant disbursement, schoolwide plans, Teacher Created Materials (TCM) Agreement, consultant agreement, The University School Enrollment Agreement, Highmark Caring Place Foundation Agreement, Butler County Community College, Carlow University, La Roche University,

University of Pittsburgh, Point Park University, Robert Morris University and athletic uniform and equipment disposal. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

A. **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.

B. **Assist Services, LLC D/B/A Buckled In** – Approved the Assist Services, LLC D/B/A Buckled In agreement for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years to have as an additional resource for addressing special education transportation requirements.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Savitt-Kraft, to approve food service equipment and Assist Services, LLC D/B/A Buckled In. 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** – *Supplemental* – Brienna Nassan, Kenneth Macek, Lance Frederick, Anthony DeRosa

B. **Appointments** – *Professional* – Trisha Donnelly, *Professional Substitutes* – Anne Angeles, Diane Becker, Joshua Bell, Anne Bernacki, Lindsey Burkhiser, Colin Celani, Myriam Clermont, Andrea DeFabbo, Nicole Driscoll, Carol-Lynn Dubovi, Ana Hamm, Rebecca Hester, Debra Karpak, Carol Kocur, Eric Krchmar, Brynn Lefler, Dylan Lewis, Thomas Magill, Jensyn Main, Jaisa Marasco, Susan McDowell, Madison McKenzie, Chelsea Mesisca, Christine Michael, Alex Mortier, Karin Murra, Rachel Smith, Erica Yingling, Tullia Dietz, Molly Zunski, Madeline Jewart, Ava Ekstam, Jessica Adam, Jennine Converse, *Classified* – Patricia Villatoro, Alison Oros, Jessica Calvin, Isaac Zeigler, Ashley Gray, Michael Corrigan, Jennifer Bartley, Domenico Fricioni, Elliott Pater, Nicole Ratliff, Tyler Warren, *Classified Substitutes* – Frederick Buchanan, Derek Bush, Deena Costantini, Gretchen Haburjak, Carolyn Parenti, Tanya Rubright, Lindsay Sherrets, Kristen Verlihay, Joshua Weir, *Supplementals* – Jake Berg, Jack Krug, Justin Burgh, Ed Senor, Alaina Kalin, Steve Nalepa, Arla Baker, Mark Franitti, Mark Franitti, Dimitri Martini, Dimitri Martini, Jason Kerr, David Reichard, Talia Booker, Blake Walter, Angie Kotula, Jen Durst, Laura Lugarich, Michael Marra, Sarah Smith, Jessica Kavanagh, Chessa Crum, Nathan Presutti, Jessica Kavanagh, Phoebe Winey, Mark Beighey, Dennis Malley, Glenn Cottrell, Glenn Cottrell, Rebecca Hester, Ann Stanton, Bill Brewer, Kyle Masson, Nick Palermo, George Williams, Aaraon Shaffer, Jason Woolslare, Megan Bonistalli, Maria Brooks, Bria Koch, Ahley Pile, Michele Russo, Kristin Vogan, Lara DiFrischia, Carrie Ehrenberger, Kara Andres, LaVarr Stephens-Howling, Amy Calder, Wendy McQuiston, Victor Giannotta, Jessica Phillips, Clare Calhoun, Robert Naylor, Howard Keebler, Michael Stebbins, Blake Walter, Steve Miller, Nicole Duncan, Kurt McNaught, Sarah Miller, Varden Armstrong, Liz Williams, Pam McCarthy, Tris Kappeler, Val McGee, Jeff Roberts, Kelly Weston, Scott DeVivo, Jen Cenna, Jason Ruggeri, Rebekah Grinnen, Lara Meyer, Katie Wolford, Catherine Smolter, Josh Husband, Roger Hardy, Stephen Wolfe, Sarah

Deeds, Julie Glenz, Kathleen Greppi, Bobbi Lyn Cooper, Priya Rupik, Jamie Badaracco, Kristi Seethaler, Bethany Ziegler, Kathleen Kessler, Kristin Robinson, Colleen Krause, Rachel Gales, Billie Jo Peffer, Tammie Wylie, Angela Cardillo, Megan Witherell, Melissa Cipollone, Amanda Breindl, Gabriella Harding, Melissa Cornibe, Jessica Jacobs, Bethany Wolford, Candace McComb, Linda Weismann, Lisa McCombs, Carrie McNally, Carey Beachem, Karen (Julie) Fornadel, Ashley Salmon, Robert Machett, Jacqueline Eriksen, Kelly DelGreco, Lauren O'Donnell, Chelsea Bennardo, Shauna Stupak, Heather Mays, Sinead Reeb, Stacey Meredith, Danielle Reynolds, Christine Roe, Dani Kolling, Colin Milne, Caroline Combemale, Kate Armstrong, Max Levine, Carrie Niedergerger, Kristen Venturino, Todd Winter, Philip Sassaman

C. **Leaves** – *Professionals* – Ellizabeth Lahm, Amanda Milteer, Jordan Sadley, Erin Schollaert, Kenneth Cahall, Kelsey Pappas, *Classified* – Paula Nicklas, Jayme Hood

D. **Sabbaticals** – Amanda Fleming, Rebekah Ginnen, Ashley Pile

E. **Stipends** – Dr. Chet Henderson, Dr. Daniel Guerra

F. **Retirements** – *Technology Support Technician* – Lisa Fornadel, *Classified* – Jennifer Smith

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Gartner, to approve resignations, appointments, leaves, sabbaticals, stipends 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 August 10, 2026, public agenda:

a. Doug Boyd
b. Eric Goucher
c. Kristy Moore
d. Beckie Prible
e. Amy Goldman
f. Julie Jones
g. Angela Leishman
h. Tom Siebert
i. Nicole Christman

Dr. Vitale shared that each Board member received one of the 2026-27 District calendars this evening. She highlighted that it is completely paid for by vendors and has won many awards over the years.

Dr. Vitale also shared that each Board member received a blue duck. This "Ducks don't drive distracted…and neither should you," campaign was paid for by the Seneca Valley Foundation and &T Building Services. They will be put on cars of student drivers starting on September 15 to remind them not to drive distracted.

Ms. Zimmer acknowledged all the activities that the District did in honor of September 11. She commented that she appreciated how it was presented in an appropriate age way for each of the different grade levels.

In addition, Ms. Zimmer shared her appreciation with the team who put together the Veteran Recognition Ceremony before the football game on September 11. She commented that it is not only a special way to honor their service, but the way that it was tied into September 11 was done really well. Ms. Zimmer shared that she is proud of how the District honors and recognizes the Veterans in our community.

Mr. Gartner echoed Ms. Zimmer's comments and shared a reminder that some of the teachers who are teaching lessons around September 11, were not born or too young to remember when it took place. He commented on the amount of work that it takes for these teachers to truly understand and then be able to teach on this event is commendable.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Savitt-Kraft motioned, seconded by Mr. Brower, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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

Julia Benson

Ms. Julia Benson, School Board Secretary