Seneca Valley School District

SCHOOL BOARD ACTION SESSION

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

Minutes

October 12, 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Mr. Eric DiTullio, President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

   A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting opened with a moment of silence.

   B. **Pledge of Allegiance** –Cameron Hayson – Grade 5, Haine Middle 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, Mr. Mike Jacobs, Ms. Allyson Mazzoni, Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft and Ms. Kari Zimmer. Mr. Nick Brower was absent.

2. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

   A. **Student/Staff Recognition** – Seneca Valley's Jazz Ensemble I has been selected to perform as a guest ensemble at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Annual Conference April 14-17, 2027. The annual conference is one of Pennsylvania's largest gatherings of music educators and student musicians and is held in conjunction with the PMEA All-State Student Festival. The selection was determined through a competitive audition process and places Seneca Valley among a select group of instrumental and vocal ensembles chosen to showcase excellence in music education and performance. It marks only the third time in school history that a Seneca Valley Jazz Ensemble has been selected to perform at the PMEA Annual Conference. Read more about the honor at Headlines - Seneca Valley School District.

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

October	Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 17	PSAT Testing – SHS
October 20	SVAOC End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
October 21	Winter Sport Drug Testing and Concussion Testing – SHS Athletic Office – 2:45 p.m.
October 21	Roblox Safety and Online Predators Presentation with PA State Police, 6 p.m., Haine Elementary and Middle School

October 22	Ehrman Crest Fun Run benefiting the Ehrman Crest PTO – Ehrman Crest Upper Field – 9 a.m.
October 23	Act 80 Day – No School for Students
October 23	SV End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12
October 27	CVE Fall Family Fun Night – CVE – 5:30 – 7 p.m.
October 31	Halloween
November 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 1	Seneca Valley Foundation's Fourth Annual Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run/Walk presented by Westinghouse – Secondary Campus – 9 a.m. SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run
November 2	IHS Academic Wing Topping Off Ceremony – Secondary Campus – 5 p.m.
November 2	National School Psychology Week Begins
November 2	School Board Work Session – IHS Auditorium - 7 p.m.

Mr. DiTullio highlighted that the Annual Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run/Walk will be on November 1. He encouraged all to participate or volunteer.

C. **All-Star Award, Winner, October 2026** – Ms. Christina Utter, Haine Cafeteria Cook, was presented the All-Star award by Mr. Nolen Fetchko, Food Service Director and Dr. Erin Wilcher, Haine Middle School Principal. Dr. Wilcher shared that Ms. Utter does more than her role as a cafeteria cook. She continued by saying that anytime a student goes to Ms. Utter, she shows up and is there for them. When you have been at Haine, you may have seen her shoveling snow or pulling weeds to help. Dr. Wilcher shared that she is a remarkable woman and she is honored to present the award to Ms. Utter.

Mr. Fetchko echoed the remarks that Dr. Wilcher shared. He also shared that not only is she a hard worker, but she is also a wonderful person. He continued by sharing that Ms. Utter knows each of the students and truly cares for each of her co-workers. In addition to knowing her position, she also knows many of the other cafeteria jobs and often will be seen supporting them. Mr. Fetchko recognized his appreciation for Ms. Utter and that the District and Haine are lucky to have her.

Ms. Zimmer acknowledged that Ms. Utter began her employment with the District when her children were attending Haine and that she stayed after they had moved on in the District. Ms. Zimmer congratulated Ms. Utter on the well-deserved recognition and thanked her for all she does.

Mr. Gartner reflected that working in food service can be grueling. He acknowledged the relationships that Ms. Utter has built and thanked her for her dedication and all she does.

Mr. DiTullio echoed the comments that were previously sheard and thanked her for being a trusted adult for the children at Haine.

Dr. Vitale congratulated Ms. Utter on this accomplishment. In addition, she explained that in many districts, they often will contract out the cafeteria services and that vendors do the hiring of the employees. At SV, we are very proud to hire locally and are self-funded, being a business within the school with a lot of federal

regulations. Dr. Vitale recognized and thanked Ms. Utter, sharing that her recognition is well deserved.

D. **Agency Reports** –

1. I.U. IV – Mr. DiTullio reported that at the meeting on September 23, the new Executive Director, Mr. Shawn Algoe, was hired. They are in the process of looking to hire a Director of Special Education.

   Mr. DiTullio shared there are 27 school districts from Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties that make up the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV. When the I.U. IV first began, all state special education funding was run through the I.U.'s.

   In the 1990's, it was switched so that special education funding comes through the districts and they then buy the services for special education. Seneca Valley has our own in-house special education, but not all districts can do this, therefore the I.U. still supplies special education services to many school districts.

2. PSBA – Mr. DiTullio shared that to help members understand the growing number of state requirements placed on public schools, PSBA has developed the *Mandate Report*. This resource outlines many of the mandates affecting school districts and explains how they impact school budgets, operations and local decision-making. You can read the full report on myPSBA or simply click on these links to access the *Mandate Report* and accompanying supplement. The report will be updated later this year and shared with PSBA members and the General Assembly again in early 2027.

3. In addition, he shared that Ms. Zimmer will provide an update on the PSBA Delegate Assembly Handbook at the November 2 School Board Meeting. Ms. Zimmer, Mr. DiTullio and Ms. Mazzoni will be attending the PSBA Delegate Assembly on November 7.

E. **Financial Reports**

1. Operations
2. Seneca Valley Grades 7-12 Activities
3. Athletics
4. Food Service
5. Tax Collections
6. Capital Projects Funds

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Public comment was heard by Ms. Jamie Musulin on the topic of Misty Hollow Data Center.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **Action Meeting** – September 14, 2026

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

6. **GENERAL FUND BILLS**
2026 – 2027 Grand Total: $4,800,158.61

7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS**
2026 - 2027 Grand Total: $1,952,936.67

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Ms. Mazzoni, to approve the minutes, treasurer's report, general fund bills and the construction fund bills. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **ADMINISTRATION**

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

1. Board Policy 204 – Attendance – revised, second and final reading.
2. Boad Policy 626 – Federal Fiscal Compliance - revised, second and final reading.
3. Board Policy 704 – Maintenance – new, second and final reading.
4. Board Policy 901.1 – Social Media - revised, first reading.
5. Board Policy 705 – Facilities and Workplace Safety – revised, first reading.

B. **Research Studies** – Approved the following research studies:

1. Ivan Aranha Doctoral Research Study: Approve a qualitative study, conducted as part of doctoral research at Gwynedd Mercy University and approved by IRB, examining how school-based administrators experience and respond to teacher staffing challenges. Eligible Seneca Valley principals and assistant principals serving students within the K–6 grade span may voluntarily participate in a confidential virtual interview lasting approximately 45–60 minutes.

2. Quincy Gildea Dissertation Study: "Increasing School Connectedness Amongst English Language Learners" - Through this dissertation study, Quincy Gildea will utilize the data collected following a professional development session with a focus group of educators from the Intermediate High School on effective instructional practices for supporting English Language Learners (ELLs), with an emphasis on language acquisition, school connectedness, belonging, and engagement in the general education setting. Participating educators will complete pre- and post-surveys to examine the impact of the professional development on their confidence in supporting ELL students. While the study will focus on educator learning and confidence, the findings may help inform future efforts to support ELL students across Seneca Valley. Seneca Valley School District will not be identified in the dissertation, and all participant identities will remain confidential. This study was submitted to IRB for review and acknowledged.

C. **Board Secretary** – Reappointed Ms. Julia Benson to serve as School Board Secretary for the current term ending June 30, 2028.

D. **Vo-Tech JOC Representatives** – Appointed Mr. Tim Hester and Mr. Nick Brower as Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee (BCAVTS JOC) representatives.

E. **Vo-Tech JOC Alternate Representative** – Appointed Ms. Allyson Mazzoni as a Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee (BCAVTS JOC) alternate representative.

F. **School Bus Drivers** - Approved the additional bus driver list for the 2026-27 school year as provided by transportation vendor of First Student Inc.

G. **Future Ready Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Committee Members** – Approved the list of staff, parent/guardian, and community stakeholders to participate in the comprehensive planning process.

Ms. Bobak shared Pennsylvania public schools are required to complete a comprehensive plan every three years by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The District is in the process of completing the requirement this school year. The process is designed to foster reflection, collaboration and examine District strengths and opportunities for growth. The framework is provided by the state, and is a consistent tool that offers school districts across the commonwealth the structure to focus on continuous improvement. It is made up of six sections which includes the District Profile, core foundations, assurances, needs assessment, action planning and plan submission.

The process involves stakeholder steering committees composed of various groups. Stakeholder groups consist of staff, administration, parents, guardians, local business and community members and students. Those who cannot attend will receive a survey to allow them opportunity to provide their feedback.

Ms. Bobak thanked Ms. Harrison and Mr. Savitt-Kraft for their commitment to participating. Several steering committee member meetings are scheduled. The District comprehensive team is looking forward to the process and receiving feedback from stakeholders.

Mr. DiTullio recognized that this is an in-depth process and thanked everyone who is part of the committee.

Mr. DiTullio thanked Ms. Harrison for being one of the Vo-Tech JOC Alternate Representatives in the past. In addition, he thanked Ms. Mazzoni for being willing to be one of the vo-Tech JOC Alternate Representatives.

Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Ms. Zimmer, to approve board policies, research studies, Board Secretary, Vo-Tech JOC Representatives, Vo-Tech JOC Alternate Representative, school bus drivers and the Future Ready Comprehensive Plan Stakeholder Committee Members. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

9. **INSTRUCTION**

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

B. **Student Trips** - Approved the following student trips:

1. The 7-12th Grade Student Council trip to Clarks Summit, PA on November 12-14, 2026, under the supervision of SHS teacher, Ms. Rebecca Mutschler, RGMS Guidance Counselor, Mr. LaVarr Stephens-Howling and RGMS teacher, Ms.

Staci Hughes. Students will miss two days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.

2. The Seneca Valley Girls Basketball program (Varsity & JV) trip to Tampa Bay, FL (previously approved for 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.
3. The Seneca Valley Baseball program (Varsity and JV) trip to Orlando, FL, March 19-22, 2027, under the supervision of Head Coach, Mr. Eric Semega and assistant coaches. Students will miss two days of instruction. The trip is at no cost to the District.

C. **Grant Disbursements** - Granted permission to apply for and disburse, if approved:

1. The Heros & Helpers 2026 Grant in the amount of $2,000, funded by Target and requested by Ms. Gildea, Dr. Wilcher and Ms. Kress. Funds will be used to support Haine's "Shop with a Cop" event with the Cranberry Township Police Department.
2. The Holocaust Education Grant in the amount of $1,000, funded by Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation and requested by Ms. Russo and Ms. Gildea. Funds will be used to support Holocaust Education events and projects offered through the IHS Light Center and 10th grade English classes.
3. The Seneca Valley Native Heritage Garden Grant in the amount of $6,518, funded by the PA Department of Agriculture and requested by Ms. Hadley and Ms. Gildea. Funds will be used for the SHS Horticulture students to establish a native plant garden at Powell Farm in Cranberry Twp.
4. The Toshiba Innovation: KindWind Program Grant in the amount of $1,000, funded by Toshiba Innovation and requested by Mr. Friday and Ms. Gildea. Funds will be used to expand our districts KidWind program from three elementary schools to all six, providing more students with access to authentic, hands-on STEM learning.

D. **School at McGuire Memorial** - Approved the agreement with the School at McGuire Memorial for Extended School Year (ESY) program and services for ESY 2027. Pending solicitor review.

E. **Butler County Community College Agreement** – Approved the agreement with Butler County Community College for the Seneca Valley School District to serve as an American Heart Association Training Site to provide training to students and staff.

F. **Strength & Conditioning Equipment Repurpose & Donation** – Approved the repurposing or donation of serviceable West Field House Strength & Conditioning Equipment being replaced as part of a facility improvement initiative at no cost to the District.

Ms. Harrison motioned, seconded by Mr. Hester, to approve conferences, student trips, grant disbursements, School at McGuire Memorial, Butler County Community College Agreement and strength & conditioning equipment repurpose & donation. The motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCE**

A. **Joint Purchasing Agreement AIU** - Approved the Joint Purchasing Agreement Resolution for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. **Greentrail Solutions** - Approved a one-year agreement with Greentrail Solutions to provide software for tracking food purchases from sources outside of the United States, including food products and ingredients. This tracking is required by the United States Department of Agriculture. Pending solicitor review.

C. **Change Order** – Approved the construction change order for the Intermediate High School/Performing Arts Center (IHS/PAC) at a total cost of $35,281.13.

Mr. Jacobs shared regarding the change order, that although this is the second week in a row with a change order, these are the first two change orders for the IHS/PAC Project since the project started. He stated that he believes that the change orders are about one half of one percent of the project to date, which is much lower than assumptions made in planning. His encouragement is to not think of a change order as increasing the project cost that has already been communicated, because at this time, the project costs are below the assumptions that were made for these such things. Mr. Jacobs asked Mr. Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, for confirmation on these comments.

Mr. DiTullio also shared that these change orders were for unknown, unseen conditions for underground lines due to the inaccuracy of location from the as-builts from more than 60 years ago.

Mr. Miller confirmed that Mr. Jacobs and Mr. DiTullio are both correct in what they shared.

Mr. Jacobs motioned, seconded by Mr. Savitt-Kraft, to approve the Joint Purchasing Agreement IU, Greentrail Solutions and the change order. 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* – Jenny Caputo, *Classified* – Elizabeth Kennaday, Deborah Foster, Mary Rasmussen

B. **Appointments** – *Director* – Morgan Waag, *Professional* – Susan Lewandowski, *Professional Substitutes* – Gina Benca, Sandra Bilbao, Lori Carr, Deanna Doyle, Logan Guise, Kathleen Hippert, Julie Kopp, Kristie Long, Timothy Nicotra, Michael Pendred, Camden Thomas, Laura Thrash, Jacob Somerville, Elizabeth Krumm, *Classified* – Angela DeMaster, Tracie Matz, Heather Musser, Robert Trimble, *Classified Substitutes* – Denyse Bruni, Deanna Doyle, Emily Rihely, Carrie Young, Stacey Tornifolio, *Internship* – Steven McKnight, *Supplementals* – Kevin Locke, Tommy Wuycheck, Mason Mraz, Rob Naylor, Eric Semega, Tom Magill, Matt Pournaras, George Wiliams, Karen "Julie" Fornadel, Krystal Epps, Amanda Kalin Main, Nancy Laslavic, Michael Caccamo, Katie Smolter, Katie Wolford, Andrea Platt, Maria Carlson, Jason Groom, Lisa Kasper, Lara Meyer, LaVarr Stephens-Howling, Halley Alexander, Caroline Combemale, Jennifer Durst, Victor Giannotta, Kalene Ireland, Cortney Lambert, Karissa Lambert, Nichole Schauer, Eleanor Sgro, Courtney Strieby, James Sutkowski,

Christopher Titus, Lisa Tyson, Kathryn Wisniewski, Nicole Parson, David Reichard, Shelly Keffalas, Jessica Kerr, Megan Oldenski, Alison Doyle-Hoover, Dyanna Boosel, Andrew Musacchio, David Lowe, Jennifer McMurray, Kelly Weston, Brian Carson, Edward Senor, Victoria Hinchee, Eleanor Sgro, Elizabeth Wimer, Staci Hughes, Heather Perella

C. **Contracted Service** – Nathan Grimm

D. **Contract Renewal** – Kyra Bobak

E. **Leaves** – *Professionals*- Kristin Vogan, McKenna Christy, Amanda Fleming, Rebekah Grinnen, Stephanie Mattarock, Caroline Dillon, Erin Schollaert, *Classified* – Paula Nicklas

F. **Tenure** – Sarah Barone

G. **Retirements** – *Director* – Heather Lewis, *Professional* – Larry Deal, Heidi Thomas, *Classified* – Robert Jacobs, Jodi Hassen

Ms. Zimmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Savitt-Kraft, to approve resignations, appointments, contracted service, leaves, tenure 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 October 5, 2026, public agenda:

a. Emily Callahan
b. Julie Jones
c. Jeweleanne Broussard - student
d. Farrah Scarlatelli – student
e. Brittany Jovenall
f. Sawyer Berty – student
g. Lila Padgelek – student
h. Aubrey Morelli – student
i. Erin Wroblewski – student

Ms. Zimmer asked Mr. Hunter to share the contact information and teacher's name with her that has been assigning students to send the letters to the School Board.

For context, Mr. DiTullio shared, that as part of a tenth-grade English class assignment on persuasive essay writing, the Board has received multiple letters from students.

13. **ADJOURNMENT** With nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Hester motioned, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 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