

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium

MINUTES

June 14, 2004

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Berkebile, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

- A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence.
- B. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Mr. Berkebile led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. **Roll Call** - Roll call by Joan Rinaman, Board Secretary, showed the following Board members present: Mr. Paul Adametz, Mr. Dean Berkebile, Mr. Kenneth Brennan, Mrs. Eileen Conners, Mr. Anthony Evans, Mr. Robert Hill, Jr., Mr. William Paul, Mrs. Ann Reale, Mr. Anthony Storti.

Others present included Dr. Gerald Malecki, Superintendent; Dr. Donald Tylinski, Superintendent Elect; Dr. Denise Chappell, Assistant Superintendent Secondary; Dr. Mary Ann Marchi, Assistant Superintendent Elementary; Mr. Lynn Stewart, Administrative Assistant for Financial Affairs; Mr. Jerome Straughter, Human Resources Director; Mrs. Linda Andreassi, Public Relations Coordinator; Mrs. Joanne Meredith, Supervisor of Special Education; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Senior High School Principal; Mr. Ronald Lamneck, Supervisor of Buildings, Grounds, and Security; visitors on attached lists; and press representatives.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Robin Lemieux provided a handout of her comments which are included in the communications backup materials.
- B. Student Matt Lemieux was for raising taxes to meet School Board directives. He is a school music major because of activities and discipline he was taught at Seneca. Students need an outlet for their creativity. If they don't have activities such as art classes and after school activities, they can turn to graffiti or drugs and alcohol which cost taxpayers more money.
- C. Student council president David Manes feels the Board should go with nothing less than a 6-mill increase to maintain all the current programs. One superfluous item in the budget, according to David, is the student drug testing. He asks that the Board not cheat the students by cutting corners.
- D. Diane Brenner again suggested the Board have activities be funded by those who participate. The increase in millage does not affect all taxpayers and residents in a positive way.
- E. Brian Hroncich again spoke in opposition to a 6-mill budget. His suggestions to reduce or eliminate certain line items have been ignored. In response to his comment that Mr. Evans was giddy that the Board reduced the millage increase from an 8-mill to 6-mill increase, Mr.

Evans stated that he was happy with the administration's hard work to reduce the proposed increase.

- F. Haine Middle School student Caleb Madison stated he was like David fighting Goliath as the Board was making decisions that directly affect students. He asked that class sizes are not increased and paraprofessionals not be cut because he experienced the help they can offer to allow the teacher time to deal with each student individually.
- G. Debbie Cook spoke in support of paraprofessionals who have a lot of responsibility for the amount they make. Remember to keep the best interest of the students in mind.
- H. Elaine Mings stated she moved to the area because of the school district's challenging program and extra-curricular activities. She suggested the Board use the elementary guidance problem solving procedures to work together to come up with a budget.
- I. Fred Mullner agrees that the state and federal funding system is broken, but the Board must work within the system. If nothing is done, the district will be right back in the same position next year. Perhaps a compromise of 3-mills is in order for this year.
- J. Colleen Hroncich stated that in the three years they have lived in this area community officials have complained that people don't get involved. They have gotten involved and no one listens. Cuts have been suggested, but they have been ignored. It is very disappointing.

Mr. Hill responded that he served on the Board for five years. At first he thought there had to be fat in the budget, but after actually listening to answers to his questions he came to a very different conclusion.

- K. Pam Beauseigneur felt strongly about having the classrooms cleaned every day. With the amount of mess created every day and the germs with that many people in a closed space it is essential to retain the cleaning every day.
- L. Bill Adams asked why the budget has grown \$20 million with an increase of only a few hundred students. He again noted that parochial schools educate students at a much lower cost.

Mr. Paul came up with several items that he would like to include in the budget such as the school resource officer (SRO), principals, and teachers. He also pointed out that any senior citizen having trouble meeting their tax bill could contact the Center on Aging in Butler, Rent and Property Tax office to apply for a refund if qualified. Their number is 724-282-3008.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The following minutes were provided in the backup materials.

- A. **Work Session** - May 3, 2004
- B. **Regular Meeting** - May 10, 2004
- C. **Special Meeting** - May 24, 2004
- D. **Committee of the Whole Meeting**
Curriculum - May 10, 2004

4. **OPERATION REPORTS**

- A. **Treasurer's Report** - The report for April was included in the backup materials.
- B. **Financial Reports** - The following reports were provided in the backup materials:
 - 1. Senior High Activities/Athletic Fund Reports
 - 2. Intermediate High Activities Report
 - 3. Middle School Activities Report
 - 4. Tax Collection Report

5. Earned Income Tax Report
6. Food Service Report

C. **Agency Reports**

1. ***Vo-Tech*** - Information is provided in the backup materials. The next meeting will be held on Thursday.
 2. ***I. U. IV*** - Information is provided in the backup materials. The next meeting will be held a week from Wednesday.
 3. ***Clarence Brown*** - The Board does not meet until September.
5. **PAYMENT OF BILLS** - The General Fund bills provided in the backup materials total \$3,634,571.27.
 6. **ACTIVITIES FUND BILLS** - The activities Fund bills listed in the agenda total \$40,502.21.
 7. **CONSTRUCTION FUND BILLS** - The Construction Fund bills listed in the backup total \$61,202.36.

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Storti, to approve the minutes, operations reports, and various bill payments. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

8. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

A. **Superintendent**

1. ***Student/Staff Recognition*** - The following students and staff were recognized by Dr. Malecki.
 - a. Eric Geddis, Dan Gutmann, and Caroline Owen were named Cranberry Lions Club Students of the Month.
 - b. JROTC students accompanied Passavant residents to World War II Memorial dedication in Washington, D.C. Col. Susan Oliver is the sponsor.
 - c. Eric Wahlstrom and P. J. Duffy finished 7th in the oral competition at the Pennsylvania State Environthon.
 - d. Seneca Valley students, Jennifer Petrie, Lindsay Francis, Eric Wahlstrom, Christopher Meuer, P. J. Duffy, and Ed Fuchs, won first place in the Butler County Environthon. Mr. Robert Harsh is the sponsor
 - e. The girls' track and field team was crowned the 2004 WPIAL runner-up. In the state meet, sophomore Ashley Turici placed 7th in the javelin and sophomore Kim Chapman placed 6th in the 300 hurdles. Wayne Roccia is the varsity coach.
 - f. Heather Endler received a first place and Samantha Bell and Kristie Hilliard received second place awards at the state competition for the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences held at Penn State University on May 14. Mrs. Patti Griest is the sponsor.
 - g. Several Seneca Valley students were names finalists and alternates for 2004 Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence.
 - h. Three students, Sarah Mings, Aaron Sattely, and Kevin Ference performed at the Cranberry Township Veterans' Memorial Day ceremony.
 - i. Mrs. Linda Andreassi received an award of excellence for the 2003-04 Activities/Information Calendar in the 2004 Annual PSBA Education Publications Contest. She also received honorable mentions for the *Seneca Insight* and building rededication brochures.

j. Mr. Jeffrey Fuller, Principal at Rowan Elementary, received a Junior Achievement Impact Award for 2003-04.

2. **Community Relations** - Committee will meet as necessary at 7:30 p.m. preceding the regularly advertised monthly board meetings in the Intermediate High School auditorium.

3. **Dates to Remember**

June 15	Kennywood Picnic
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4. **Enrollment Update** - The latest enrollment numbers are included in the backup materials.

B. Assistant Superintendents' Reports

1. **Secondary**

a. **Principal Reports** - The principals' reports are included in the backup materials. The attendance analysis requested by Mrs. Connors will be provided by the end of the month.

b. **Grant Programs**

- Title IV - Drug Free Schools
- County Drug and Alcohol

c. **National Occupational Competency Testing** - Seneca Valley student results on the Workplace Readiness and Account-Basic tests are included in the backup materials.

2. **Elementary**

a. **Principal Reports** - The principals' reports are included in the backup materials.

b. **Federal Programs Report**

- Title I - Improving America's Schools - Remedial Reading
- Title IIA - Improving Teacher Quality
- Title IID - Educational Technology
- Title III - Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students
- Title V - Innovative Education

C. Business/Finances

1. **Budget Report** - The latest 2003-04 budget report is included in the backup materials.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. Administration

1. **Conferences** - Approve conferences provided in the backup materials.

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Paul, to approve the conferences as provided in the backup materials. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative except Mr. Adametz voting no.

2. **Board Policy** - Approve the following Board policy:

Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies/Department of Welfare (#225)	New	Adoption
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3. **2004 Graduates** - Acknowledge list of graduates from class of 2004.
4. **Supplemental Assignment** - Approve supplemental assignment for Carolyn Snyder and Jeffrey Badger to service district file servers for summer of 2004-05 at a combined salary of \$7,000.
5. **Special Meeting** - Approve a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on June 28, 2004, in the Intermediate High School auditorium to act on personnel or other items that come before the Board.
6. **Athletic Director Appointment** - Appoint Gregory Caprara to a three-year contract position as Athletic Director effective July 1, 2004, at a first year salary of \$67,500. This position is included in the Act 93 Plan.

Mr. Evans motioned, seconded by Mrs. Reale to approve the Board policy, 2004 graduates, supplemental assignment, special meeting, and appointment as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

B. **Instruction**

1. **Secondary**

- a. **Safe and Drug Free Schools** - Approve submittal of Safe and Drug Free Schools grant in the amount of \$28,553.
- b. **Textbook Adoption** - Approve **Civics: Government and Economics in Action**, 8th grade social studies textbook adoption at a cost of \$35,891.10, payable over two years.

2. **Elementary**

- a. **YMCA Contract** - Approve YMCA school age, summer childcare program for 2004.
- b. **K-4 Report Cards** - Approve the revised K-4 report cards effective the 2004-05 school year. Dr. Marchi, in response to Mr. Adametz's question, reported that it is not feasible to print report cards in-house.
- c. **D.A.R.E. Grant** - Approve submission of 2004-05 D.A.R.E. grant application in the amount of \$19,544 (retroactive to June 4, 2004).
3. **GRLS Agreements** - Approve the following contracts with Glade Run Lutheran Services for the 2004-05 school year:
- a. Education Placement Agreement
- b. Diagnostic Placement Agreement
- c. Private Residential Rehabilitation Institute (Act 30) Agreement

Mrs. Reale motioned, seconded by Mr. Hill, to approve the grant submittals, textbook adoption, YMCA contract, K-4 report cards, and Glade Run contracts as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

C. Business/Finances

1. ***Buildings and Grounds***

- a. PDE Approval - Acknowledge PDE approval of Self-Certification Application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Project for the Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School roofing project.
- b. CVE Roof Bids - Reject bids for Connoquenessing Valley Elementary roofing project and authorize administration to rebid the project in the winter.

2. ***Budget Transfers*** - Approve budget transfers.

3. ***Summer Administration*** - Authorize administration to:

- a. Approve budget transfers after auditors adjustments; and
- b. Pay June and July bills.

4. ***Act 511 Taxes*** - Approve re-enactment of the following Act 511 taxes:

- a. Flat Rate Occupation Tax - \$10
- b. Earned Income Tax - 1%
- c. Real Estate Transfer Tax - 1%

5. ***Insurance*** - Approve insurance premiums for 2004-05 with Garman Murray Insurance.

6. ***Tax Exoneration*** - Approve real estate tax exoneration.

7. ***Food Service Bids*** - Reject food service supply bids.

8. ***Food Purchasing Council Agreement*** - Authorize the food service department to participate in the Western Pennsylvania Food Purchasing Council. A one-time membership fee of \$200 and an annual \$100 fee to be paid from the Food Service Fund.

9. ***Cafeteria Increases*** - Approve increase in cafeteria meal prices as follows:

- a. Elementary from \$1.35 to \$1.45
- b. Secondary from \$1.45 to \$1.55

Mr. Paul motioned, seconded by Mr. Storti, to acknowledge the PDE approval; reject roof bids and food service bids; and approve budget transfers, summer administrative items, Act 511 taxes, insurance premiums, tax exoneration, and Food Purchasing Council agreement, and cafeteria increases as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

10. ***2004-05 Budget*** - Adopt annual budget for 2004-05 in the amount of \$_____ requiring a millage increase of _____ mills.

The Board was provided with 0-mill increase, 3-mill increase, 3.85-mill increase, and 6-mill increase budget. Mr. Berkebile asked each member which budget they would like to start with. The results were as follows: 0-mill - Mr. Adametz; 3-mill - Mr. Storti, Mr. Paul, Mr. Brennan, Mrs. Conners; 4-5-mill - Mr. Evans; 6-mill - Mrs. Reale, Mr. Hill, Mr. Berkebile. As most votes were for a 3 or 6-mill increase, Mr. Berkebile asked members to vote for one of those two increases with the results as follows: 6-mill - Mr. Adametz, Mr. Evans, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Reale, and Mr. Berkebile; 3-mill - Mrs. Conners, Mr. Storti, Mr. Paul, Mr. Brennan.

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mrs. Reale, to approve the 6-mill budget as provided in the backup materials (white). Motion failed to carry with Mr. Hill, Mrs. Reale, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Berkebile voting in the affirmative; and Mr. Brennan, Mr. Paul, Mrs. Storti, Mr. Adametz, and Mrs. Conners voting no.

Mr. Brennan motioned, seconded by Mrs. Conners, to approve the 3-mill budget provided by the administration (pink). Mrs. Conners suggested that some of the items that are not included in the budget could be prioritized so that they could be included if money becomes available such as a reduction in expenses.

Mr. Paul motioned, seconded by Mr. Hill, to approve a 4-mill budget which would include the SRO, 2-1/2 elementary replacement teachers, and one principal.

Mr. Paul motioned, seconded by Mr. Hill, to table the 3-mill budget motion. Motion to table carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative except Mr. Adametz voting no.

Mr. Evans motioned, seconded by Mrs. Reale, to amend the 4-mill budget motion to include the athletic plan items totaling \$20,962, the athletic trainer at a cost of \$4,000, and contracted cleaning at a cost of \$68,000 which amounts to a .25 mills to be funded by a tax increase.

Mr. Storti motioned, seconded by Mr. Brennan, to finance the 4.25 increase by taking 1.25 from the fund balance and 3 mills as a tax increase. Mrs. Reale questioned how this would affect the bond rating if construction is needed? Mr. Stewart responded that it would be a concern if more were taken from the fund balance. It would put the district 8.6 mills behind at the present value of the mill. In response to a question on the \$50,000 for software, the software purchase was not cut but supplanted by an accountability grant to purchase student software. Motion failed to carry on a roll call vote with Mr. Storti and Mr. Brennan voting in the affirmative and Mr. Adametz, Mrs. Conners, Mr. Evans, Mr. Hill, Mr. Paul, Mrs. Reale, and Mr. Berkebile voting no.

Motion of a \$75, 061,353 budget financed by a 4.25 mill tax increase for 2004-05 carried on roll call vote with Mr. Paul, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Reale, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Berkebile voting in the affirmative, and Mr. Storti, Mr. Brennan, Mrs. Conners, and Mr. Adametz voting no.

D. Personnel

1. ***Resignations*** - Professional - Leslie Rymer, Rebecah Price; Supplemental - Amber Peters.
2. ***Appointments*** - Professional - Kristy Long, Laura Fox (salary: \$42,525), Brian Duggan, Jason Woolslare, Anthony Babusci, Rebecca Baumgartner, Deborah Trimmer, Jennifer

Miller, Supplemental - Stan Zimmerman, Michelle Hess, Julie Nicklas, Megan Mihalcin, Beatrice Kappeler, department chairpersons (listed in backup); Classified - Paula Pesanka, Mary Patterson, Margaret Fennel.

3. ***Leaves*** - Heather Winters

4. ***Tenure*** (Effective the conclusion of the 2003-04 school year.) - Joyce Andreone, Jessica Ayers, Jeffrey Badger, Jennifer Brecht, Carrie Byrne, Timothy Camissa, Tracey Clarke, Crystal Cypher, Tricia Delissio, David Grim, Denise Harlen, Tina Hilliard, Marsha Hughes, Jeron Karenbauer, Todd Karman, Jacquelyn Kellogg, Kristen Kress, Shana Mackie, Melissa Mars, Matthew Martin, Mary Mason, Robin Presco, Kimberly Ritchie, Lucas Sample, Donna Schaefer, Jill Schultz, Melissa Shaffert, Kristin Shaw, Jennifer Sidun, Chrystal Zinkham, Michele Zorn.

5. ***Information***

a. Letter of Agreement for “Collaborative Student Teaching Program” with the University of Pittsburgh.

b. George Williams to complete internship with Terry Henry in the athletic office for the months of May and June 2004.

Mrs. Connors motioned, seconded by Mrs. Reale to approve the resignations, appointments, and leaves as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Lynda Eagle
- B. Colleen Wilson
- C. Linda Scalamogna
- D. Mirka and Stephan Fatschel
- E. Oscar Hagan
- F. Judy and Joe McCosby
- G. Lynn and Bruce Richards
- H. Nancy Frishkorn
- I. Stephen Graham
- J. Michele Meanor
- K. Laurie Hochberg
- L. Frederick Mullner
- M. Lynda Eagle
- N. Robin Redding
- O. Brian Hroncich
- P. Audrey Zelanko
- Q. Kathy Millroy
- R. Sue McElhone
- S. Lauren Hassen
- T. Rebecca Stern
- U. James P. Boyd
- V. Jennifer Coyle
- W. Kathy Keenan
- X. Dr. Kevin Handerhan

- Y. Sara Snyder
- Z. Rozann Lamberto
- AA. Pam Brizzi
- BB. Mary Jo Kress
- CC. A Concerned Citizen
- DD. Frank Petrone
- EE. Carol Reismeyer
- FF. Scott Lynch
- GG. Judith Schneider

12. **BOARD COMMENT** - Mr. Storti stated that he was glad to know Dr. Malecki and wanted to recognize his efforts. He wishes him the best in his retirement.
13. **MEMBER RESIGNATION** - Mrs. Eileen Conners submitted a letter of resignation due to the sale of her home. The Board has thirty days to fill the Region 9 seat. The position will be advertised with applications due to the Board Secretary by June 25 and interviews will be held at the June 28 special meeting. A new member will be selected on a majority vote of the eight remaining members. If the position is not filled within thirty days, the Court of Common Pleas will appoint a replacement.
14. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Paul motioned, seconded by Mr. Hill, to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Dean Berkebile, Board President

Mrs. Joan Rinaman, Board Secretary