

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium

MINUTES

April 2, 2007

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Board President, Dean Berkebile, called the meeting to order at 8:07 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 the Allegiance to the Flag.
 - C. **Roll Call** - Roll call by Joan Rinaman, Board Secretary, showed the following Board members in attendance: Mr. Paul Adametz (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), Mr. Dean Berkebile, Mr. Kenneth Brennan, Mr. Anthony Evans, Mr. William Paul, and Mr. Thomas Roth.

Others present included Dr. Donald Tylinski, Superintendent; Dr. Mary Ann Marchi, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Pupil Services; Mr. Jeffrey Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Elementary; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent Secondary; Mr. Lynn Stewart, Business Manager; Mrs. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director; Mr. Ronald Lamneck, Buildings/Grounds/Security Director; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; Mr. Adam Hinds, Turner Construction; visitors on enclosed list; and press representative.

2. **STUDENT COUNCIL** - Dan Willard, Nick Hoch, and Katie Willard reported on activities at the Middle School including fundraising efforts, conferences attended, and service projects.

3. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. **Student/Staff Recognition**

1. The JROTC Raider Challenge Team of Bryan Frederick, Brian Doyle, Scott Platt, Lou Castello, Tim Lutz, Tim Neely, David Heagy, Tiffany Lutz, Scott Frederick, Sean Frederick and Samantha Eastgate won second place overall in the JROTC Raider Challenge Regional League Competition held at Brady's Run Park in Beaver. The team also won first place in Land Navigation, second place in One Rope Bridge, second place in First Aid, third in the Physical Fitness Test, second place in Academics, and second place in the Team 3K Run.
2. The Academic Games individuals and teams listed in the backup will participate in the national tournament at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, West Virginia, on April 20-25, 2007.
3. Evans City Middle School students raised \$3,750 for the American Heart Association by taking part in the Jump Rope for Heart program.

4. Anna Beige, sophomore, won first prize in an essay contest sponsored by The Pennsylvania Council of the Blind. Anna's essay, "What if there was not any Braille?", won first place in the 10 - 12 grade category. Anna will travel to Harrisburg in May to read her essay to state legislators.
5. The following students were selected to perform with the 2007 PMEA All-State Band: Becca Wilson, Evie Niederriter, Scott Sheen, Zack Salopek, Connor Sattely, Pat VanArsdale, Rachele McFarland, Elizabeth Milo, Matt Carroll and Shane Downing. Mark Pawlak and Greg Ference were selected for All-State Jazz Ensemble. All students will perform on April 18-21 in Hershey.
6. Members of the girls' swimming and diving team who placed 5th at the PIAA state championship were introduced by Coach Tom Fletcher. Each received a certificate from the Board. Details of the girls' performance provided in the backup materials.
7. Middle School health teacher John Motyl named Pennsylvania Student Council Middle Level Advisor of the Year. Dr. Tyliniski presented Mr. Motyl with a certificate from the Board.
8. The Seneca Valley *Insight* received an Award of Honor and the 2006-07 Calendar received an Award of Excellence from PenSPRA. Both publications are designed by Linda Andreassi.

B. Dates to Remember

April 6, 9, 10	Spring Vacation - No School
April 16	Board Meeting, SVIHS Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
April 23	Public Budget Hearing, Middle School LGI Room, 6:30 p.m.
April 27	Weather Make-Up #4
May 11	Weather Make-Up #5

- C. **Legislative** - Mr. Brennan had nothing new to report.
- D. **Strategic Plan** - The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m., April 3, for review of the final report which should come to the Board in June.
- E. **Principal Reports** - The reports of the buildings provided in the backup materials.
- F. **Grant Programs**
 1. County Drug and Alcohol
 2. Title I - Improving America's Schools - Remedial Reading
 3. Title IIA - Improving Teacher Quality
 4. Title III - Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students
 5. Title IV - Drug Free Schools
 6. Title V - Innovative Education
- G. **Construction Update** - Mr. Hinds reported on the progress of the Senior High School construction project. He is expecting the final occupancy to be approved on Wednesday. There are some items that are not complete, items that previously failed inspection, and items that were approved in drawings but the inspectors made changes during inspection.
- H. **Budget Report** - The budget report provided in the backup materials.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Approve the following Board minutes:
 - A. **Work Session** - March 5, 2007
 - B. **Regular Meeting** - March 12, 2007

5. **OPERATION REPORTS**
 - A. **Treasurer's Report** - Approve treasurer's report provided in the backup materials.
 - B. **Financial Reports** - The following reports provided in the backup materials.
 1. Senior High Activities
 2. Middle School Activities
 3. Tax Collection
 - C. **Agency Reports**
 1. *Vo-Tech* - The next meeting scheduled for April 12.
 2. *I. U. IV* - There was nothing new to report.
 3. *Clarence Brown* - There was nothing new to report.

6. **PAYMENT OF BILLS** - Approve the General Fund bills provided in the backup materials which total \$5,685,442.73.

7. **ACTIVITIES FUND BILLS** - Approve the Activities Fund bills provided in the backup which total \$24,803.93.

8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
 - A. **Conference** - Approve conference requests in backup.
 - B. **Student Adjudication** - Approve student adjudication #2006-07-16.
 - C. **Local School District Holidays** - Approve resolution regarding official local school district holidays.

9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**
 - A. **JROTC** - Approve request of JROTC for a varsity letter program and superior performance recognition program.

10. **BUSINESS/FINANCES ACTION**
 - A. **Budget Transfers** - Approve budget transfers.
 - B. **Tax Refund** - Approve the real estate tax refund in the amount of \$169.46.

11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** - Personnel items discussed in executive session.

12. **COMMUNICATIONS** - Communication received from the following:
 - A. Karen O'Brien

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Liz Welsh received a letter from the solicitor stating that she was no longer permitted in the kindergarten classroom. She stated she did nothing wrong that would warrant such a letter and would like this letter rescinded.
- B. Jennifer Bowers handed out a copy of a 504. If her daughter is not permitted a snack at school, she comes home starved and over eats. She does not think it is fair that her child must live within an allergic child's disability requirements. Ms. Bowers also mentioned an article in a national health magazine addressing the student with allergies experiences at Evans City Elementary.
- C. Jim Welsh stated that his child's social and emotional development is being affected by the requirements of someone else's allergies and asked for changes in the classroom. He also asked that the letter keeping his wife out of the classroom be rescinded, that they receive a safe snack list so his child may have a snack in the classroom, and that the administration be held responsible for the cover up of this situation.
- D. Kelley Morrone explained the seriousness of food allergies in some children--there can be a life threatening reaction not only with food ingested by mouth. She is thankful that the district makes accommodations required to keep her child safe.
- E. David Kraus felt the situation not allowing his grandchild to have a snack in the classroom was poorly handled. Since it was handled unfairly and unprofessionally with no appeal, he hoped the Board could take care of it.

Dr. Tylinski said a response to the above comments would be provided at the April 16 meeting.

14. ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Public Comment** - There were no public comments on the action items.
- B. **Administration**
 - 1. ***Turner Extension*** - Approve the extension of the service agreement with Turner Construction on an hourly basis at a maximum cost of \$11,725.92 and, if necessary to complete the project, to extend this agreement further with advanced authorization of the Superintendent.
 - 2. ***Conferences*** - Approve conference requests provided in the backup materials.

Mr. Paul motioned, seconded by Mr. Evans, to approve the service agreement extension and the conferences as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, with Mr. Hill, Mr. Storti, and Mr. Widdowson absent.

15. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Mr. Adametz asked the administration to provide a safe snack list to the public. It was noted that this would be addressed at the April 16 meeting.
- B. In response to Mr. Adametz's questions on Westinghouse, it was noted that in executive session the Board was informed that a tentative, public meeting was set for the school district, township, and county to meet with Westinghouse. It was reiterated that the Board would not be voting on anything at that meeting, but would possibly have discussion and a

vote at the May meeting. Mr. Berkebile asked the Board members to compile questions they might have for that meeting.

Mr. Roth mentioned a letter dated January 2 from Governor Rendell stating that Westinghouse was considering a site in Cranberry, Monroeville, and South Carolina. He also noted another source from Texas, prior to January 2, sited that Westinghouse had already decided they would stay in Pennsylvania. Mr. Roth felt the Board was being strung along to give concessions when a decision had already been made. Cranberry Township states on their website that business develops in the township without the use abatements.

Mr. Brennan commented that Westinghouse's move here would benefit the area at the brunt of the school district.

16. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Adametz motioned, seconded by Mr. Brennan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative.
17. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Personnel and legal issues were discussed in executive session prior to this meeting.

Mr. Dean Berkebile, Board President

Mrs. Joan Rinaman, Board Secretary