

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium - 8:00 p.m.
(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.)

MINUTES

May 5, 2008

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Berkebile, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m.
 - A. **Moment of Silence** - The meeting was opened with a moment of silence in memory of teacher Wanda Reynolds' young son Connor, who passed away this week.
 - 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 in attendance: Mr. Dean Berkebile, Mr. Kenneth Brennan, Dr. Sally Hanley, Mr. Robert J. Hill, Jr., Mr. Thomas Roth, Mr. Joseph Scalamogna, Mr. Anthony Storti, and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson.

Others present included Dr. Donald Tylinski, Superintendent; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent Secondary; Mr. Jeffrey Fuller, Administrative Assistant Elementary; Ms. Tracy Vitale, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources and Pupil Services; Mr. Lynn Stewart, Business Manager; Mrs. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director; Mr. Ronald Lamneck, Buildings/Grounds/Security Director; Mr. Greg Caprara, Athletic Director; Mr. Kevin Prady, Transportation Director; Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Solicitor; visitors on enclosed list; and press representatives.

2. INFORMATION REPORTS

- A. **Student/Staff Recognition**
 1. Freshman Simon Brown won first place for his individual historical paper and sophomore Michael Wolfe earned first place in the individual documentary category at the regional National History Day competition at Westminster College.
 2. Advanced Placement Physics classes competed in the Physics Olympics at IUP on Friday, April 11. Team 1 of Carl Lickfold, Gabriele Campanella, Eric Rossetti, and Muhammad Salim took the overall fourth place win. Team 2 of Derek Basehore, Jim Brinser, John Kurlak, and Mike Stevens took third place in Jeopardy, first place in mental math, and finished sixth overall.

3. Senior Jackie Wadowsky received an honorable mention in the Grade 10-12 category of the 2008 National Dick Blick Linoleum Block Print Contest. Officials at Dick Blick noted that Seneca Valley has won more awards in this annual program than any other high school in the United States.
4. The following juniors have been named National Merit Scholarship Qualifiers, based on their 2007 performance on the SAT exams: Alexa Becker, Adam Byko, Jacob Danowski, Steve Emling, Rebecca George, Paul Kurlak, Emily Ovenshine, Allison Russell, Kathryn Somerville, and Matthew Vogt.
5. Fourteen Seneca Valley students competed at the National Tournament for Academic Games held in Kissimmee, Florida, April 25 - 28. They returned with eight individual and team awards, including Adam Byko and Kevin Hinerman who earned first place trophies for the Presidents and Propaganda Games. Matt Graf, Dana Schneider, and Chris Wolden earned a third place trophy in Presidents.
6. Jennifer Mitnick, a Seneca Valley Middle School eighth grade civics and economics teacher, was awarded a James Madison Congressional Fellowship and will spend a month this summer working with Congressman Jason Altmire in Washington, D.C. Only two individuals are chosen for this fellowship which provides insight that will enrich the teachings of the U.S. Constitution and government in the classroom.

B. Dates to Remember

May 10	Senior Prom - Senior High School, 6:30 p.m.
May 19	Awards Night - Senior High auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
May 26	Memorial Day - No School

C. **Legislative** - Mr. Brennan updated the Board on the latest state legislative actions.

1. ***PSBA Legislative Platform*** - Information provided in the backup materials to submit ideas for the legislative platform.

D. **Enrollment Update** - The current numbers provided in the backup materials.

E. **Principal Reports** - The building reports provided in the backup materials.

F. **Grant Programs** - There was no new information on the grant programs.

G. **Budget Report** - The budget report for March is provided in the backup materials.

3. ACTION AGENDA

A. **Public Comment** - There were no public comments on the action items.

B. Administration Action

1. ***Rowan Grants*** - Authorize administration to submit and disburse the following grants for Rowan Elementary School:
 - a. Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge aimed to reverse current negative trends in children's health and promote healthy habits in children through nutrition and physical activity. The grant is in the amount of \$7,600.
 - b. Home Depot Garden grant to be used to develop educational and social programming and to maintain the established garden. The grant will be between \$250 and \$500.

2. ***Planetarium Bid*** - Authorize the administration to bid planetarium projector and software.
3. ***Memorandum of Understanding*** - Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with SVEA regarding in-service days.
4. ***Student Adjudications*** - Approve the following student adjudications:
 - a. 2007-08-11
 - b. 2007-08-12
 - c. 2007-08-13
 - d. 2007-08-14
 - e. 2007-08-15
 - f. 2007-08-16

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Scalamogna, to approve the grants, award the bid, and approve the memorandum of understanding and student adjudications as listed above. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Evans absent.

5. ***Preliminary Budget*** - Approve preliminary budget for 2008-09 in the amount of \$89,638,456 with a 2 mill increase, and authorize posting in all school facilities and community public libraries.

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Brennan, to approve the preliminary budget as listed above. Mr. Roth motioned, seconded by Mr. Scalamogna, to amend the motion to change the millage rate increase to 0 mills. Mr. Brennan said that he is against the idea of spending money from the District's savings account because, in the long term, the millage will have to increase significantly to deal with this situation. Mr. Roth stated that in the past months the Board has heard from the public that the fund balance is too high. The amendment to the motion carried on a roll call vote with Mr. Hill, Mr. Storti, Mr. Scalamogna, Mr. Roth, Dr. Hanley, and Mr. Berkebile voting in the affirmative, with Mr. Widdowson and Mr. Brennan voting no, and Mr. Evans absent. The original motion, now amended, carried on a roll call vote with Mr. Storti, Mr. Hill, Mr. Scalamogna, Dr. Hanley, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Berkebile voting in the affirmative, with Mr. Brennan and Mr. Widdowson voting no, and Mr. Evans absent.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **Work Session** - April 7, 2008
- B. **Regular Meeting** - April 14, 2008
- C. **Special Meeting** - April 28, 2008

5. OPERATION REPORTS

- A. **Treasurer's Report** - Approve the March treasurer's report.

- B. **Financial Reports** - Approve the following financial reports:
 - 1. Senior High Activities
 - 2. Intermediate High Activities
 - 3. Middle School Activities
 - 4. Tax Collection
 - 5. Athletics

- C. **Agency Reports**
 - 1. *Vo-Tech* - The Vo-Tech approved the tri-annual appointment of officers at the last meeting. Information is provided in the backup materials.
 - 2. *I. U. IV* - There was no update.
 - 3. *Clarence Brown* - There was nothing at this time.

- 6. **PAYMENT OF BILLS** - Approve the General Fund bills provided in the backup materials which total \$4,004,179.35.

- 7. **ACTIVITIES FUND BILLS** - Approve the Activities Fund bills provided in the agenda which total \$13,946.40.

- 8. **ADMINISTRATION ACTION**
 - A. **Conferences** - Approve conferences in backup.

 - B. **Board Policies** - Approve the following policies:
 - 1. #117, Homebound Instruction, revised, adoption
 - 2. #204, Attendance, revised, adoption
 - 3. #810, Transportation, revised, adoption
 - 4. #819.1, Megan's Law, new, adoption
 - 5. #815, Acceptable Use of the Internet, revised, 2nd reading

- 9. **INSTRUCTION ACTION**
 - A. **Book Disposal** - Approve disposal of outdated books from Evans City school library.

 - B. **Intramural Program** - Approve pilot intramural program at the Intermediate High School for 2008-09

- 10. **BUSINESS/FINANCES ACTION**
 - A. **Budget Transfers** - Approve budget transfers.

 - B. **Depository and Treasurer Appointments** - Appoint NexTier Bank as Depository and Treasurer for 2008-09 school year.

 - C. **Buildings and Grounds Bids** - Authorize administration to seek bids for the following:
 - 1. Carpet for Rowan Elementary
 - 2. Replacement Roof for Senior High School Gymnasium
 - 3. Lease for Replacement Van

- D. **Water Tower** - Grant an easement and right-of-way to Harmony Water Authority for the construction of a new water tower at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.
11. **PERSONNEL ACTION** - Personnel matters were discussed in executive session.
12. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- A. Tom Murray asked the Board not to grant the easement for the proposed water tank with Harmony Water Authority. He feels this would be a hazard due to the size of the tank's water capacity and the proposed height.
 - B. Tom Hamilton also spoke in opposition to the tank. He asked if anyone notified parents and staff that this was being proposed.
 - C. John Rice stated that the tank is necessary to meet the needs of the community, including water pressure and fire response
13. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Storti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative and Mr. Evans absent.
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Mr. Dean Berkebile, Board President

Mrs. Joan Rinaman, Board Secretary