

Seneca Valley School District



SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium

MINUTES

November 19, 2007

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Berkebile, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 in attendance: Mr. Paul Adametz, Mr. Dean Berkebile, Mr. Kenneth Brennan, Mr. Robert J. Hill, Jr., Mr. William Paul, Mr. Thomas Roth, Mr. Anthony Storti, and Mr. Jeffrey Widdowson.

Others present included Dr. Donald Tylinski, Superintendent; Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent Secondary; Ms. Tracy Vitale, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources and Pupil Services; Mrs. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director; Mr. Ronald Lamneck, Buildings/Grounds/Security Director; Mrs. Joanne Meredith, Special Education Director; Mr. Mark Korcinsky, Senior High School Principal; Mr. Greg Caprara, Athletic Director; Mr. Theodore Brooks, Solicitor; visitors on enclosed list; and press representatives.

2. **SENIOR TOPICS** - Dr. McKinley addressed senior topics. Slides are provided in the backup materials.
3. **STUDENT CALENDAR** - Dr. Tylinski outlined the revised calendar.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - A. Louis Castello asked what accommodations would be made for seniors. There are students who have obligations with early admission to college, the military, camps, and conferences.
 - B. Allison Steele questioned why seniors cannot graduate on time and come back to school after graduation. She also suggested the Board eliminate senior project.
 - C. Jay Larkin noted that already homework load is heavy as teachers try to fit more in due to the work stoppage. He asks the Board to cut the kids a break since the strike is not their fault.
 - D. Amy Drevna stated that some teachers are making the situation worse by threatening students with zeroes for days missed during previously scheduled vacation days and will not be able to make work up. Students should not suffer when family plans cannot be changed.
 - E. Anyelica Delerme felt students do not have commitment from teachers when they are already talking about going on strike a second time.

Dr. Tyliniski replied that the administration knows that families have plans and students should not be penalized. He also has the support of the association in that teachers will not penalize students during those holidays. He asked those in attendance to pass on the comments made tonight to their building administrator. Mr. Berkebile continued that there are still 180 days in the calendar just as they were before. There must be 180 days of instruction, along with 990 hours for secondary and 900 hours for elementary.

5. **ARBITRATOR** - Appoint Matthew Hoffman as the district's non-binding arbitrator.
6. **KENNYWOOD PICNIC DAY** - Approve June 22, 2008, as revised Kennywood Picnic Day.

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Adametz, to approve the student calendar, arbitrator, and Kennywood Picnic day as listed above.

Mr. Berkebile asked for a vote to extend public comment. All those present voted in the affirmative with Mr. Evans absent.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Joseph Mayer stated that the Board is to serve the community and he would like the Board to reinstate the original graduation date.
- B. Wendy Hoffman doesn't feel the teachers should grade the senior projects. They should be judged by impartial members of the public.
- C. Tammy Meyerholt was concerned about PSSA testing. Those dates are set by the state and cannot be changed.
- D. James Daniels said the senior project time is compressed. The seniors were told that everything possible would be done to have them graduate on time. The administration responded that they have been in contact with PDE and other legal consultants almost daily to seek ways to get seniors back in school and graduate on time. With the myriad of laws and regulations they have not been able to get the seniors back to school.
- E. Lori Johns asked if and when the teachers can strike again. The timelines for Act 88 were explained again.
- F. Alexandra Flavion wanted to know why the seniors were told that they would be taught during the strike. She was upset that with other commitments in June, the class of 2008 will not graduate together.
- G. Adrienne Steele thinks the senior year was supposed to be the most fun year but it has not been with the strike. Handling absences on a case by case basis is not going to work.
- H. Patti Bertiaux commented that teachers can strike for five days. It would have been ten days if the holidays would not have been put back.
- I. Christina Cowan thinks the senior project deadlines are unfair. A handout of changed timelines means nothing if a teacher is not willing to teach.
- J. Nilda Delerme stressed that if teachers are in the building they should be teaching. If they are not, it is the fault of the administration and Board for not making them teach. Are the senior projects really of quality to pass? The project needs to be eliminated.
- K. Cori Kohonoski asked on what date would the next strike start?
- L. Wesley Weaver also asked when the next strike would start.

Mr. Widdowson asked, and Mr. Hill and Mr. Adametz concurred, to pull the item on the arbitrator from the motion. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Evans absent.

Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Brennan, to appoint Matthew Hoffman as the district's non-binding arbitrator. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative, except Mr. Widdowson abstaining and Mr. Evans absent.

8. **PERSONNEL** (Details provided in the agenda.)

- A. **Appointments** - *Professional* - Elizabeth Terrill, Stephanie Lind; *Supplemental* - Maria Misenhelter.
- B. **Leaves** - Kristy Long, Mary Jo Burglund, Maureen O'Dell
- C. **Intents to Retire** - Linda Rose, Lynn A. Stewart

Mr. Widdowson motioned, seconded by Mr. Storti, to approve the appointments, leaves, and intents to retire. Motion carried on a roll call vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Evans absent.

3. **INFORMATION**

A. **Student/Staff Recognition**

- 1. Thirty-nine Seneca Valley students were selected for District 5 honors band.
- 2. Westinghouse awarded the Intermediate High School a \$1,000 N-Visioning a Brighter Future grant. The nuclear chemistry application of exponential decay project was designed by Michele Murray and Tracy O'Toole.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS** - Communications were received from the following:

- 1. Brenda Martin
- 2. Carol Beall
- 3. Patti Downing
- 4. Frank Essek
- 5. Rosemarie Hartenstein
- 6. Heide Resch
- 7. Betsy Heney
- 8. Cheryl Kopp
- 9. Michael Fabio
- 10. Karen Francis
- 11. Wayne Jelinek
- 12. Joanne Famiano
- 13. Robyn Bunnell
- 14. Allison Steele
- 15. Amy Stiefel
- 16. Josh Earl
- 17. Ginny Talaat
- 18. Desiree Winterhalter
- 19. Sue Ann Jones
- 20. Kathy Hensler
- 21. Lisa George
- 22. Paul and Daena DiBucci
- 23. Beth Panizales
- 24. Tom and Diana McCauley

25. Barb Hogan
26. George Hawthorne
27. Shari Errera
28. Lisa DiMichele
29. Dave and Karen Rose

5. **ADJOURNMENT** - With nothing further to come before the Board, Mr. Hill motioned, seconded by Mr. Adametz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote with those present voting in the affirmative with Mr. Evans absent.
6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - An executive session was held prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Dean Berkebile, Board President

Mrs. Joan Rinaman, Board Secretary