

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SENECA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT 160, SENECA, IL

A regular meeting of the Seneca Township High School Board of Education was held on November 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. President Frye called the meeting to order with roll call.

1. ROLL CALL: Present: Johnson, Hamilton, Frye, Biros
Absent: Eltrevoog, Olson, Yandell

Others present: Superintendent Dan Stecken, Principal Michael Coughlin, Dean of Students Mark Giertz, Recording Secretary Nadine Maierhofer, Treasurer Rob Maierhofer, Student of the Month winners and guests, and Mr. Witte and his Varsity Boys Basketball Team.

2. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Student award winners were recognized.

3. SUCCESS AT SHS

Superintendent, Dan Stecken, mentioned he would like to recognize our Board Members. He felt it was appropriate to mention them and all that they do for our students and staff here at SHS with today, Wednesday, November 15th being "School Board Members Day." He also thanked them for working with the Administration so diligently on all the projects and upgrades to the school.

4. INVESTMENT REPORT

Dr. Stecken reviewed the Investment Report. President Frye stated that the Investment Report would stand approved as presented, subject to audit.

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Dr. Stecken reviewed the Financial Dashboards.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rob Maierhofer briefed the Board on the current Treasurer's Report. President Frye stated that the Treasurer's Report would stand approved subject to audit.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Minutes, dated October 18, 2023
- B. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, dated November 1, 2023

Dr. Stecken stated he received no additions or corrections to the minutes.
President Frye stated minutes would stand approved as presented.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Dr. Stecken briefly reviewed the accounts payable. President Frye asked for a motion to approve the Accounts Payable as presented.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded Tiffany Biros to approve the Accounts Payable as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Biros, Frye, Hamilton
Nays:
Motion Carried

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. EDUCATIONAL ITEM

No educational items were received.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Tiffany Biros briefed the Board on the Policies they reviewed, of which most were the "Seneca-ized" policies that needed to be updated. She did mention that there was discussion of late work policy as well as discussion of a policy and handbook for a Therapy Dog here at Seneca High School. This was the first reading of these revised and new policies.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Finance Report

1. 2024 - 2025 Budget

Dr. Stecken referred to this budget as a BIG PICTURE budget because we lack many details that are still unknown. We must follow all the rules, advertisement, hearing, posting, etc., that we do with the September adoption. This budget will be tweaked over time until it is transferred to the state budget form in September. As of now, this budget is balanced.

Sara Olson stepped in at 6:40pm.

2. 2023 Levy

Dr. Stecken stated that the 2023 Levy was presented as informational only last month. This is our second year of a 5-year agreement with Constellation Energy LaSalle Station on a \$530 Million EAV. We fully anticipated continuing our set rate at \$1.72838. However, after localized property tax assessments came out in late October, we reassessed the situation. Due to extremely high assessments, especially in Manlius Township, Dr. Stecken stated that the district will lower its finalized and abated rate in December. In December there will be a Truth in Taxation hearing because of the elevated property tax assessments. Like always, Seneca High School will hold the hearing, but will abate down. Initially it was expected we would abate to our \$1.72838, rather will abate to \$1.70838. If we lower to \$1.70838 then it will be reduced even more significantly. The 2023 Levy "ask for" **will** represent approximately a 24.4% increase over last year's extension. Therefore, the district will be required to conduct a Truth in Taxation hearing before our regular board meeting and after the budget hearing **in** December. The levy will be abated to comply with the terms of the property tax agreement with Constellation, which will lower the property tax rate for District 160 taxpayers to \$1.70838, which is a two-cent decrease from the previous rate of \$1.72838.

3. Debt Certificate Transfer

Dr. Stecken mentioned that our debt certificate paying agent Zion Bank was transferred to BOK Financial. No terms or conditions have changed from the roughly \$5 million debt certificates. As the first payment will be due on 12/1/23, you will have a bill for the principal, interest, and annual fee for roughly \$535,484. This is basically just an information piece noting the transfer of ownership from Zion Bank to BOK Financial.

4. Gymnasium Addition Pay App 9

Dr. Stecken informed the Board that we have paid roughly 70% of this project at this point. Dr. Stecken provided a thorough assessment of all pay apps including individual contractor pay outs, completion percentages, and remaining balances for board of education member review.

A motion was made by Rich Hamilton and seconded Tiffany Biros approve the Gymnasium Addition Pay App 9 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Hamilton, Johnson, Olson, Biros, Frye
Nays:
Motion Carried

5. Health Life Safety Pay App 6

Dr. Stecken stated that this was the 6th pay app for our Healthy Life Safety Work with GRP Wegman. It looks slightly a little different than the SMC versions but contains the same information. He mentioned that line A shows \$979,508 minus \$35,270.72 in retainage, which leaves a payment of \$944,237.28 paid this far, including this \$38,921.86 pay app.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded Rich Hamilton to approve the Health Life Safety Pay App 6 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Biros, Frye, Hamilton

Nays:

Motion Carried

B. Personnel Report

1. Updated Co-Curricular List

Dr. Stecken informed the Board that Mrs. Luri Lomtz, Main Office Secretary, has stepped up to become our assistant cheerleading coach for the basketball season. He continued that with Mr. Miller's resignation as an agriculture instructor, that we now have a FFA sponsor opening. He also said that he confirmed that the 3-Circle Grant allows us flexibility to use some of those funds for the FFA stipend work for a substitute should that need arise.

2. Accept Letter of Resignation from Mr. Mitch Miller

Dr. Stecken stated that Mr. Miller has submitted his resignation as an Ag Faculty member and FFA Advisor.

3. Open Positions Update

Dr. Stecken stated that we now have 2 open positions for the 24-25 faculty: Art and Agriculture.

A motion was made by Sara Olson and seconded Tiffany Biros to approve the Personnel Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Olson, Biros, Frye, Hamilton, Johnson

Nays:

Motion Carried

C. Building, Grounds & Transportation

1. Building Update

Dr. Stecken mentioned that Jim Harsted is the type of guy that wants everything to look great here at SHS. The maintenance crew has been busy with many items such as: weekly sports field prep for Football; finish tearing out fencing at baseball, grass cutting, plumbing problems, winterized irrigation systems, poured new sidewalks along Graves Street, worked on clock issues after time change, tore down Cross-County course, replaced light fixtures in hallways, changed ALL air filters, and hung sport teams signs in gym just to name a few things.

2. Gymnasium Addition Update

Dr. Stecken mentioned that in their Board packet there were several change orders to the gymnasium addition project as well as observation reports from Wold Architect, Tyler Severson. He included that there was also an updated rendering of the brick donor wall (108 bricks total, with all proceeds donated to the Educational Foundation of Seneca High School) and the Touch Pro Wall.

3. MVK IGA Bus Bids

Dr. Stecken informed the Board that he has included two competing bus bids that were sent to Superintendent, Nancy Dillow of MVK. The first bid being from Central States Bus and the second one from Midwest Transit Equipment. He stated that Seneca High School District 160 is not listed on the bid sheet as MVK leases the buses, with the option to purchase, after lease expiration. Since we are not leasing or purchasing directly it is not mandated by law that we approve the bids, but it is a good faith gesture to show our support for this bid by approving.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Rich Hamilton to approve the MVK IGA Bus Bids from Central States Bus as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Biros, Frye, Hamilton

Nays:

Motion Carried

4. MVK Transportation Intergovernmental Agreement 2024-2027

Dr. Stecken stated that like previous IGA's we are presenting approval of the 3-year IGA with MVK for bus transportation. There are minimal changes to this contract compared to the previous year's agreements. One major change is that our wheelchair bus must be air conditioned per the legal conditions of an IEP agreement.

A motion was made by Rich Hamilton and seconded by Joe Johnson to approve the 2024-2027 Intergovernmental Agreement with MVK for Bus Transportation as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Hamilton, Johnson, Olson, Biros, Frye
Nays:
Motion Carried

5. Bleacher Repairs

Dr. Stecken mentioned that there was an invoice in the Board Packet for outside bleacher repair from John Paddock. ET Paddock Enterprises conducts all our bleacher inspections and makes repairs as needed. The outdoor bleachers need maintenance. The attached invoice is for \$10,814.00 and is needed for repair to the locations listed on the invoice.

A motion was made by Tiffany Biros and seconded by Rich Hamilton to approve the Bleacher Repairs by ET Paddock as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Biros, Frye, Hamilton, Johnson, Olson

Nays:

Motion Carried

D. Policy

1. Therapy Dog - First Reading

Dr. Stecken mentioned he has included two documents for review in the first reading of a potential therapy dog at Seneca High School. The first document is a program objective of a therapy dog in schools provided by SHS Social Worker, Mrs. Samantha Leake. The second document is a first draft of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Primary Handler. If the Board of Education elects to adopt a Therapy Dog Policy there are some other details to confirm, such as a Memorandum of Understanding with the Primary Handler, a Therapy Dog Handbook, as well some registration items that will need addressed. The Board members discussed the pro's and con's of the future of the Therapy Dog and will continue discussions in December.

2. Customized PRESS Policies - First Reading

Dr. Stecken stated that we needed to update all our policies as some were discovered to not be "Senecaized" as they have been in the past. These policies were reviewed at the policy committee meeting and a first reading was held.

E. ISBE Report Card Designation

Dr. Stecken informed the Board that annually ISBE conducts a review of each district and provides a school report card. Again, SHS has earned a "Commendable" status.

F. Summer School

Dr. Stecken informed the Board of the summer school courses we will offer, pending student enrollment: World History, Driver's Education; Dual Credit Speech; and our Summer Bridge Program (with Bridge becoming a credit recovery option as well). We are only holding a first semester session this year, with dates being May 31 - June 21st (with no School June 19). Classes are held from 7:30am to Noon. Driver's Education Classroom will run from June 3rd - June 28th. Enrollment and teacher availability will determine the final schedule.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded Tiffany Biros to approve Summer School 2024 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Johnson, Olson, Biros, Frye, Hamilton
Nays:
Motion Carried

G. Conference Update

Dr. Stecken stated that for our Football Conference there were two teams leaving the conference. The IHSA has talked about "districts" in the past and now they are talking about it again. If districts was to happen, he stated that in a school's general geographical area Seneca High School would play nine schools that fit SHS demographics, enrollment, and geography, based on an IHSA model. He stated that Mr. Coughlin and Mr. O'Boyle would be attending an IHSA town hall meeting regarding the conference status.

H. Executive Session

Dr. Stecken stated there will be no Executive Session.

13. PRINCIPAL/DEAN OF STUDENTS

A. Illinois State Scholars

Principal, Mike Coughlin, presented the list of 9 seniors that were named Illinois State Scholars this school year. He said he was proud of the entire group, they represented the senior class well and the award was based on class rank and SAT scores.

B. Tri-County Conference Leadership Conference

Mr. Coughlin informed the Board that we had 8 students selected to attend the 2023 Tri-County Leadership Conference at St. Bede High School on Monday, October 1st 2023. The presenter for the conference was Mr. Ted

Wiese. Mr. Wiese organizes and directs all the activities to promote working together, staying positive, and making everyone achieve.

C. Student Handbook Update

The Dean of Students, Mark Giertz, went over some of the updates from July. The highlights in red are brand new additions and then the yellow are updates. These range from student appearance, student hygiene, graduation items, to religious background.

14. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATION AND FOIA REPORT

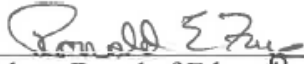
Dr. Stecken stated there was a "Thank You" from the Seneca Food Bank, a request from Michael Rost, Allium Data, requesting information pertaining to property & casualty insurance and employee benefits insurance we had here at the school. There was an email from Jennifer Doloski regarding the Fall Play. She was thanking the Board and Administration for all of the updates to the Auditorium from the curtains, sounds system and lights. Not to mention the new mics for the actors/actresses. He stated there were also 5 State Superintendent Weekly Messages as supplemental readings.

15. ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no action item after the executive session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



President, Board of Education

12-20-23
Date



Secretary, Board of Education

12-20-23
Date