

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 January 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room at Seneca High School. President Frye called the meeting to order with roll call.

1. ROLL CALL Present: Johnson, Hamilton, Frye, Olson, Eltrevoog  
Absent: Yandell & Biros  
Giertz stepped out at 6:48, Olson stepped out at 7:21

Others present: Superintendent Dan Stecken, Principal Mike Coughlin, Dean of Students Mark Giertz, Recording Secretary Nadine Maierhofer, November Student of the Month winners and guests, and Ottawa Media Rick Koshko.

2. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Mr. Coughlin recognized our November Students of the Month winners.

Mr. Stecken explained that at this time due to scheduling conflicts and needing Administration supervision at the game this evening the agenda was altered to allow the Principal/Dean of Students Report earlier.

3. PRINCIPAL/DEAN OF STUDENTS REPORT

- A. Non-Tenured Teachers

Mr. Coughlin reviewed the Non-Tenured Teachers list. He stated kudos to Mr. Stecken and Dr. Carlson for hiring such a great group of teachers.

- B. Final Exam Exemption

Mr. Coughlin went over the Final Exam Exemption by Class stating that exemptions in math and/or science classes seem to be the number one choice.

- C. First Semester Stats

Mr. Giertz went over the first semester summary of August 16, 2021 to December 21, 2021 reviewing attendance, grades, and discipline referrals.

4. INVESTMENT REPORT

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

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Mr. Stecken reviewed the Financial Dashboards.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

In Rob Maierhofer's absence, Mr. Stecken gave the Treasurer's Report. President Frye stated that the Treasurer's Report would stand approved subject to audit.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Minutes

Budget Hearing Minutes - December 15, 2021  
Truth in Taxation Hearing Minutes-December 15, 2021  
Regular Board Minutes - December 15, 2021  
Policy Committee Minutes -January 5, 2022  
Co-Curricular Committee Minutes- January 5, 2022

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

B. Executive Session Minutes and Destruction of Audio Tapes

Mr. Stecken requested that Executive Session Minutes from July 2021 through December 2021 be approved. He also asked for the destruction of the Audio Recordings of the Executive Session Meetings from January 2020 through June 2020, since 18 months have now passed and written minutes of the meetings were previously approved.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Rich Hamilton to approve the Executive Session minutes from July 2021 through December 2021 and the destruction of the Audio Recordings of the Executive Session from January 2020 through June 2020, since 18 months have now passed and written minutes of the meetings were previously approved.

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

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Mr. Stecken 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 by Sara Olson to approve the Accounts Payables as presented.

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

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 4 attendees with 3 speakers all speaking on the Newly Proposed Bill regarding Sex Education Standards by Grade Level - SB0818 and 1 asking questions at the conclusion of the 3 speakers.

Jeff Wynn spoke first regarding the National Sexual Education Standards that were to go into effect August 1, 2022. He listed various Advocacy Groups that created these new Standards and that they in fact were not created by educators. He would like to see that the school review what is currently taught and take into consideration what is being proposed by these Groups with potential policy and curricular changes.

Abigail Savoree spoke next stating these new Standards promotes abortion in a positive light, it bans parents from their student's rights. With the confusion of all of this she stressed this could cause detrimental disruption with the students, possibly causing eating disorders, psychological mental/health issues, and suicide. She continued stating that she has done some research through ISBE, called ReCap, which seems to be destroying the family structure. Big PHARMA seems to have a huge control in this regarding birth control and prophylactics. She ended stating that children should not be influenced to change their gender, asking the district to please opt out of these standards.

Karlin Hawkins spoke third stating she was a nurse in the district community. She has grandkids and felt compelled to speak out regarding Tik Tok, students wearing Kitty Kat ears, she is very disturbed with what the kids are doing on social media. She continued stating that the digital technology is killing this country. What she sees parents need to know. There is a lot of sex trafficking, human trafficking all going on. ICD (International Classification of Diseases) codes are followed on these younger girls as sex traffickers are getting the information not only from social media but our local hospitals. This is all due to social media issues.

Our final speaker Cindy Sherdon asked a few questions about the "sex" education classes currently taught in the district. Are they anything like the SB0818, or did our classes lean more towards the health aspect of the educational learning?

10. EDUCATIONAL ITEM

No education items were presented.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jason Eltrevoog from the Policy Committee briefly discussed the new Eligibility for Co-Curriculars and Final Exam Exemptions.

Mr. Stecken mentioned that in the Co-Curricular Committee Meeting Mr. Haines and Mr. O'Boyle reviewed the Fall Sports seasons. There were discussions about the success of each program as well as concerns with numbers of participants based upon class to class enrollment in a couple of co-curriculars.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Finance Report

1. Approve Non-Certified Staff Seniority List

Mr. Stecken stated that each year the Board is required to adopt this list, which would only be used in case of a Reduction in Force. He also stated that this does not prevent Administration from terminating an employee for just cause. The union presidents have been given this list for their review.

A motion was made by Rich Hamilton and seconded by Jason Eltrevoog to adopt the Non-Certified Staff Seniority List as presented.

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

2. Approve Auditor Contract

Mr. Stecken mentioned the engagement letter from Hopkins & Associates, the district's new auditor. Within the letter it has stated the responsibilities and terms/conditions of the audit engagement for both parties. It also states the fee of \$10,500 for services and the potential additional fee of \$3,000 if a single federal audit is required.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Rich Hamilton to approve the auditor contract with Hopkins & Associates as presented.

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

B. Personnel Report

1. Vacancies Update

Mr. Stecken shared with the Board information only regarding the number of applications for each of the upcoming positions we need to fill. For the Agriculture Position, 4 submitted applicants, with a total of 6 started applications. For the Maintenance Director Position, 6 submitted applicants, with a total of 9 started applications. Both positions are open until 2/15/2022 with the anticipation of interviews to begin late February, early March.

C. Building, Grounds & Transportation

1. Building Update

Mr. Stecken reviewed various building related projects that Barry and his maintenance crew are working on.

2. Disposition of Unneeded Property

Mr. Stecken stated that each year we ask the Board to grant the Administration the authority to sell, recycle, or throw out any unneeded property.

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Rich Hamilton to approve the disposition of unneeded property as needed.

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

Nays:

Motion Carried

3. Award Maintenance Truck Bid

Mr. Stecken informed the Board that our Bid specified a Ford F1350 with specific technical features including a hydraulic dump box and snow plow system. Bill Walsh provided the only bid. The bid was posted on our website, in the Times newspaper, and we contacted 5 area dealerships and truck companies. Our final bid price was \$77,789.60 which includes all met specifications.

A motion was made by Jason Eltrevoog and seconded by Joe Johnson to accept the bid from Bill Walsh for a 2022 Ford F350 Maintenance Truck as presented.

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

Nays:  
Motion Carried

4. Wold Gymnasium Design Development, Construction Document

Mr. Stecken discussed the engagement letter from Alison Andrews at Wold Architects.. This letter requires board action to approve the next steps of our Design Development and Construction Documents for the gymnasium project. As stated in the letter, once approved, and with completion of the Schematic Design (phase 1) Wold will begin working with the approved Construction Manager firm on Design Development (phase 2) and Construction Documents (phase 3).

A motion was made by Sara Olson and seconded by Rich Hamilton to approve the next phase of Design Development from Wold Architects for the Gymnasium Addition as presented.

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

Nays:  
Motion Carried

5. Construction Management RFQ Submittals

Mr. Stecken shared with the Board 5 Construction Management Firms and their documents and submittals. Each firm has good recommendations and 3 of the firms have worked directly with our architects. He had shared some cost information and while cost is certainly one of, if not the, most important aspects, trust and a good fit for the district is also a key.

D. Policy

1. Eligibility Update - First Reading

Mr. Stecken expressed that our current co-curricular policy is somewhat confusing due to the waiver process. Because of that we have recommended a simpler revision. Eligibility checks will be run on Thursdays at 3pm, student will be notified on Friday if they are ineligible for the following week from Monday - Sunday. A student will be ineligible for the following week if they have 2 or more F's after the Thursday check. If a student ends a semester with 3 or more F's they will be ineligible for the following semester.

2. Final Exam Exemption - First Reading

Mr. Stecken mentioned that the final exam exemption policy also has varying degrees of confusion based upon age, academic performance, discipline concerns, etc. He continues that all students are eligible for a maximum of 4 final exam exemptions. Criteria to be exempt include: students do not accumulate more than (2) discipline referrals (minor offences only) in the first semester AND earns an "A" in a course at the end of the data collection date prior to exams. Additional things to look at, a student whose name appears on the weekly eligibility list with a grade of "F" at any time throughout the semester will lose privilege of being exempt from the final in that specific class. If a student who has earned a D or F grade in any course as of the data collection date prior to exams, will lose the privilege of the final exam exemption policy entirely for all classes.

3. Illinois Principal's Association Handbook Updates - First Reading

Mr. Stecken informed the Board that the IPA produces the model student handbook each year. There have been some recent updates to a few of the sections: Student Appearance, Student Mental Health Days, Bullying, and Students with Disabilities.

4. PRESS Policies - First Reading

Mr. Stecken highlighted several of the policies stating this is the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the PRESS policies.

E. Executive Session

Mr. Stecken stated that he would ask for an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATION AND FOIA REPORT

Mr. Stecken referred to several Thank You's: 1) a letter from Children's Cancer Therapy, donation made on behalf of the Girls Volleyball Team. 2) a Thank You card from the Eloise M Sangston Family (SRO Sangston). 3) and at their place a Thank You card from the family of Larry Coartney (Steve Haines father-in-law). He also mentioned there were 3 State Superintendent Weekly Messages that were included as supplemental reading.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joe Johnson and seconded by Rich Hamilton, to adjourn to Executive Session, including Administration, to discuss the appointment,

employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employee, and student discipline.

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

15. ACTION ITEMS AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION


There were no action items.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

  
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President, Board of Education

2-16-2022  
Date

  
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Secretary, Board of Education

2-16-2022  
Date