

South Fayette School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2008
6:00 p.m.

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the South Fayette High School Conference Center by President William Newcomer with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Bill Newcomer announced the Board will meet in Executive Session after the meeting to discuss personnel.

Present: Teresa Burroughs, Frank Morelli, Bill Newcomer, Chris Niemann, Todd Petrillo, Jeff Smith (*arrived at 6:26 p.m.*), Alan Wood (*arrived at 6:29 p.m.*), and Len Fornella (*arrived at 6:48 p.m.*)

Absent: Lena Hannah

Others: Dr. Linda B. Hippert, Superintendent; Dr. Mary Ravita, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Nanci Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel; George Safin, Director of Finance; Anthony Ditka of Dinsmore and Shohl, Bryan O'Black, Director of Technology; Teachers Linda Brentin, Carol Kurchena, Mary Chambon; Natalie Kugler, Lisa Carney, Gina Duncan, Kellee Jenkins, Shana Nelson, Darell Frank, Debra Amelio-Manion, David Dugan, Gary Toney, and Ruth Bell Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Minutes

The Board considered the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board
Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Financial Reports

The Condensed Expenditure Summary Report as of April 30, 2008, was provided to the Board.

The Financial Reports for March, April, and May 2008, were enclosed for Board review and will be included on the Agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting.

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Linda B. Hippert

Business Office

Dr. Hippert provided an overview of the Feasibility Study that was provided by Eckles Architecture and Dr. Shelby Stewman, Demographer. She explained we are looking at 2 options – option 2A and 2F. Dr. Hippert and Mr. Safin met previously with Anthony Ditka of Dinsmore and Shohl, District Bond Counsel and Jamie Doyle from PFM, District Financial Consultant, to discuss the borrowing capacity of the District.

Mr. Ditka explained his role as bond counsel for the District and provided an option for financing of the proposed renovation and/or addition to the current elementary building. Mr. Ditka explained State Public

School Building Authority (SPSBA) Non-Appropriation Lease Option; which would permit the project to start earlier and have the students in the building sooner. Dr. Hippert and Mr. Ditka's PowerPoint presentation will be attached to the official minutes.

Informational

The District received the Property Tax Reduction Allocation from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The property tax reduction allocation for 2008-09 is \$664,556.54. South Fayette School District must reduce property taxes by \$664,556.54 through homestead/farmstead exclusion.

1. The Board discussed the 2008-09 Budget.
2. Smith seconded Petrillo for the Board to approve to adopt the proposed final budget with revenue of \$29,966,908 and expenses of \$30,491,913 would balance with a .78 millage increase to cover the difference of \$525,005 and will leave an estimated fund balance of \$888,251 with the understanding we will continue to look at the budget numbers throughout the next month. This is required by law prior to adoption of the final budget by June 30, 2008. (The final budget will be passed at the June 24, 2008 Regular Meeting)

Roll Call – Yes – Smith, Niemann, Wood, Morelli,
Burroughs, Newcomer
No – Fornella, Petrillo

3. The Board considered the request of The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin to authorize budget transfers resulting from local independent audit reclassifications made subsequent to June 30, 2008, or other closing date. If any transfers are necessary after the fiscal year end, appropriate detail will be supplied to the Board for ratification.
4. The Board considered for approval the recommendation of The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin to appoint the School Depository for the 2007-08 school year as follows:
 - ◆ PNC Bank (Main Depository)
 - ◆ Invest Program (Investment Account)
 - ◆ Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (Check Writing Account)
 - ◆ Citizens Bank (Construction Fund Account)
 - ◆ J. P. Morgan (Construction Fund Account)
5. The Board considered for approval the adoption of policies, procedures, and use of IDEIA funds by the school district per the agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.
6. The Board considered for approval the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2008-09 school year.
7. The South Fayette School District recognizes the Assurance for the Operation of Special Education Services and Programs for the school years of 2008-2011 to comply with requirements of the 22 PA Code Chapter 14 and with the policies and procedures of the PDE.

8. The Board considered for approval the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance George Safin, and Tax Collector Kevin Biber the provided list of Real Estate Refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment.
9. The Board considered for approval the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for payment of the interim delinquent tax collector fee in the amount of \$762.43 for 2006 delinquent taxes; penalty payment extends from April 1, 2008 to May 7, 2008; for \$2,030.04 for 2007 delinquent taxes; penalty payment extends from March 19, 2008 through May 14, 2008.
10. The Board reviewed the request from School District Tax Collector Kevin Biber for reimbursement for partial office expenses totaling \$7,000.00 relating to part time office assistants, as per the Tax Collectors compensation agreement approved in 2005.
11. The Board considered for approval the Memorandum of Understanding for the District to make a non-elective employer contribution of the eligible retirees' retirement incentive money and unused sick days to the professional employee's 403(b) retirement program.

Personnel

1. Hiring, resignations, and all changes regarding personnel were discussed in Executive Session.

Education

1. The Board considered for approval the recommendation of The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita to purchase the following budgeted textbooks. Review of curriculum deficiencies resulted in the need to add the novels listed below. **ALL, are included in the proposed 2008-09 budget.**

AP English Literature and Composition

McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. New York: Vintage International. 2006.
 Hosseini, Khaled. *The Kite Runner*. New York: Riverside Books. 2003
 Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes were Watching God*. New York: Harper Perennial. 2000.

AP Prep English

Twain. Mark. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. New York. Barnes & Noble. 2003.

Pre-Calculus

Hungerford, Thomas W. & Others. *PreCalculus: A Graphing Approach*. Orlando, Florida. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. 2007.

Statistics

Watkins, Ann E. & Others. *Statistics in Action: Understanding a World of Data*. Emeryville, California. Key Curriculum Press. 2008.

2. The Board considered for approval the recommendation of The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita, and Middle School Principal Karen Labutta to add the following required and/or elective special classes that are needed to reduce the class size in these areas. **NO additional funds will be needed for these courses:**

Grade 5 – Technology Education (Elective) – “Motion – How Things Work”
Grade 5 – Physical Education (Required) in addition to Swimming
Grade 5 – Visual Arts (Elective)
Grade 7 – Public Speaking (Elective)
Grade 8 – Physical Education (Elective)

Transportation

There were no items to discuss.

Athletics

1. Coaching personnel was discussed in Executive Session.
2. The Board discussed the procedure for donation to organizations. Athletic Director Joe Farkas has been informed by the coaches that each booster organization has reviewed the procedure and finds it acceptable.

Construction

There were no items to discuss.

Miscellaneous

There were no items to discuss.

Expenditures

Submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM VISITORS

The Board will hear comments from visitors. The time limit of comments will not exceed three (3) minutes and must relate to items on the Agenda. The Board will not respond to questions during this session, but will only hear public comment. (As per revised Policy 006 – Meetings” adopted May 23, 2006)

Debra Amelio-Manion – Apple Blossom Drive – should be discussing the inner workings and looking at positions; we have expenditures and the Board should discuss them more often.

David Dugan – Oakridge Road – asked about the review process for delinquent taxes. After much discussion, the Board asked Director of Finance George Safin and Tax Collector Kevin Biber to further investigate the matter.

Natalie Kugler – Meadow Drive – why can't the facilities and maintenance position fall under one person similar to other companies? As for the Public Relations position can the building secretaries send press releases or the sponsoring group/club send this information to the newspapers?

Lisa Carney – Greenwood Drive – why not hire a part time person for the public relations positions or make it an EPR? Cuts need to be made in the budget.

Gary Toney – Bank Street – questioned the interview and hiring process of the school district.

Gina Duncan – Saddlewood Drive – Is there a list of under-assessed values of homes in the township and can the District appeal?

Dr. Hippert explained there is a legal process the District needs to go through to appeal under-assessed homes.

Lisa Carney – Greenwood Drive – After last week you indicated a .82 millage increase; after this meeting you are talking about 1.18 millage increase; you need to look at the whole picture and down the road so our taxes don't continue to increase.

Niemann seconded Morelli to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Voice Vote – All Yes

William Newcomer, Board President

Ruth Bell, Board Secretary