

South Fayette School District

Regular Meeting *Minutes*

Tuesday, May 27, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the South Fayette High School Conference Center by President Bill Newcomer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Lena Hannah, Frank Morelli, Bill Newcomer, Chris Niemann, Jeff Smith, Len Fornella (*arrived at 7:37p.m.*), and Teresa Burroughs (*arrived at 7:44 p.m.*)

Absent: Todd Petrillo and Alan Wood

Others: W. Theodore Brooks, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Linda B. Hippert, Superintendent; Dr. Mary Ravita, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Nanci Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel; George Safin, Director of Finance; Representatives from Eckles Architecture Daniel Engen, Cassandra Renninger; PFM – Financial Advisor Jamie Doyle; Elementary School Principal Denise Beverina Moore; Assistant Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Teachers Charissa Kinzler, Justin Liberatore, Jeff McGowan; Paraeducator Helen Cardillo; Deana Carpenter, Brynne Allcorn, Peggy Mannella, Corinne Belasco, Tara Belasco, Dana Belasco, Michael Maker, Sheila Cannon, Kathy Guy, Karen Richmond, Janet Rosati, Natalie Kugler, Lisa Carney, Dennis Wilke, Gina Duncan, Sandy Hanich, Andrea Inglar, Dave Mayernick, Kevin Biber, and Ruth Bell Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Paraeducator Helen Cardillo, representative from Circle of Friends, explained how students are involved with this group throughout the year. The students held a Penny Challenge and raised a total of \$9,900. Checks were presented to the following groups:

- Kathy Guy – Special Olympics, Allegheny County
- Karen Richmond and Maggi Mishkin – Special Olympics, Carnegie
- Sheila Cannon – Down Syndrome Center at Children's Hospital & Down Syndrome Group of Western Pennsylvania
- Arlene Bair and Peggy Manella - Pennsylvania Connecting Communities
- Charissa Kinzler, Special Needs Teacher at South Fayette High School, Lion Pride Gifts

Mrs. Cardillo thanked Paraeducators Sharon Hohn, Donna Meehan, and Bernadette Bonner for their help and support throughout the year.

Jamie Doyle, Financial Consultant from PFM, provided information on the debt structure and availability of funds and a timeline of the proposed project. Cassandra Renninger and Dan Engen from Eckles Architecture provided an overview of the 2 options they are recommending. They indicated the next community meeting will be held on June 11, 2008, in the Pride Room and encouraged everyone to attend. Handouts from the presentations will be copied and made part of the official minutes.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM VISITORS FOR ITEMS RELATED TO THE PRESENTATION

Natalie Kugler – Meadow Drive – Is there a Plan B if the request submitted to the State Public School Building Authority is not approved?

Jamie Doyle responded no, we would have to wait for the actual borrowing capacity date.

Gina Duncan – Saddlewood Drive – Assuming option 2F is chosen and everything for Phase 1 goes through how would Phase 2 be paid for?

Jamie Doyle responded through the District borrowing capacity.

Board Member Jeff Smith asked if there is a timeline for Phase 2.

Dr. Hippert responded 2014.

Dennis Wilke – Woodbridge Drive – I don't have a clear answer between option 2A and 2F. It seems if you choose option 2F with the new building without renovations to the existing building or K-2 something is going to have to be done at some time to the existing building. The handout shows the cost of \$13 million and that is a guess since we don't know when that will be approved. If you choose option 2F you are voting now to also spend the money in the future for the existing building. I don't feel the millage numbers on the handout are comparing apples to apples. The existing building is old if it is not fixed in option 2A that is one thing that is not equal to 2F. To compare option 2A to 2F is not comparing apples to apples.

Dan Engen – Eckles Architecture – what you are not seeing in today's formula all of the different options that were presented. We are trying to give the district many different options to choose from. To answer the question as to what may possibly be done to the current elementary school has not been decided.

Dennis Wilke – Woodbridge Drive – when you put a piece of paper out to the voters with numbers right next to each other and one number is lower for millage and you are not telling them that the cost to renovate the current elementary school is not included in this amount.

Dr. Hippert responded this addresses the immediate need of the district. We are not a proponent of a K-5 building with approximately 1340 students. Educationally we do not feel this is a good situation.

Dennis Wilke – Woodbridge Drive – I agree with what you are saying. I still think it is a wrong thing to do to show numbers side by side with an equal end result and this is not what this is showing.

Greg Suriano – Old Oakdale Road – I support this idea, there is a lot of financial, technical, state regulation jargon being discussed, I'm not sure the public is aware of the many steps there are. We are concerned how millage affects our taxes, concerned with referendum. Question on page 8 of the PFM handout there are many steps, where are the referendum on each of the step, where is the millage on each of the steps.

Solicitor Ted Brooks responded there are no referendums in any of the scenarios. They are not built into our laws. Pennsylvania works through an elected school board and the nine board members represent you. There are no referendums unless the board chooses to or has to exceed the inflation referendum.

Minutes

Niemann seconded Morelli to approve the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board
Regular Board Meeting

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

Roll Call – All Yes

Financial Reports

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

Niemann seconded Hannah to accept the following financial reports:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Earned Income (<i>April 2008</i>) | Central Tax Bureau |
| 2. Property Tax Collector's Report (<i>March, April 2008</i>) | Kevin Biber, Township Treasurer |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | George Safin |
| 4. Middle School Activity Report | Carol Hunsinger |
| 5. High School Activity Report | Kathy Demnyan |
| 6. Athletic Fund | Joe Farkas |
| 7. Aquatic Fund | Bridget Amato |

Roll Call – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM VISITORS

There were no comments.

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

***Business Office
Informational***

At the Committee Meeting on May 20, 2008, the Board approved to adopt the proposed final budget.

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

The Board discussed the 2008-09 budget.

Smith seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The School District Solicitor, Superintendent, and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval to adopt Resolution 08-03, 2007 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion, for the District to reduce property taxes, for qualified homestead/farmstead properties by \$664,556.54. In accordance with the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) the District must reduce property taxes beginning July 1, 2008. For each taxpayer who applied they would see a line item of \$177.74.

Roll Call – All Yes

Hannah seconded Niemann on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval 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.

Roll Call – All Yes

Niemann seconded Morelli on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval to appoint the School Depository for the 2008-09 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)

Voice Vote – All Yes

Niemann seconded Smith on the recommendation of The Superintendent for Board approval for the adoption of policies, procedures, and use of IDEIA funds by the school district per the agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

Voice Vote – All yes

Smith seconded Niemann on the recommendation of The Superintendent for Board approval of the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2008-09 school year.

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Niemann for The South Fayette School District to recognize 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.

Roll Call – All Yes

Hannah seconded Niemann on the recommendation of The Superintendent, Director of Finance George Safin, and Tax Collector Kevin Biber recommend Board approval of the provided list of Real Estate Refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment and 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.

Roll Call – All Yes

Niemann seconded Burroughs for Board approval of 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.

Roll Call – All Yes

Personnel

For Minute purposes, the Superintendent proudly announces that tenure has been earned by the following teacher who has been employed since May 2005 and has fulfilled all requirements as set forth in Pennsylvania School Code, Title 24, PS 11-1108.

- Justina Jerzyk, Guidance Counselor K-12

Niemann seconded Morelli on the recommendation of The Superintendent for the Board to accept, with deep regret, the following resignation:

- Alan Vezzi, Director of Maintenance, effective June 13, 2008

Voice Vote – All Yes

Smith seconded Fornella on the recommendation of The Superintendent for Board approval of the following reappointments:

- (a) George Safin as School Board Treasurer for a one year term (2008-09) at the stipend of \$1,500
- (b) Ruth Bell as School Board Secretary for a one year term (2008-09) at the stipend of \$3,000
- (c) Tucker Arensberg, P. C. as School District Solicitor, with W. Theodore Brooks being lead attorney as per enclosed letter. The recommended fee structure for 2008-09 is listed below:

Rates for 2007-08		Rates for 2008-09	
Partners	\$130.00 per hour	Partners	\$130.00 per hour
Associates	\$120.00 per hour	Associates	\$120.00 per hour
Paralegals	\$ 75.00 per hour	Paralegals	\$ 75.00 per hour

The recommended monthly retainer for 2008-09 is \$400.00. The retainer fee has remained the same as in 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 school years. For litigation services, the proposed fee structure is listed as follows:

Rates for 2007-08		Rates for 2008-09	
Partners	\$140.00 per hour	Partners	\$140.00 per hour
Associates	\$130.00 per hour	Associates	\$130.00 per hour

- (a) Dr. Wayne DiBartolo as School District Dentist for the 2008-09 school year at the rate of \$2.75 per student. This rate is the same as 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08 school years
- (b) Dr. Colleen Wheeler as School District Physician at the hourly rate of \$130.00. This rate is the same as in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years

Roll Call – All Yes

Hannah seconded Fornella on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following personnel:

- (a) Marie DeAngelis, certified Elementary K-6, Masters, Step 2, \$44,550, effective August 6, 2008
- (b) Janelle Steigerwald, certified Elementary K-6, Bachelors, Step 1, \$41,500, effective August 6, 2008
- (c) Vickie Slater, certified Elementary K-6, Masters, Step 1, \$43,100, effective August 6, 2008

- (d) Peter Schepis, Tutor for Liberty Station, beginning May 5, 2008 through approximately June 30, 2008, or the last day when students are present in the school environment; 3 hours a day 5 days a week at the rate of \$26.78 per hour, per contract
- (e) Maureen Sirc, Teacher for the Summer School On-line Algebra I program. The program will run from June 23, 2008 through August 1, 2008. Cost to the District would be \$1,150.47. This amount is based on the following calculation – 40 hours at \$26.78 per hour, per contract, for a total of \$1,071.20 plus \$79.27 for benefits
- (f) Stacey Silvis as the Part Time/Temporary Summer Technology Assistant effective June 16, 2008, at the rate of \$12.89 per hour. Compensation is not to exceed \$2,500.00
- (g) The following day-to-day substitutes (call as needed)
- Nicole Herrmann certified in Elementary as an ACT 36 substitute teacher
 - Christine Wiethorn certified in Elementary as an ACT 36 substitute teacher
 - Nicole Ludewig certified in Business, Computer & Information Technology as an ACT 36 substitute teacher
 - Bethany Spencer certified in Elementary as an ACT 36 substitute teacher
 - Jake Ricci - Emergency teaching certificate for German
 - Kathy Kenawell substitute administrative assistant/receptionist and paraeducator at the rate of \$8.30 per hour
 - Brenda Blanchard substitute custodian at the rate of \$7.60 per hour
 - Chuck Tranter substitute custodian at the rate of \$7.60 per hour
- (h) The following employees:
- Lindsay Harrison, Custodian, effective May 7, 2008, at the probationary rate of \$8.26 per hour. After completing a satisfactory probationary period the rate will be \$10.33 per hour
 - Lora Werkmeister, Fitness Center employee, effective May 30, 2008, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour
 - Kari Deichler, Lifeguard/Instructor, effective May 27, 2008, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour for lifeguarding and \$8.00 per hour for instructing
- (i) The following EPRs:
- Bryan O'Black, District Webmaster \$429.00
 - Bryan O'Black, High School Webmaster \$970.00
- (j) Consider the request from High School Principal Ann Bisignani to have Brianne Kelly from the University of Pittsburgh to intern with Mrs. Bisignani over the summer to work on her secondary principal certification. This would be at no cost to the District.
- (k) Consider the request from Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita to have Kellee Jenkins from the University of Pittsburgh to intern with Dr. Ravita and Middle School Principal Karen Labutta to work toward her certification in Curriculum and Instruction.

Roll Call – All Yes

Burroughs seconded Smith on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Denise Beverina Moore recommend Board approval to grant a leave for Tiffany Nickolas, Elementary Teacher, for the first semester of the 2008-09 school year beginning August 19, 2008 and to grant a leave for Amy Garbin, Elementary Teacher, for the 2008-09 school year beginning August 19, 2008. Mrs. Nickolas and Mrs. Garbin meet all requirements for leave.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Education

Niemann seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita recommends Board approval 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
Hurstun, 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.

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita, and Middle School Principal Karen Labutta for Board approval 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)

Roll Call – All Yes

Transportation

There were no items to discuss.

Athletics

Congratulations to the following student athletes:

Track and Field

- Erica Quattro qualified for PIAA State Class "AA" Track Championships in High Jump
- Chris Spicer qualified for PIAA State Class "AA" Track Championships in Shot Put
- Julie Denison set a new school record in the 3200 meter and 1600 meter
- Max Morrow set a new school record in the 1600 meter
- Max Morrow, Ben Rosati, Matt Rohbeck, John Cochran set a new school record in the 4x400 meter relay
- Nick Hirsch and Adam Zombek tied setting a new school record in the pole vault
 - The following students and teams qualified for the WPIAL Championships:
 - Chelsy Geisler
 - Amy Murrer
 - Julie Denison
 - Christa Forenlla
 - Erica Quattro
 - Caleb-Anderson O'Kelly
 - Chris Spicer
 - Girls 4x800m relay
 - Boys 4x800m relay
 - Girls 4x100m relay
 - Girls 4x400m relay
 - Boys 4x400m relay
- Andrea Berdusco, set a new school record in the long jump
- Greg Goldbach, Johnny Lerda, Josh Darnley, and Paul Wakim set a school record boys 4x1 relay

Swimming

- Morgan Fink broke the 200 freestyle record

Niemann seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent, Athletic Director Joe Farkas, and Administrators for Board approval to accept the following resignations:

- Dave Warner, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
- Jim Dudas, Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach
- William Law, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach

and hire the following coaches for the 2008-09 season:

- Robert Reasey, Head Junior High Wrestling Coach
- Rich Bonnaure, Head Boys Basketball Coach \$6,655.00
- Dwayne Canton, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- Mark Keener, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- Rich Zewe, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- Bill Fox, Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach
- Alex Hobbs, Head 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
- Rich Mack, Head 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach
- Joe DiDonato Jr., Assistant 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Roll Call – All Yes

