

# South Fayette School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

## ***Minutes***

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

7:00 p.m.

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the South Fayette High School Conference Center by President William Newcomer with the Pledge of Allegiance. Prior to the beginning of the Committee Meeting the Board had met in Executive Session to discuss personnel.

**Present:** Teresa Burroughs, Len Fornella, Lena Hannah, Frank Morelli, Bill Newcomer, Chris Niemann, Todd Petrillo, and Jeff Smith

**Absent:** Alan Wood

**Others:** Dr. Linda B. Hippert, Superintendent; Dr. Mary Ravita, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Nanci Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel; George Safin, Director of Finance; Denice Allan, Director of Human Resources; High School Principal Ann Bisignani; Assistant High School Principal Aaron Skrbini; Middle School Principal Karen Labutta; Assistant Middle School Principal Pete Abdulovic; Assistant Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Director of Maintenance Alan Vezzi; Athletic Director Joe Farkas; Director of Technology Bryan O'Black; Teachers Robin Sciotto, David Taylor, Linda Twedt, Don Sekelik, Annette Fauth, Jason Iannuzzi, Diane Lally, Nicole Marchinsky, Patricia Lorenzi; Michael Ladick, Darell Frank, Lisa Carney, Natalie Kugler, Debra Amelio-Manio, 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, March 18, 2008  
Tuesday, March 25, 2008

## **Financial Reports**

The Financial Reports for March 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**

1. Discuss the 2008-09 budget.

The Board was provided with an updated running total of the 2008-09 budget, budget information regarding Athletics, cost of the student center in the high school, and additional questions asked by Mrs. Hannah.

Middle School Principal Karen Labutta and Assistant Middle School Principal Pete Abdulovic gave a presentation to the Board regarding proposed scheduling in the Middle School for the 2008-09 school year. The principals reported that as enrollment continues to increase they continue to monitor and make changes to the student scheduling.

Assistant Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray gave an update on the proposed enrollment projections for the elementary school through the 2011-2012 school year and the impact increasing enrollment will have on the space issue at the elementary school.

High School Principal Ann Bisignani and Assistant High School Principal Aaron Skrbin were asked to come to the Regular Board Meeting on April 22, 2008, to present information on the cost of the student center in the high school.

Director of Technology Bryan O'Black provided rationale to the Board on the request to hire a part time temporary technology person for the summer of 2008, to assist the technology department in upgrading the hardware and software to the 500+ computers in the district. The position would be paid from money that was allocated in the budget to hire a technology assistant at the beginning of the school year; this position was not filled until October. The cost for the part time temporary position would be approximately \$2,500.00.

- o Opportunity for public comment on items related to the budget

Deborah Amelio-Manion – Apple Blossom Drive – What new computers are you proposing to purchase?

Dr. Hippert commented in the budget we are proposing 2 mobile carts with approximately 64 computers with one proposed to go to the elementary school.

Natalie Kugler – Meadow Drive – Can we use high school students to help and/or assist with upgrading to the computers instead of hiring the part time temporary person? Perhaps the students could receive a letter of commendation and/or receive community services credit in lieu of pay?

Assistant High School Principal Aaron Skrbin commented that to install the hardware the computers need to be opened and parts installed.

Lisa Carney – Greenwood Drive – To install hardware the computers have to actually be opened?

Assistant High School Principal Aaron Skrbin responded yes.

Don Sekelik – High School Social Studies Teacher – commented on the need to keep the Deans in the Student Center at the high school. The Deans fill an important need as part of the foundation and values of our school. Part of our job as teachers is to discipline students; if a situation arises the Deans are always quick to respond. We have a unique culture here and the Deans are an important part of our culture.

David Taylor – High School Math Teacher – the environment we have at South Fayette is different than many schools because of the Deans. In my 15 years year, I have written very few referrals, we have a culture here that the students respect. The Deans are quick to respond when a situation does arise.

2. Discussion on technology for the summer of 2008 and technology budget 2008-09. This was discussed previously under the 2008-09 Budget.
3. The Board considered the request for approval to authorize the administration to advertise for custodial/janitorial supplies and general school supplies for the 2008-09 school year.
4. The Board considered the request from Allegheny Realty & Development Group, LLC for LERTA Tax Exemptions. The South Fayette Township has approved the LERTA exemption.
5. Consider Board approval to purchase two maintenance vehicles.

Director of Maintenance Alan Vezzi provided rationale to the Board as to why he would like to purchase 2 maintenance vehicles. Currently the maintenance personnel are using their personal vehicles on campus and to drive to the local businesses when parts need to be picked up. Maintenance employees are reimbursed for mileage at the current IRS rate. The maintenance employees have concerns about the wear and tear on their personal vehicles. Use of their personal vehicles is not part of the job description. Mr. Vezzi has contacted local companies and could purchase 1 or 2 cargo type vans which the maintenance department could stock with tools and equipment that they frequently use. Mr. Vezzi asked the Board to consider permitting and authorizing him to work with Director of Finance George Safin to purchase these vehicles at an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Mr. Vezzi explained there have been vehicles that he could have purchased in the past; however, time is of the essence. By having to wait until the next Board meeting to bring the information to the Board for approval, often times the vehicles have already been purchased.

Niemann seconded Smith to permit Mr. Vezzi to work with Mr. Safin to purchase 2 vehicles at an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Roll Call – All Yes

### **Personnel**

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

### **Education**

1. The Board considered approval for the Administration to submit all federal and state grants for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title V, Safe Schools Initiative, Drug Free, Schools, Classrooms For the Future, Project 720, Dual Enrollment, and Pennsylvania Accountability Grants for the 2008-09 school year.
2. The Board considered the request from Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita, per Board Policy 706.1 to dispose of the following books as obsolete:
  - Copyright date 1992 Algebra II with Trigonometry – qty 65
3. The Board considered the request from Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, to appoint Steve Iszauk, Pam McKenzie, and Cindy Geisler to participate as community members on the ACT 48 Professional Development Team.

### **Transportation**

There were no items to discuss.

### **Athletics**

1. Coaching personnel was discussed in Executive Session.

### **Construction**

1. The Board considered the proposal from Eckles Architecture to prepare an analysis of relevant information to the implementation of the recommended option detailed in the District-wide Facilities Study.

Hannah seconded Smith for Eckles Architecture to prepare an analysis of the future operating costs of new construction/renovation of the elementary building. The analysis is not to exceed \$9,000.00.

Roll Call – All Yes

### **Miscellaneous**

1. Dr. Hippert reminded the Board of the upcoming SHASDA Spring conference May 9 and 10, 2008.
2. The Board considered the request from The Public School Employees' Retirement System to have a school board member to serve a three-year term on the Public School Employees' Retirement Board. The term begins January 1, 2009 and ends December 31, 2011.

### **Expenditures**

Submitted for Board review for approval 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 – At the Soccer Boosters meeting someone asked if have any of the large organizations have been approached by Daktronics or the Revenue Generating Committee about supplying uniforms, etc. at a discounted rate or free in exchange for advertizing on the scoreboard or fence?

President Bill Newcomer replied that when the Revenue Generating Committee first started meeting this question was discussed. The Committee concluded that if you enter this type of an agreement you have to purchase everything from that vendor. This would not necessarily give you better pricing then when we purchase through the bidding process.

Teresa Burroughs agreed with Mr. Newcomer - the Revenue Generating Committee did look into this and discovered this really wasn't a good idea.

Natalie Kugler – Meadow Drive – Would the vehicles that you are looking to purchase be used for school district use only?

Director of Maintenance Alan Vezzi replied the vehicles would be used for school use only. The farthest the vehicles would be driven would be to Pittsburgh or to Washington.

Lisa Carney – Greenwood Drive – The trucks you were talking about purchasing for \$10,000, do you have additional money to pay for gas, insurance, etc.?

Director of Maintenance Alan Vezzi replied yes.

Petrillo seconded Fornella to suspend the meeting at 9:00 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to interview Wrestling Coaches and Director of Transportation candidates.

Roll Call – All Yes

Mr. Petrillo left the Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

Niemann seconded Fornella to reconvene the public session at 10:33 p.m.

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Niemann to hire Michael Ladick as the Varsity Wrestling Coach, effective immediately at a rate to be determined.

Roll Call – Yes – Smith, Niemann, Hannah, Morelli,  
Burroughs, Newcomer  
Abstain – Fornella

Hannah seconded Burroughs to hire Donna Harshman as Director of Transportation, effective date to be upon the release from current employer, at a rate of \$55,000, prorated.

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Niemann to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 p.m.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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William Newcomer, Board President

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Ruth Bell, Board Secretary