

South Fayette School District

Regular Meeting **Minutes**

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:09 p.m. in the South Fayette High School Conference Center by Vice President Chris Niemann with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Niemann announced prior to the start of the board meeting, the Board had met in Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Present: Teresa Burroughs, Len Fornella, Lena Hannah, Frank Morelli, Chris Niemann, and Alan Wood

Absent: Bill Newcomer, Todd Petrillo, and Jeff Smith

Others: W. Theodore Brooks, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Linda 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; Shelly Belcher, Community and Public Relations; Greg Curl, Director of Transportation; Teacher Jeremy Hall; Darrel Frank, Gina Duncan, Natalie Kugler, David Mayernick, Andrea Inglar, Deana Carpenter, Debra Amelio-Manion, Kevin Biber, Rosa Niemann, Gary Fleisner, and Ruth Bell Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Minutes

Wood seconded Hannah to approve the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board
Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 15, 2008
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Voice Vote – All Yes

Financial Reports

The Condensed Expenditure Summary Report, as of January 31, 2008, was provided to the Board.

Burroughs seconded Hannah to accept the following financial reports:

1. Earned Income (*January 2008*)
2. Tax Collectors' Report (*January 2008*)
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Middle School Activity Report
5. High School Activity Report
6. Athletic Fund Report
7. Aquatic Fund Report

Central Tax Bureau
Kevin Biber
George Safin
Carol Hunsinger
Kathy Demnyan
Joe Farkas
Bridget Amato

Voice Vote – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM VISITORS

Gina Duncan – Meadow Drive – Since there is an increase in the District revenue perhaps the Board would consider lowering the millage. Asked for the updated budget information be posted to the website. Suggested due to all of the feedback from last week, the District keep the midday Kindergarten run.

Darrel Frank – Stuart Circle – Asked for the contribution to the Hockey Club be reinstated into the budget. The club raised a lot of money last year, but most of the money is out of pocket expenses from the parents.

Debra Amelio-Manion- Apple Blossom Drive – The Wrestling Boosters have received donations to purchase items for the students. Why is the \$15,000 for Wrestling still in the budget?

Cindy Hestad – Old Oakdale Road – Contingency teachers can the money be used to replace the cut teachers? The class sizes at the middle school could be larger next year as the classes in the Elementary School move up.

Gina Duncan – Saddlewood Drive – Where would the proposed mobile carts go? Which building?

Debra Amelio-Manion – Apple Blossom Drive – All athletics have booster programs. If the boosters knew they could purchase uniforms they may be willing to fund raise to purchase these items and the school district would not have to. Suggested the Athletic Department contact the booster clubs regarding the specifics needed for the uniforms, etc.

Dr. Hippert asked the board after the conversation and feedback from last week regarding the Kindergarten program what they would like for the administration to do? The administration would suggest the program stay the same and make no changes to the program. The Board came to consensus to leave the Kindergarten program as is. The Board directed Dr. Hippert to send an email to all of the lists indicating this decision.

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

Business Office

Dr. Hippert gave an update on the 2008-09 budget. The following items were presented and discussed:

- a. Updated budget information
- b. Increase in revenue from Allegheny County
- c. Increase in revenue from the proposed Governor's budget
- d. Increase in revenue due to summer utility saving
- e. Increase in expenses due to courses being added back into the 2008-09 budget. At the November 2007, Board meeting the Board failed to pass motions to add the following courses to the Program of Studies for the 2008-09 school year. At the Committee Meeting of February 19, 2008, Mr. Fornella asked the following courses be placed on the agenda to be reconsidered:

Fine Arts

- Music! It's Role and Importance in Our Lives
cost would be \$2,520.78 (textbooks and teacher resources for a set of 30)

Math

- Statistics and Probability
cost would be \$93.50 per textbook (includes shipping and handling) x 25 students = \$2,805.00

World Languages

- AP French (*implement 2008-09 school year*)
cost would be \$1,237.50 for books and supplementary materials plus \$1,300 for AP Training required for a new course
- AP Spanish (*implement 2009-10 school year*)
- AP German (*implement 2009-10 school year*)
not being implemented until 2009 – 2010 so no costs for textbooks or supplies are in the 2008 – 2009 budget.

Morelli seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani to add Music! It's Role and Importance in our Lives to the Program of Studies.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call – Yes – Burroughs, Morelli, Fornella
No – Hannah, Wood, Niemann

Motion failed.

Mr. Niemann indicated he had talked with Mr. Newcomer earlier in the day and Mr. Newcomer asked to be contacted via speakerphone, specifically to vote on the Probability and Statistics Class. Mr. Niemann called Mr. Newcomer, but was unable to reach him.

Morelli seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani to add Statistics and Probability to the Program of Studies.

Roll Call – Yes – Burroughs, Morelli, Hannah,
Fornella, Niemann
No – Wood

Motion passed.

Burroughs seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani to add AP French to the Program of Studies for the 2008-09 school year, and AP Spanish and AP German to the Program of Studies for the 2009-10 school year.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call – Yes – Burroughs, Morelli, Fornella
No – Hannah, Wood, Niemann

Motion failed.

Mr. Fornella asked the Board to try to contact Mr. Newcomer via telephone later in the agenda to revisit the above items.

Opportunity for public comment on items related to the 2008-09 budget

There were no comments.

Burroughs seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for Chris Niemann to serve on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Fornella seconded Morelli on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval of the Parkway West proposed budgets for 2008-09.

	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
Parkway Vocational Technical Operating Budget	\$5,114,615	\$5,413,207
Alternative Center for Education Budget	\$ 911,932	\$ 949,583
Parkway West Building Rental Budget	\$ 333,300	\$ 322,200

South Fayette’s Share of the Budget

Parkway Vocational Technical Operating Budget	\$202,745	\$250,557
Alternative Center for Education Budget	\$ 45,545	\$ 47,707
Parkway West Building Rental Budget	<u>\$ 11,594</u>	<u>\$ 14,071</u>
Total	\$259,884	\$312,335

There are a total of 37 South Fayette students attending Parkway West in 2007-08. This number includes 5 students who participate in the Alternative Education (ACE) Program. (The 2008-09 budget is based upon 2007-08 student enrollment).

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Human Resources Denice Allan, and the Trustees of the Allegheny Health Insurance Consortium for Board approval to amend sections 2.1 and 4.1 of the Consortium’s governing agreement.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Hannah seconded Wood on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance George Safin, and Tax Collector Kevin Biber for Board approval of Real Estate refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment.

2005	\$7,719.34
2006	\$12,412.07
<u>2007</u>	<u>\$23,859.27</u>
TOTAL	\$43,990.68

Roll Call – All Yes

Wood seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval for the payment of the delinquent tax collector fee in the amounts of as per the statements submitted by Kevin Biber, Township Treasurer:

- \$308.38 for 2005 delinquent taxes; penalty payment extends from January 31, 2008 to February 8, 2008;
- \$947.15 for 2006 delinquent taxes; penalty payment extends from January 22, 2008 to February 13, 2008;
- \$4,222.31 for 2007 delinquent taxes; penalty extends from January 11, 2008 to February 14, 2008.

Roll Call – All Yes

Personnel

Morelli seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the following resignations:

- a) Mark Lander, Elementary Teacher, effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year
- b) Patty Mikitin, Elementary Teacher, effective the end of the 2007-2008 school year
- c) Pam Lambert, Administrative Assistant, effective June 30, 2008
- d) Greg Curl, Director of Transportation, effective March 19, 2008
- e) Shelly Belcher, Community and Public Relations Specialist, effective March 5, 2008 (Mrs. Belcher has accepted the Public Relations position at Peters Township School District, the township in which she resides)
- f) Scott Philipp as Middle School Stage Crew Sponsor

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

- a) Patricia Stevens as a General Cafeteria Worker effective January 9, 2008, at the probationary rate of \$7.15 per hour; after completion of a satisfactory probationary period the rate will be \$8.65 per hour.
- b) Janelle Steigerwald as an everyday substitute effective January 22, 2008 through February 29, 2008 at the rate of \$81.00 per day. Janelle was approved at the August 2007, Board Meeting as a one semester permanent substitute
- c) Janelle Steigerwald as a long term substitute effective March 3, 2008 through the end of the school year at the rate of \$110.00 per day
- d) Christine Speranza as an everyday substitute in the Elementary School for the second semester at the rate of \$81.00 per day. Christine was approved at the September 2007, Board Meeting as an everyday substitute for the first semester
- e) Danielle Kutrufis as an everyday substitute in the Middle School for the second semester at the rate of \$77.00 per day for the first 30 days worked; afterwards the rate will be \$81.00 per day

f) The following Food Service substitutes:

- Tara Rao, effective February 7, 2008, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour
- Susan Curcio effective February 13, 2008, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour
- Tammy Berkovitz effective February 13, 2008, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour
- Diana Maitland effective February 13, 2008, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour

g) The following day-to-day substitutes: (call as needed)

- Barney Lintula, substitute custodian, effective January 18, 2008 at the rate of \$7.60 per hour
- Tammy Berkovitz, substitute clerical, effective February 13, 2008 at the rate of \$8.30 per hour

h) The following tutors for Reading/Writing and Math in the High School. The tutoring program will run from February 12, 2008, through April 30, 2008 and will be paid with funds through the Accountability Grant. Tutors will be paid \$26.78 per hour, per contract

- Jean Quinn
- Nicole Marchinsky
- Marcy Ullom
- Bob Reasey
- Brian Schwab

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Burroughs on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Supervisor of Food Service Tricia Wood, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita for Board approval to have Michelle Meadows from Community College of Allegheny County to intern with Mrs. Wood; and for Maura Underwood from the University of Pittsburgh intern with Dr. Ravita for her Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Certification. The interns would be at no cost to the District.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Fornella seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani Board approval to grant a leave for Daniela Wiernik, High School German Teacher, beginning April 14, 2008, through the end of the second 9-weeks in the 2008-09 school year. Mrs. Wiernik meets all requirements for this leave.

Roll Call – All Yes

Hannah seconded Morelli on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani for Board approval to make changes to the Drama EPR's. This information was provided to the Board.

Roll Call – All Yes

Wood seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Nanci Sullivan for Board approval to post an Intern School Psychologist position for the 2008-09 school year. This position will be paid through ACCESS funds. This position would be for one year and would be in lieu of the position proposed in the 2008-09 budget.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Education

Informational – Congratulations to the following students for being selected to the Region/State Chorus Festival

- Senior Lauren Holmes
- Senior Ian Scully-Szejko
- Sophomore Cory Hazy

Informational – Congratulations to the following student for winning the Pittsburgh Regional Competition of the National Poetry Out Loud Contest

- Junior Rebecca Martinelli

Fornella seconded Burroughs on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita for Board approval to dispose of obsolete books as per Board Policy 706.1. The Board was provided with a list of the books.

Roll Call – All Yes

Hannah seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani for Board approval for Mr. Brandon Flannery, FBLA Advisor, to accompany 7 students who qualified at the regional competition, to travel to Hershey, Pennsylvania from Sunday, March 30, 2008 through Wednesday, April 3, 2008, for the FLBA State Leadership Conference.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Hannah seconded Morelli for The South Fayette Board of School Directors, representing the community of South Fayette, and as a member of SHASDA (one of 22 schools in the South Hills Area School District Association), by Resolution Number 08-02 opposing the proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to be implemented in 2014.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Transportation

There were no items to discuss.

Athletics

Informational – Congratulations to the following athletes:

- Steven Torre for breaking his second high school record in swimming on February 14, 2008, at the home swim meet against South Allegheny. Steven broke the 100 breast stroke record with a swim of 1:05.06, a record that has stood since 2003.
- Freshman Nick Carr on taking second place in the 135 lb. weight classification at the WPIAL Section Tournament on Saturday, February 16, 2008, at Trinity High School.
- Senior Ken Miller for placing fifth in the 145 lb. weight classification in the Allegheny County Wrestling Tournament which took place at Fox Chapel High School.
- Boys Basketball for earning the section title and qualifying for the State Championship Playoffs

Morelli seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Joe Farkas, and Head Coaches for Board approval to hire the following coaches and approve the following compensations:

• Elizabeth Scanlon	Change from Head 7 th /8 th Grade Spring Coach (approved January 2008) to Assistant Varsity Spring Track Coach	\$3,000.00
• Marie Ford	Head 7 th /8 th Grade Spring Track Coach	\$2,000.00
• Jacquelyn Hiber	Assistant 7 th /8 th Grade Spring Track Coach	\$1,000.00
• Brian Schwab	Assistant 7 th /8 th Grade Spring Track Coach	\$1,000.00
• Mike Hoy	Volunteer Varsity Spring Track Coach	
• Joe Winans	Assistant Track Coach	\$4,240.00
• Jim Spicer	Assistant Track Coach	\$3,105.00
• Thaddeus Powell	Assistant Track Coach	\$3,105.00
• David Iannetti	Assistant Track Coach	\$2,075.00
• Cornelious Nesbit	Assistant Softball Coach	\$3,000.00
• Darcy Kotts	Assistant Softball Coach	\$ 500.00
• Ben Hill	Assistant Softball Coach	\$2,540.00
• Leah Schnelzer	Assistant Softball Coach	\$2,000.00
• Matt Tucker	Head 7 th /8 th Grade Swim Coach	\$3,500.00
• Stephanie Reinwald	Assistant 7 th /8 th Grade Swim Coach	\$1,640.17
• Nick Benvenuti	Assistant 7 th /8 th Grade Swim Coach	\$1,200.00
• Chris Peters	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach	\$4,020.00
• Mike Dunn	Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach	\$4,020.00

Roll Call – All Yes

The Board discussed the Varsity Wrestling Program. Dr. Hippert asked the Board to give the administrators direction in regards to money the booster club has received. In the past money raised by the boosters was used to purchase non-essential items for a program with the District purchasing necessary items for the program. The boosters should contact the coach who contacts the Athletic Director regarding what they need to run their program.

Fornella seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval of the Daktronics agreement with Oliverio Buick to advertize on the scoreboard. Oliverio Buick will have one of the bottom panels.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Construction

There were no items to discuss.

Miscellaneous

Informational

The Board was given information from the Allegheny County Board of Health regarding a revision to Article X of the Rules and Regulations on School Immunizations and the changes to new school vaccination requirements that will begin in the 2008-09 school year.

E. Parkway West

Jeff Smith

No Report

F. SHASDA

Todd Petrillo

Mr. Morelli reported at the last meeting PSBA Member Curt Rose spoke on School Board Accreditation. The Board received this information in their packet. SHASDA is opposed to the Graduation Competency Assessments and this continues to be a hot topic.

G. South Fayette Foundation

Len Fornella

Maureen Pedzwater is continuing to work on this process.

Morelli seconded Wood to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Motion Carried.

William Newcomer, Board President

Ruth Bell, Board Secretary