

# South Fayette School District

## Regular Meeting **Minutes**

Tuesday, March 25, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:11 p.m. in the South Fayette High School Conference Center by President Bill Newcomer with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Newcomer announced prior to the start of the board meeting; the Board had met in Executive Session to discuss personnel.

**Present:** Lena Hannah, Frank Morelli, Bill Newcomer, Chris Niemann, Todd Petrillo, Jeff Smith, Alan Wood, Len Fornella (*arrived at 7:55 p.m.*)

**Absent:** Teresa Burroughs

**Others:** Gavin Robb, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Linda B. Hippert, Superintendent; Dr. Mary Ravita, Assistant Superintendent; George Safin, Director of Finance; Denice Allan, Director of Human Resources; Director of Maintenance Alan Vezzi; Teachers Don Sekelik, Brian Garlick; Cassie Reninger, Dan Egan, Cindy Hestad, Lisa Carney, Jack Quarture, Gina Duncan, Natalie Kugler, David Mayernick, Andrea Inglar, Deana Carpenter, Biber, and Ruth Bell Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

- Presentation by Eckles Architecture on the Elementary Feasibility Study was provided by Cassie Reninger and Dan Egan  
The public was invited to comment on the presentation.

Cindy Hestad – Old Oakdale Road – asked if the public could receive a copy of the proposal so they could review. Asked for this information to be placed on the web site between the Committee Meeting and the Regular Meeting.

### Minutes

Petrillo seconded Morelli to approve of Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Voice Vote – All Yes

### Financial Report

The Condensed Expenditure Summary Report, as of February 29, 2008, was provided to the Board.

Niemann seconded Morelli to accept the following financial reports:

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

Voice Vote – All Yes

Mr. Fornella arrived at this time.

***SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM VISITORS***

Natalie Kugler – Meadow Drive – could you use money from the Big Ben Bar-B- Que sales to purchase the golf and volleyball shorts. Could the booster clubs contribute? Perhaps they could look for the lowest price and the best quality.

Dr. Hippert – indicated this money was not to be used to benefit any single group but the sports program as a whole.

Lisa Carney – Greenwood Drive – Do parents have to pay the fees for golf and volleyball? If the students keep the uniform, they should pay for their own. If the uniforms are returned to the District, then the school district should purchase.

**Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Linda B. Hippert**

**Business Office**

The Board discussed the 2008-09 budget.

Dr. Hippert reported that computers are to be turned off every night. Director of Maintenance Alan Vezzi gave an overview about the cost savings of turning off the lights in rooms when not in use. Mr. Vezzi provided the Board with a handout from Sylvania.

Smith seconded Morelli to eliminate the Activity Fee for the 2008-09 school year.

Roll Call – Yes – Morelli, Hannah, Forenlla, Wood, Smith,  
Newcomer  
No – Niemann, Petrillo

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

There were no comments at this time.

Mr. Smith left at this time.

Fornella seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval to authorize the administration to advertise for school busses for the 2008-09 school year.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

2007                      \$107.41

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

- \$142.82 for 2005 delinquent taxes, penalty payment extends from February 20, 2008 to February 25, 2008;
- \$1,785.00 for 2006 delinquent taxes, penalty payment extends from February 15, 2008 to March 4, 2008;
- \$3,827.55 for 2007 delinquent taxes, penalty payment extends from February 15, 2008 through March 13, 2008

Roll Call – All Yes

Morelli seconded Petrillo on the recommendation The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval of the proposed 2008-09 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget as presented. The budget totals \$3,782,025 and reflects a 4.4% increase in the total district allocation. South Fayette School District’s estimated share of the budget is \$28,775.06.

Roll Call Yes – Petrillo, Wood  
 No – Morelli, Hannah, Forenlla, Niemann,  
 Newcomer

Motion Failed.

Niemann seconded Hannah on the recommendation The School District Solicitor and South Fayette Tax Collector Kevin Biber recommend Board approval to exonerate the estate taxes levied by the South Fayette Township School District against the property owned by Washington-Shady Apartments located at 3064 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017, identified as Lot and Block 322-E-14 (f/k/a 9946-X-88729), pursuant to the LERTA Resolution adopted by the District, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Abatement</u>	<u>Full County Assessment (Land and Building)</u>	<u>Assessment Per SFTSD LERTA</u>	<u>Amount Exonerated</u>
2007	80%	\$719,000*	\$252,360	\$10,798.05

\* Note: The building value, which is the portion of the assessment subject to the 80% abatement, was originally \$583,300. After abatement, the new building value is \$116,660 for 2007. The land value remains at \$135,700.

Roll Call – All Yes

The Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium recommends the Board nominate one of the following trustees to serve as School Board Trustee for the Western Region, for a two-year period effective April 8, 2008.

The nominees are:

- Thomas Galluze
- Evelyn Weaver

Hannah seconded Petrillo for the Board to nominate Thomas Galluze to the Board of Trustees.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Director of Finance George Safin for Board approval of the Five-Year Master Agreement with the Department of Education. This non-financial agreement contains all of the standard contract terms that apply to the Department's state and federal grant programs and enables entities to receive grant funds. The Master Agreement is a necessary element that must be in place for state and federal grant funds. This agreement runs from 2008-2013.

Voice Vote – All yes

## **PERSONNEL**

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the following resignations:

- a) Gail Manko, School Nurse, effective March 4, 2008
- b) Christine Walker, Custodian, effective February 28, 2008
- c) James Barrie, Paraeducator, effective April 4, 2008

Voice Vote – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Sandy Fiumara, School Nurse, Bachelor's Step 1, \$40,500, prorated effective March 26, 2008

Roll Call – All Yes

Fornella seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Bill Scott as an Interim Director of Transportation at the rate of \$225 per day, effective March 25, 2008. This is on a day-to-basis.

Roll Call – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administration to hire the following personnel:

- a) The following everyday substitute:
  - Lindsey Greer in the elementary school effective March 10-28, 2008, at the rate of \$81.00 per day
- b) The following day-to-day substitutes: (call as needed)
  - Jamie Dunn, certified in Early Childhood/Special Education
  - Margaret Susko, certified in Elementary Education
  - Robert Baier, certified in Elementary Education, Math 7-12 and Mid-level Social Studies
  - L. Suzanne Grimes, certified in Mathematics
  - Tracy Houy, substitute nurse
  - Timothy Flaherty, substitute custodian, effective February 29, 2008, at the rate of \$7.60 per hour
  - Diana Maitland, substitute paraeducator, administrative assistant/receptionist, and student monitor, effective March 4, 2008, at the following rates of pay: paraeducator and administrative assistant/receptionist - \$8.30 per hour; student monitor at \$7.50 per hour

- Tara Rao, substitute administrative assistant/receptionist, and student monitor effective March 4, 2008, at the following rates of pay: administrative assistant/receptionist - \$8.30 per hour; student monitor at \$7.50 per hour
  - Amy Lunn, substitute paraeducator, effective March 13, 2008, at the rate of \$12.01 per hour (member of the Support Professionals Bargaining Unit)
- c) The following lifeguards/swimming instructors:
- Caitlyn Rastetter, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour for lifeguard and \$8.00 per hour for instructor
  - Jonathan Bernhardt, at the rate of \$7.15 per hour for lifeguard and \$8.00 per hour for instructor
- d) Ann Allison from the University of Pittsburgh intern with Dr. Ravita as she works toward her Principal Certification and Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction Certification. This would be at no cost to the District.
- e) Suzanne Ailes from California University of Pennsylvania intern with Mrs. Bisignani as she works toward her Principal Certification. This would be at no cost to the District.

Roll Call – All Yes

### **Education**

Hannah seconded Niemann on the recommendation of The Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani for Board approval on the list of 2008 potential graduates, based on fulfilling all requirements for graduation.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Hannah seconded Wood on the recommendation of The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary Ravita for Board approval to offer an Algebra I Summer School Program. The program would run from June 23, 2008 through August 1, 2008. Cost to the student is \$160.00 with a maximum of 15-20 students. Cost to the District would be \$1,150.47 per instructor. 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; with a minimum of 8 students participating.

Mrs. Burroughs had asked Mr. Newcomer to call her on her cell phone so she could vote on this item. Mrs. Burroughs could not be reached.

Discussion followed – if there are not 8 students who are willing to participate what happens? Dr. Hippert and Dr. Ravita replied the class would not be offered and the students could go to CCAC or another program.

Roll Call – All Yes

Hannah seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of The Superintendent and High School Principal Ann Bisignani for Board approval for Mr. Brian Garlick, TSA Advisor, to accompany 16 students, who qualified at the regional competition for the state tournament, to travel to Seven Springs Ski Resort from Wednesday, April 9, 2008 through Saturday, April 12, 2008 for the state competition.

Roll Call – All Yes

Fornella seconded Wood on a motion to make available any money in the budget for this group of students to go to Nationals.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Wood retracted his motion.

**Transportation**

There were no items to discuss.

**Athletics**

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of The Superintendent, Athletic Director Joe Farkas, and Head Coaches for Board approval on the following items:

- Resignation of Cornelious Nesbit, Varsity Softball Coach, effective March 3, 2008

The following changes in compensations:

- Vickie E. Pisone           Assistant Swimming Coach           \$ 900.00
- Stephanie Reinweld       Assistant Swimming Coach       \$3,450.00
- Christopher Rebholz       Assistant Swimming Coach       \$3,450.00
- Ben Hill                   Assistant Softball Coach           \$3,000.00
- Leah Schnelzer           Assistant Softball Coach           \$2,500.00
- Mark Angle                Head Junior High Wrestling Coach   \$3,416.00

*For Mark Angle this is a confirmation of salary for the past 2007-08 junior high season. The salary was omitted on agenda when position was previously approved.*

Roll Call – All Yes

**Construction**

There were no items to discuss.

**Miscellaneous**

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation The Strategic Planning and Visioning Committee recommend Board approval of the new mission, vision, goals and belief statements for the South Fayette School District. These statements were developed by the 37 members of the Steering Committee.

Roll Call – Yes – Morelli, Petrillo, Hannah, Fornella,  
Wood, Niemann  
Abstain – Newcomer

**Informational**

At the Committee Meeting on March 18, 2008, the Board requested a letter be prepared and sent to the Mayview Task Force asking for a representative of the school district to serve on the task force. The letter was prepared for Mr. Newcomer's signature.

