



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
7:30 PM

### REVISED AGENDA

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – President Joe Welch

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Dr. Kellee Oliver, Director of Student Support Services - Dr. Miller
- DRAW Facility Project Update - Daniel Engen, DRAW Collective

#### I. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

|                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Committee Meeting                  | Tuesday, November 19, 2024 |
| Regular Meeting                    | Tuesday, November 26, 2024 |
| Reorganization and Regular Meeting | December 2, 2024           |
| Special Meeting                    | December 11, 2024          |

2. Approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Athletic Fund                               | Mark Keener       |
| High School Activity Fund                   | Ryan Neely        |
| Middle School Activity Fund                 | Ryan Neely        |
| Tax Collector Report (July-October 2024)    | Kevin Biber       |
| <b>Board Summary Report (December 2024)</b> | <b>Ryan Neely</b> |

3. Expenditures were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.
4. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend Board approval of the decision on the Application for LERTA Tax Abatement submitted by Piazza Properties, LLC, for construction or reconstruction of the improvements at Block/Lot 256-R-3, subject to the parties executing the tax appeal stipulation attached to the decision and resulting in a reduction in the assessed value of the improvements as follows:

| <u>Tax Year</u>          | <u>Percent Exemption</u> | <u>Amount of Exemption</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st Tax Year (2024-2025) | 80%                      | \$ 5,856,000.00            |
| 2nd Tax Year (2025-2026) | 60%                      | \$ 4,392,000.00            |
| 3rd Tax Year (2026-2027) | 40%                      | \$ 2,928,000.00            |
| 4th Tax Year (2027-2028) | 20%                      | \$ 1,464,000.00            |
| 5th Tax Year (2028-2029) | 10%                      | \$ 732,000.00              |

5. **Authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$1,391,257.73 beginning with check number 79143 through check number 79463 and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$124,591.67 beginning with check number 81200054 through check number 81200060, and the Cafeteria Fund for \$83, 136.44 beginning with check number 8809 through check number 8841.**

## **SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS**

The Board will hear comments from residents and/or taxpayers related to items appearing on the Agenda for action by the Board. The Board will receive comments from residents and/or taxpayers on topics that do not appear on the agenda for action by the Board at the conclusion of the agenda, prior to adjournment. The time limit for comments shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The Board will not respond to questions during this session, but will only hear comments. (As per revised Policy 006-Meetings adopted April 26, 2022.)

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

#### **Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller**

#### **Student Representative's Monthly Report – Nandana Menon**

## **II. BUSINESS OFFICE**

1. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend Board approval of a three-year contract extension with UGI for Natural Gas on the Peoples Gas System with a start date of September 1, 2025. The Contract will have a Basis price of (-\$0.50) per Dth. The extension will run from September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2028, and was recommended by the The Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium Committee. The renewal Basis Price will show a savings of \$0.06/Dth compared to our current contract rate of (-\$0.44)/Dth.
2. The Superintendent, Director of Finance Ryan Neely, and Solicitor Chris Voltz recommend Board approval of Resolution 25-01 Real Estate Tax Collector Compensation for the elected Tax Collector for the fiscal years 2025-2026 through and including 2028-2029, pending Board discussion.
3. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend Board approval to enter into a 3-year renewal agreement with Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP to audit the financial statements of the South Fayette Township School District as follows:
  - Year end June 2025, \$22,430
  - Year end June 2026, \$23,330
  - Year end June 2027, \$24,250
4. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval of an affiliation agreement for internship/practicum pre-clinical, principal internship, and student teaching with Robert Morris University effective for a five-year period beginning January 2025.
5. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval of an affiliation agreement for an academic experience site with Pennsylvania Western (PennWest) effective for a five-year period beginning January 2025.
6. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend board approval to hire Jordan Tax Service to complete the Act 80 EIT Reporting Process to the PA Department of Revenue by the required deadlines for the 2024 reporting year, at a cost not to exceed \$1,400. This is a full service price, including sending and recording the corrected reporting errors and finalizing the reporting to the PA Department of Revenue.

7. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend Board approval of the Parkway West General Operating and Jointure Budget for 2025-2026 as follows:

| <b>Total Budget</b>             | <b>2024-25</b> | <b>2025-26</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Parkway West - Operating Budget | \$8,865,766    | \$9,603,622    |
| Parkway West - Jointure Budget  | \$ 800,017     | \$1,076,716    |

| <b>South Fayette Estimated Share</b> | <b>2024-25</b>   | <b>2025-26</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Parkway West - Operating Budget      | \$559,938        | \$553,515        |
| Parkway West - Jointure Budget       | \$ 80,438        | \$ 76,344        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$640,376</b> | <b>\$629,859</b> |

**This budget is based on 88.44 ADM's (year 5 of 5 year rolling average).**

8. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend Board approval for the sale of the district's former food service truck and lift-gate, a 2006 Chevrolet Express 14 foot box van, deemed inoperable, to District employee Thomas Edkins at a price of \$10,000, the district's estimate of the vehicle's current fair market value.

### III. PERSONNEL

At the Committee Meeting on January 18, the Board of School Directors acted on the following four items:

Iagnemma seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Human Resources Michael Radage for Board approval to hire Julie Kulbago as a Human Resources Coordinator, at the salary of \$59,000, effective date January 27, 2025, pending receipt of required documents.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to accept the sabbatical leave of absence request of Elementary School Counselor Molly Kuczinski, effective for the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the following EPRs for the 2024-2025 school year.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Extracurricular Personal Care Paraeducator SFIS Strings Concert | Carolyn Kenawell |
| Extracurricular Personal Care Paraeducator SFIS Band Concert    | Molly Mehok      |
| Extracurricular Personal Care Paraeducator SFHS Band Concert    | Myriam Fowler    |
| High School Teacher Teaching More Than 6 Classes                | Kara Pappas      |
| Elementary School Girls Who Code                                | Lydia Sopp       |
| Intermediate School Girls Who Code                              | Lydia Sopp       |
| Nurse - Middle School Mardi Gras Event                          | Misty Menarcheck |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Mentor for Intermediate School Special Education Teacher<br>Andrea Dawson, retroactive to December 3, 2024         | Katie Munnell |
| Mentor Teacher for Long-Term Special Education Substitute<br>Teacher Camryn Wipple, retroactive to January 9, 2025 | Haylee Ali    |

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Human Resources Michael Radage for approval of the revision to the retirement date of Benefits Coordinator Victoria Adams to January 21, 2025.

Voice Vote - All Yes

1. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval of the retirement of Middle School Teacher Frank Kruth, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
2. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval for Western Governors University student Jesse Lock to be a Student Teacher with Middle School Teacher Renee Goedert from January 28, 2025, to May 15, 2025, pending receipt of required documents.
3. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval of the intermittent FMLA request of Middle School Teacher Amy Shimkoski.
4. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval of the intermittent FMLA request of Middle School Paraeducator Dominique Theodore.
5. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval for Middle School Teacher Cynthia Nix to serve as a Teacher of Record, English as a Second Language, for a student in Educere. Ms. Nix will be paid at the current EPR rate for 1.5 hours per week, retroactive to January 21, 2025.
6. The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request of High School Teacher Maria Hodak on or about April 4, 2025.
7. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval for West Virginia University Student Grace Monroe to complete a Community Health Clinical Rotation with High School Nurse Trina Howells from January 28, 2025, through April 30, 2025.
8. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie recommend Board approval to hire Lynn Robertson as a Bus Driver at the probationary rate of \$24.47 per hour, effective date to be determined. After successful completion of the probationary period, the rate will be \$30.59 per hour.
9. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie recommend Board approval of Andrea Betten's resignation as a Bus Driver, effective January 24, 2025.
10. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie recommend Board approval to hire the following as Substitute Bus Drivers at the rate of \$20 per hour, effective date to be determined.
  - Andrea Betten
  - Deborah Endy

11. The Superintendent and Director of Facilities Steve Timmins recommend Board approval of the FMLA request of Building Custodian Ron Adams, effective date to be determined.
12. The Superintendent and Director of Facilities Steve Timmins recommend Board approval of the resignation of Custodian Jeremy Wagaman, effective December 13, 2024.
13. The Superintendent and Director of Food Service Nicolle Pleil recommend Board approval of the resignation of Food Service Worker Opal Mehok, effective December 17, 2024.
14. The Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda and the fall season Head Coaches recommend Board approval of the following coaches for the 2025-2026 season.

**Football**

|   |                  |             |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| Head Coach  | Marty Spieler    | \$12,335.00 |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Ryan Faraci      |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | TJ Matrascia     |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Garrett Sekanik  |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Tom Stille       |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Bruce Fronk      |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Joe Franjione    |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Alex Dennison    |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Vincent Ziccardi |             |
| Assistant Coach                                   | Chris Saluga     |             |
| 7/8th Grade Head Coach                            | Rick Chaussard   |             |
| 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach           | Wes Chappel      |             |
| 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach           | Josh Patterson   |             |
| 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach           | Trevor McIntyre  |             |
| Volunteer 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Paul Hartz       |             |
| Volunteer 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Ishan Rayka      |             |
| Volunteer 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Tom Patterson    |             |
| Volunteer 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Terry Stites     |             |

**Girls Golf**

|                 |             |            |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Head Coach      | Rocky Violi | \$6,015.00 |
| Assistant Coach | Matt Bacco  |            |

**Boys Golf**

|                 |             |            |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Head Coach      | Bob Ruffolo | \$6,015.00 |
| Assistant Coach | Shane Coyne |            |

**Boys Soccer**

|                                    |                  |            |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Head Coach                         | Rob Eldridge     | \$8,905.00 |
| Assistant Coach                    | Joe Luxbacher    |            |
| Assistant Coach                    | James Kita       |            |
| Assistant Coach                    | Nolan Levine     |            |
| 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Coach | William Finnerty |            |

**Girls Soccer**

|                 |                   |            |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Head Coach      | Nick Rosser       | \$8,905.00 |
| Assistant Coach | Jayna Fittipaldo  |            |
| Assistant Coach | Sabrina Bryan     |            |
| Assistant Coach | Camille Holzschuh |            |
| Assistant Coach | Alexandria Rosser |            |

7/8th Grade Head Coach  
7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach

Nicole Bianco  
Sarah Pruss

**Girls Volleyball**

Head Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach

Scott Sundgren  
Riley Pawlosky  
Micki Cerchiaro  
Casey Holp  
Justine Yanosik  
Morgan Ziolkowski  
Danielle Rudolph

\$8,905.00

**Boys & Girls Cross Country**

Head Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Coach  
7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Head Coach

Joe Winans  
Julia Denison Kuczynski  
Tesse Datte  
Matt Timcheck

\$7,440.00

**Girls Tennis**

Head Coach  
Assistant Coach

Victoria Chagnon  
Alexis Podgorski

\$5,120.00

15. The Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener and Head Varsity Track & Field Coach, Scott Litwinovich recommend Board approval of the following Assistant Track & Field Coaches for the Spring 2024-2025 season.
  - Victoria Chagnon
  - Josh Patterson
  - Anthony Mannarino
16. The Superintendent and Athletic Director, Mark Keener, recommend Board approval of the resignation of Assistant Boys Tennis Coach Victoria Chagnon, effective date to be determined.

**New items from the January 25, Executive Session agenda.**

1. The Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie recommend Board approval to hire a Bus Driver, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents, at the probationary rate of \$24.47 per hour. After the successful completion of the probationary period, the rate will be \$30.47 per hour.
2. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request of a Middle School Teacher on or around May 28, 2025.
3. The Superintendent and Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval to hire a Middle School Building Substitute Teacher, at the rate of \$150 per day, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.
4. The Superintendent and Director of Facilities Steve Timmins recommend Board approval to hire a Custodian, at the rate of \$14.57 per hour, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents. After the successful completion of the probationary period, the rate will be \$18.21.
5. The Superintendent and Director of Facilities Steve Timmins recommend Board approval to hire a Substitute Custodian, at the rate of \$14.00 hour, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.

6. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend for Board approval of (call as needed) Substitute Teachers effective for the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$125 per day, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.
7. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval to hire a Long-Term Substitute Music Teacher, at the rate of \$160 per day, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.
8. **The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda recommend Board approval of the resignation of a High School Math Teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.**

#### IV. EDUCATION

1. The Superintendent and Assistant Director of Student Support Services Gretchen Tucci recommend for Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to utilize TransPerfect AI to provide access to written translation through an AI portal to support non-English speaking parents and families.
2. The Superintendent and Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison recommend Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Inspirit AI to host a two-week AI camp in the summer of 2025 for middle school and high school students at no cost to the district.
3. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison, one High School administrator, and up to three High School educators to attend the AASA 2024-2025 Innovation for Transformation spring meeting in Mountain View, California, to be held April 27-29 2025. Expenses are covered by grant funding.
4. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for Elementary School Assistant Principal Pharlan Ives to attend the Inclusive Innovation Action Summit, Transforming Student Economic Mobility and Well Being, presented by Digital Promise on February 4-5, 2025, in Oakland California. Expenses are covered by the 2024-2025 budget.
5. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dr. Chuck Herring to attend the SXSW Edu Conference from March 2-5, 2025, in Austin, Texas. Dr. Herring will present with Yu-Ling Behr of Kidsburgh and Parents As Allies regarding parent and school engagement. There is no cost to the district. The trip is funded through Kidsburgh.
6. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler to attend Deloitte Leadership Experience Training from February 21-23, 2025, in Dallas, Texas. This will provide nearly \$20,000 in training with only the airfare and registration (\$750) being covered by the 2024-2025 budget.
7. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for Director of Curriculum Cristine Wagner-Deitch to attend the Northeast Innovation Forum from March 2-5, 2025, in Boston, Massachusetts. Attendance at this forum is by invitation only. The cost of conference fees, hotel, and meals is covered by the Forum. Travel expenses are covered by the 2024-2025 budget.

8. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, Interim Director of Student Support Services Dr. Arleen Wheat, and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend for Board approval the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Special Olympics Pennsylvania Unified Champion Schools to add a Middle School Unified Indoor Bocce team as a club, effective March 2025. There will be no cost to the district, and the Special Olympics will be providing a \$750 stipend for the coach(es) in this first season. They will also be providing bocce equipment, tshirts and polo shirts for the team members and coach(es), and training for coaches. A stipend for the coach(es) in subsequent years will be at the expense of the District.
9. The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda recommend Board approval of the proposed changes to the 2025-2026 High School Program of Studies.
10. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval of the proposed changes to the 2025-2026 Middle School Program of Studies.
- 11. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent recommend Board approval for the dual enrollment articulation agreement with Carnegie Mellon University for a college programming and computer science course, effective for the 2024-2025 school year. There is no cost to the district.**

#### **V. TRANSPORTATION**

There are no items to discuss.

#### **VI. ATHLETICS**

1. The Superintendent and Athletic Director, Mark Keener recommend Board approval for freshman Natalie Turosak to receive permission to participate in Individual Gymnastics in the WPIAL and PIAA under South Fayette's name. Her mother Bonnie Turosak, would be her coach and there will be no cost to the district. Her parents are responsible for all transportation and documentation. This would be in effect for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years.
2. The Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Dave Mislán recommend Board approval, retroactively, for the Boys Basketball team to travel to Cleveland, Ohio, to attend an NBA basketball game on January 20, 2025, with a departure time of 10:30 a.m. and a return time of approximately 8:00 p.m. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The team will be traveling by coach bus. There will be no cost to the district.

#### **VII. CONSTRUCTION**

1. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Ryan Neely recommend Board approval of a Change Order Process for construction projects including the Intermediate School Additions and Renovations, Elementary School, and Bus Depot. **(information provided)**

#### **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

There are no items to discuss.



## **SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS**

The Board will hear comments from residents and/or taxpayers. The time limit of comments will not exceed three (3) minutes. The Board will not respond to questions during this session, but will only hear public comment. (As per revised Policy 006 – “Meetings” adopted April 26, 2022)

### **Solicitor’s Report**

### **Board Comments**

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>A. Executive Committee Report</b>        | <b>President Joe Welch</b>           |
| <b>B. South Fayette Foundation</b>          | <b>Rebecca Bruce</b>                 |
| <b>C. PSBA/Legislative Committee Report</b> | <b>Prajakta Patankar</b>             |
| <b>D. Parkway West</b>                      | <b>Tom Iagnemma, Esther Cardillo</b> |
| <b>E. SHASDA</b>                            | <b>Jen Iriti, Joe Welch</b>          |

### **Suspend**

**An Executive Session may be held to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.**