



South Fayette Township School District

Reorganization and Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2023
7:30 PM

The Reorganization Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:34 PM in the Pride Room of the Administration Building by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella apologized for the late start announcing the Board held an Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

Present in Person: Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti, Tom Iagnemma, Prajakta Patankar, Joe Welch, Len Fornella

Others: Mr. Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Esther Cardillo, Rebecca Bruce, William Gray, Michael Cardillo, Keith Bruce, Director of Technology Rob Warfield; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Mr. Wolfe informed the Board as per PA School Code 402, a President Pro Temp must be elected by the hold over members of the School Board. Mr. Wolfe asked for nominations to serve as President Pro Temp.

Iagnemma seconded Welch to nominate Len Fornella as President Pro Temp. There were no other nominations.

Voice Vote – All Yes

The Honorable Magisterial District Justice Maureen McGraw-Desmet administered the Oath of Office to re-elected School Board Directors Teresa Burroughs and Tom Iagnemma, and newly elected School Board Directors Esther Cardillo, Rebecca Bruce, and William Gray. A copy of the Election Certificates will be kept on file.

Iriti seconded Fornella to nominated Tom Iagnemma as Board President to serve through December 2024.

Roll Call - Burroughs, Iriti, Patankar, Welch, Fornella,
Iagnemma, Bruce, Cardillo, Gray – All Yes

Bruce seconded Fornella to nominate Teresa Burroughs as Board Vice President to serve through December 2024

Roll Call - Burroughs, Iriti, Patankar, Welch, Fornella,
Iagnemma, Bruce, Cardillo, Gray – All Yes

Prior to the appointment of the following representatives, Dr. Miller briefly described the responsibilities of the representative for each position.

PSBA/Legislative Representative/Chairperson for 2024 – Prajakta Patankar
South Fayette Foundation Representative for 2024 – Jen Iriti

Representative and Alternate Representative to the Parkway West Joint Committee for 2024 – Representative Tom Iagnemma, Alternate Representative Esther Cardillo
Representative and Alternate Representative to SHASDA for 2024 – Representative Joe Welch, Alternate Representative Rebecca Bruce

Fornella seconded Welch to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Regular Meeting

President Iagnemma called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

Dr. Miller briefly described the American Heart Association (AHA) Kids Heart Challenge 2023-2024:

- Intermediate School has a Four-Square Tournament benefiting the American Heart Association
- District Nurse Kara Miles wants to partner the Elementary School with AHA to have access to online games and activities teaching basic concepts of being heart healthy

CONSENT AGENDA

Iriti seconded Burroughs to authorize payment of monthly invoices. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony confirm that these invoices have been reviewed and attest that these expenditures represent value for the items as indicated.

Voice Vote – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Patankar seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval of the following Board Meeting dates for 2024. The meetings are scheduled for the third and fourth Tuesdays of each month with the exception of the December Reorganization Meeting which is scheduled for the first Tuesday in December.

Committee Meeting of the Board

January 16, 2024
February 20, 2024
March 19, 2024
April 16, 2024
May 21, 2024
June 18, 2024
July 16, 2024
August 20, 2024
September 17, 2024
October 15, 2024
November 19, 2024

Regular Board Meeting

January 23, 2024
February 27, 2024
March 26, 2024
April 23, 2024
May 28, 2024
June 25, 2024
July 23, 2024
August 27, 2024
September 24, 2024
October 22, 2024
November 26, 2024
Monday, December 2, 2024
Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting

All Committee Meetings and Regular Board Meetings are held at 7:30 PM in the Studio in the South Fayette High School, unless otherwise specified.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval in naming The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as the newspaper for legal advertisements.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for Brian Tony to continue to act as the ACT 32 Tax Collection Committee (TCC) delegate for the South Fayette Township School District and to adopt Resolution 23-05 TCC Voting Delegate Appointment for the South Fayette Township School District as required, with the first alternate TBD, and Dr. Michelle Miller as second alternate.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Technology Rob Warfield for Board approval of the Service Order Agreement and E-rate Letter of Agency with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for Regional Wide Area Network Services and Internet Access Service. The term of this Service Order will begin on July 1, 2024 and continue through June 30, 2029 for lit fiber wide area network service and the Letter of Agency, and through June 20, 2027 for Internet access service.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval of the Student Affiliation Agreement (pending review by the Solicitor) with West Virginia University's School of Nursing effective for a five-year period beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2029. There will be no cost to the District.

Mr. Fornella explained the difference between the Committee and Regular meetings to the new Board members.

Voice Vote – All Yes

PERSONNEL

Burroughs seconded Welch that due to an error in the name approved on November 28, 2023, the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener recommend Board approval to replace Assistant 7/8th Grade Girls Soccer Coach Stephanie Kramer with Sarah Pruss, at the compensation of \$3,500.00 for the Fall 2023 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principals for Board approval to hire Delaney Mangis as a Grade 3 Permanent Substitute teacher, in the Intermediate School at the Bachelor's Step 1 rate of \$51,000, prorated, pending receipt of required documents, effective December 14, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the personal necessity leave of absence request for Rebecca McClintock, Paraeducator in the Middle School effective December 7, 2023 through January 12, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of following EPRs for the 2023-2024 school year:

Mentor Teacher for Grade 3 Perm Sub	Scott Sundgren
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – HS STEM Club, effective 2023-2024 school year	Leslie Willetts
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – IS Holiday Concert, effective December 2023	Anna Kuss

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Deekota Yadav as a Classroom Paraeducator in the Elementary School, effective December 5, 2023. Ms. Yadav has worked 38 days as a paraeducator between the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. She is required to work 22 additional probationary days at the probationary rate of \$16.09 per hour. After successful completion of the additional probationary days, the rate will be \$20.11 per hour. This is a new position, and included in the 2023-2024 budget.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE FIVE ITEMS.

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Patankar seconded Iriti on Board approval to table the following item until clarification on the position and candidate is provided. The motion may be retroactively approved in January.

The Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Rick Chaussard recommend Board approval of Barry Miller as a Volunteer Jr. High Assistant Wrestling Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 season.

Voice Vote – All Yes

EDUCATION

Bruce seconded Welch on Board approval for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler to attend the Spring 2024 Convening of the League of Innovative Schools in New York City, New York from Monday, March 18, 2024 through Thursday, March 21, 2024. The costs include registration, travel, lodging, and meals, with a portion of those costs to be reimbursed to the District. The costs are included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison, Curriculum Director Cristine Wagner-Deitch, High School Principal Natasha Dirda, and five High School teachers to be determined to travel to Mineola, New York, from Wednesday, January 3, 2024 through Friday, January 5, 2024, to experience the League of Innovative Schools pre-convening at the Mineola School District. The costs include travel, lodging, and meals and are included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And on Board approval for the Superintendent, High School Principal Natasha Dirda, and 4 High School teachers to be determined to travel to Cleveland, Ohio, from Wednesday, January 24, 2024 through Thursday, January 25, 2024 to visit Mayfield High School and Shaker Heights High School, organized for regional educators. All costs are covered by the Grable Foundation, except transportation which is covered by the District budget.

Mr. Fornella questioned if there will be a substitute issue with these many teachers being out of the District. Dr. Miller commented teacher absences immediately following the holiday break is minimal.

Voice Vote – All Yes

TRANSPORTATION

There were no items discussed.

ATHLETICS

There were no items discussed.

CONSTRUCTION

There were no items discussed.

MISCELLENEOUS

Iriti seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

Mrs. Iriti commented the 2024-25 calendar mirrors the current school year and glowing reviews and appreciation by the community for the changes; identifying various holidays for students to celebrate; and virtual parent/teacher conferences.

Voice Vote – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

Patankar seconded Welch to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary