



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:50 P.M. in the Conference Center in the High School by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella apologized for the late start as the Board held an Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

**Present:** Todd Petrillo, Lena Hannah, William Ainsworth, Paul Brinsky, Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti, Tom Iagnemma, Len Fornella

**Absent:** Alan Vezzi

**Others:** Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette, Superintendent; Student Representative Alexandra Bennett; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Aguilar; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho; Interim Director of Student Support Services Dr. Conchetta Bell; Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens; High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell; Middle School Assistant Principal Kevin Maurer; Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Intermediate School Assistant Principal Kristen Johnson; Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Elementary School Associate Principal Tyler Geist; Teachers David Taylor, Kristy Skerbetz, Angela Johnson, Jeanne Tupper, Mindy Clayton, Michelle Jenkins, Nazish Habib Khilji; Eric Yeh, Luke Yeh, Diana, Mearl, and Nicole Kamyk, Natalie Kugler, Nicole Spruit, Madison Spruit, Brooklyn Spruit, Zoe McCoy, Kaz McCoy, Sandy McCoy, Harshitha Lingam, Mahathi Koduru, Zirgham Khilji, Safina Khilji, Jasim Khilji, Will Chipps, Eric M. Chipps, Kendra Ancell, Ed Ancell, Jordan Ancell, Brookelin Berkley, Kristen Davis, Carly Kaminski, Tintu Kunjan, Lakshmi Kunjan, Vishnu Kunjan, Zara Farhan, Nabeeha Farhan, Shiviya Saravanan, Farhan Lone, Rajeev Kunjan, Brad Hundt, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Lockette announced January is Board Recognition Month and students along with the media specialist from each school building selected a book to dedicate to the Board that will be housed in each library. The following students from each building read a thank you to the Board and a short synopsis of the books selected:

- Elementary Students – Brookelin Berkley and Luke Yeh presented the book *'Up the Creek'* by Nicholas Oldland
- Intermediate Students – William Chipps and Safina Khilji presented the book *'Zoey and Sassafras Monsters and Mold'* by Asia Citro
- Middle School Student – Harshitha Lingam presented the book *'Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII'* by Mary Cronk Farrell
- High School Students – Nabeeha Farhan, Lakshmi Kunjan, and Dhiviyashree Saravanan presented the book *'If I Could Tell You Just One Thing ...: Encounters with Remarkable People and Their Most Valuable Advice'* by Richard Reed

On the Board's behalf President Fornella thanked the students for the kind words and the books being dedicated.

Dr. Lockette proudly recognized the following High School students for their art drawings that were used as the District's Holiday cards:

- ✓ Senior Nicole Kamyk
- ✓ Freshman Zoe McCoy
- ✓ Junior Madison Spruit
- ✓ Junior Hayden Yedlowski

Dr. Lockette presented Nicole, Zoe, and Madison with a framed holiday card and thanked them for submitting such amazing drawings.

Dr. Hartzell informed the Board of the following senior events scheduled for the first week in June 2020:

- ✓ June 1, 2020 – No events scheduled, finals completed
- ✓ June 2, 2020 – Senior banquet at Southpointe Hilton Garden Inn at 7:00 PM, tentative entertainment motivational speaker Wes Lyons
- ✓ June 2, 2020 – Senior Picnic at Scott Park
- ✓ June 3, 2020 – Commencement practice
- ✓ June 4, 2020 – Commencement practice if needed
- ✓ June 5, 2020 – Commencement

Dr. Hartzell requested if there are no snow make-up days needed at the end of the school year, to allow the seniors to not attend school on June 1. She added there will not be an issue with instructional minutes reported to the state. The Board discussed the impact on staff.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on approval of the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting	November 19, 2019
Regular Meeting	November 26, 2019
Reorganization and Regular Meeting	December 2, 2019

And on approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

Aquatics Fund	Sara Cremonese
Athletic Fund	Mark Keener
High School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
Middle School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
Board Summary Reports (June – October 2019)	Maria Brewer Aguilar

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Tax Collector Kevin Biber for Board approval of the provided list of Real Estate Refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the provided list of gifts/donations.

And to authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$1,062,662.35 beginning with check number 66920 through check number 67339, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$120,561.76 beginning with check number 7935 through check number 7967, and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$6,246.00 beginning with check number 609 through check number 610.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

Natalie Kugler, 127 Meadow Drive, item six under Education, last week's agenda has three attending the League of Innovative schools at no cost to the District, now the agenda shows two people attending and costing the District \$2,300.

Dr. Lockette responded Ms. Owens is not attending this conference since she will be attending three other conferences later in the year. The Board discussed the costs of this conference and other conferences that administration is attending or has attended.

### Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

### New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

### Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- HS Media Team won the FBI HOPE Heroin Abuse Prevention Contest for the third year in a row; 50 videos from western PA were submitted; judges included professionals from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, UPMC, WQED, the AIU, Drug Prevention Pittsburgh, numerous rehab centers, recovering other, to name a few; the students will be honored at a Pittsburgh Penguins game in February and the Media and SADD Clubs will receive the grant money
- Revised wording for campus signs regarding ethnic intimidation will be drafted and shared with the Board; Dr. Hippert was contacted and commented the signs would not be appropriate today, new language would need to be more inclusive; looked for wording in older handbooks, the libraries or contacted long-standing staff; the solicitor's office may have it on file

### Student Representative Report

Ms. Bennett reported the following:

- Two new high school courses Leadership II and AP Computer Science
- Preparations for MiniTHON and Glow Run are underway
- Blue t-shirts were sold to wear to a boys basketball game as a fundraiser for MiniTHON
- Spring sports getting ready and new team of Boys Volleyball
- MiniTHON goal to raise over \$200,000

## BUSINESS OFFICE

Petrillo seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the Parkway West General Operating and Jointure Budget for 2020-2021 as follows:

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
Parkway West General Operating Budget	\$6,691,838	\$6,994,089
Parkway West Jointure Budget	\$ 707,687	\$ 723,154
 <u>South Fayette's Estimated Share of the Budget</u>		
Parkway West General Operating Budget	\$ 481,114	\$ 499,103
Parkway West Jointure Budget	<u>\$ 52,793</u>	<u>\$ 53,783</u>
Total	\$ 533,907	\$ 552,886

This budget information is based on 78.08 ADM's (year 2 of 5 year rolling average)

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to authorize the administration to advertise for bids for three – 72 passenger buses, one – 48 passenger bus, two – 24 passenger vans, and one – 24 passenger lift van with two wheelchair slots for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the purchase and installation of 43 dashboard cameras from SEON at a total cost of \$11,974.00. The cost will be paid for with the 2019-2020 Transportation budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Interim Director of Student Support Services Dr. Conchetta Bell for Board approval to enter into an Employment Options Center School-to-Work Transition Services Agreement with McGuire Memorial to provide Adult Training for a special needs student effective January 29, 2020. Board approval is subject to the solicitor's final review and approval.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## PERSONNEL

Brinsky seconded Burroughs on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Patrick McAndrew, High School Art teacher effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. McAndrew has been employed by the District since August 1993.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Judy Howcroft, Food Service employee. Her last day of work will be June 5, 2020. Mrs. Howcroft has been employed by the District since August 1999.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire the following as an after school tutor for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Julie Farneth, Intermediate School PSSA ELA

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to accept the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Corrine Harkins, Intermediate School Media/Library Aide effective retroactive to December 19, 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to accept the leave of absence request for Shiva Chaturvedi, Student Monitor in the Elementary School effective retroactive to January 8, 2020, through February 7, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following EPRs for the 2019-2020 school year:

Mentor Teacher for Victoria Schreffler	Kara Pappas
Green Team – Middle School	Sara Cremonese
Newspaper – Middle School	Sara Cremonese

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of the resignation of Robert Gilbert, Custodian effective retroactive to January 13, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of the Substitute Custodian pay rate change from \$10.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour effective January 29, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Aquatics Director Lizzy Buckholt for Board approval to hire Vidhi Sainani as an Instructor, pending receipt of required documents, at the rate of \$10.00 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the EPR pay for the Safety and Security Coordinators (Tyler Geist and Kevin Maurer) as \$750.00 each, effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, the fall season Head Coaches, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the following coaches for the 2020-2021 season:

**Football**

Head Coach	Joe Rossi
Assistant Coach	Ben Maracak
Assistant Coach	Ryan Faraci
Assistant Coach	James Wilson
Assistant Coach	Kraig King
Assistant Coach	Mike Slencak
Assistant Coach	Scott Litwinovich
7/8th Grade Head Coach	Rick Chaussard
7/8th Grade Assistant Coach	Wesley Chappel
7/8th Grade Assistant Coach	Josh Patterson
Volunteer 7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Asst. Coach	Joe Faini

**Girls Golf**

Head Coach	Rocky Violi
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**Boys Golf**

Head Coach	Bob Ruffolo
Assistant Coach	Shane Coyne

**Boys Soccer**

Head Coach	Rob Eldridge
Assistant Coach	Joe Luxbacher
Assistant Coach	Ben Laughton
Assistant Coach	Nolan Levine
7/8th Grade Head Coach	Mark Kuglar, Jr.

**Girls Soccer**

Head Coach	Kate Munnell
Assistant Coach	Nick Rosser
Assistant Coach	Sarah Nee
Assistant Coach	Christina Sweeney
7/8th Grade Head Coach	Chelsea Faynor
7/8th Grade Assistant Coach	Nicole Bianco

**Girls Volleyball**

Head Coach	Scott Sundgren
Assistant Coach	Casey Pattyn (Holp)

Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Assistant Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Coach

Micki Cerchiaro  
Danielle Rudolph  
Alison Edmonds (Mortensen)  
Amanda Burgess  
Sawyer Gray

**Boys & Girls Cross Country**

Head Coach  
Assistant Coach  
7/8th Grade Head Coach

Joe Winans  
Julia Denison  
Matt Timcheck

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach Shawn Leydig for Board approval of John Halley as an Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach effective for the Spring 2019-2020 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Boys Volleyball Coach Ronald Kelly for Board approval of Stephanie Dunmyer as an Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the Spring 2020 season.

Voice Vote – All Yes

New personnel were discussed in Executive Session.

**EDUCATION**

Brinsky seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval for Gina Roth and Shannon Roche, High School Math teachers to attend the Texas Instruments T3 International Conference in Dallas, Texas from Thursday, March 12, 2020, through Sunday, March 15, 2020. The costs of the trip include registration, travel, lodging, meals, and two substitute teachers for two days. The costs are included in the 2019-2020 budget. The estimated total costs to the District are \$2,243.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to permit Christine Elek, High School Chorus teacher to accompany seven students to participate in the PMEA Region I All-State Chorus at Hickory High School in Hermitage, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, February 26, 2020, through Friday, February 28, 2020. Students would be responsible for making up all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel, lodging, and meals and are included in the 2019-2020 budget. The estimated total costs to the District are \$1,667.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for retroactive Board approval for Eryn Carranza, High School Band teacher who attended the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois from Thursday, December 19, 2019, through Saturday, December 21, 2019. The costs of the trip for registration, travel, and lodging was paid for with a travel rewards program. The costs to the District were for meals and a substitute teacher for two days and were included in the 2019-2020 budget. The actual total costs to the District were \$305.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to change the 3-hour delay days in the High School for the administration of the Keystone Exams to 2-hour delay days during May 2020 testing window. The 3-hour delay days were previously Board approved in July 2019. Only the students being tested will report to school at the regular start time and the remainder of the high school students will report on a 2-hour delay schedule starting at 9:20 AM.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to run a 3-hour delay day in the High School for the administration of the PSATs on October 14, 2020. Only the students being tested will report to school at the regular start time and the remainder of the high school students would report on a 3-hour delay schedule starting at 10:20 AM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Iriti to approve the team of Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Lockette and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho to attend the Digital Promise – League of Innovative Schools Spring Cohort meeting in Los Angeles, California from Sunday, March 22, 2020, through Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The cost of the trip includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals, with a portion of those costs to be reimbursed to the District. The costs are included in the 2019-2020 budget. The estimated total costs to the District are \$2,371 (includes the reimbursement).

Voice Vote – Petrillo, Hannah, Ainsworth, Brinsky, Iriti,  
Iagnemma – All Yes  
Burroughs, Fornella – All No

Brinsky seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho for Board approval for Kevin Maurer, Middle School Assistant Principal; Kristen Johnson, Intermediate School Assistant Principal; and Dr. Charles Herring, Diversity/Equity Facilitator to attend the 2020 NEMNET Diversity Career Fair in Washington, DC from Friday, February 28, 2020, through Saturday, February 29, 2020. The purpose of the trip is to recruit diverse employees for future employment in the District. The cost of the trip includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals and is estimated to cost the District \$2,410.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for Aileen Owens, Director of Technology and Innovation and Lynette Lortz, Technology Literacy Integrator to attend the 2020 SIGCSE Technical Symposium in Portland, Oregon from Wednesday, March 11, 2020, through Saturday, March 14, 2020. Ms. Owens was invited to present a paper she co-wrote and Mrs. Lortz has been asked to be on hand to facilitate questions. The cost of the trip includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals and is estimated to cost the District \$3,900.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for Aileen Owens, Director of Technology and Innovation to attend the 2020 Schools That Can Forum at Cornell Tech Campus in Roosevelt Island, New York City from Tuesday, May 19, 2020, through Thursday, May 21, 2020. Ms. Owens was invited to participate in the opening plenary panel discussion along with MIT and CMU. A travel stipend of \$1,500 will be provided by Schools That Can. There will be no cost to the District.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## **TRANSPORTATION**

There were no additional items discussed.

## **ATHLETICS**

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Boys Varsity Baseball Coach Ken Morgan for Board approval to permit the Boys Baseball team to travel to Tampa, Florida to participate in a baseball tournament. The plans are to depart on Friday, March 20, 2020, and return on Monday, March 23, 2020. Students will be responsible for all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. There is no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval for Head Football Coach Joe Rossi to attend the OHSFCA Football Conference in Columbus, Ohio from Thursday, February 6, 2020, through Saturday, February 8, 2020, to learn new trends in football. The cost of meals and lodging will be paid for by the Football Boosters. The cost to the District is for one substitute for one day.

Voice Vote – All Yes

The Board again discussed the conferences attended by administration and teachers and requested information since the beginning of the year on who attended what conferences, when, where, why, and any associated costs. Dr. Lockette confirmed the information will be collected and shared with the Board.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

There were no items discussed.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 233 Suspension and Expulsion.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

Natalie Kugler, 127 Meadow Drive, things were going ok, District was number one, house values went up, taxes went up, but ok; then everyone is going to conferences, the District dropped from number one to six in the Pittsburgh Business Time and if we fall into double digits, my property value will go down and who will be stuck paying for the construction of a new school. It's irritating and concerning that we aren't in the top five. The District should wait to see this year's ranking before moving on with construction. Not sure why anybody is going to a conference; when I went to one I had to provide feedback; I understand we need technology things, but I don't know what other things we need. We need to hire the best person that comes before us, we don't need to look for colors of the rainbow.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

### **Board Comments**

There were no comments.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee Report

President Len Fornella

President Fornella reported there will be additional items discussed in another Executive Session and votes will be taken.



South Fayette Foundation

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported the golf outing will be held on a Friday this year, July 17, 2020 and at a new venue, Quick Silver in McDonald at 1:00 PM. The Summertime BBQ will be moved to the fall. Three students are on the SFFE Board and helping with new ideas.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported Advocacy Day on March 23, 2020, in Harrisburg to meet with legislation regarding charter school funding reform, basic and special education funding, and funding for school construction projects. She added the event will be held at the AIU on March 12 for those who can't make it to Harrisburg; Success Starts Here campaign is ongoing. Mrs. Hannah concluded she can assist if anyone need helps with their online board training.

Parkway West

Alan Vezzi

Mr. Vezzi was absent, but Mr. Petrillo said he will be attending the next meeting on February 4.

SHASDA

William Ainsworth

Mr. Ainsworth reported the next meeting is March 3, 2020.

Petrillo seconded Ainsworth to suspend the meeting at 8:49 PM to enter into another Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

President Fornella announced votes will be taken afterwards.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Executive Session convened at 9:00 PM.

Exited Executive Session at 9:38 PM.

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to hire Dr. Rachel Andler as the Director of Student Support Services; at the prorated annual salary of \$96,000, pending agreement of terms and conditions; effective date to be determined.

Roll Call – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of Samantha Holman as a Long Term Special Education substitute teacher in the High School effective on or about February 17, 2020. Ms. Holman will continue to receive her current rate of pay.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following EPR for the 2019-2020 school year:

Mentor Teacher for Samantha Holman	Kelley Hallett
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And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of Victoria Schreffler as a Long Term Special Education substitute teacher in the High School effective on or about February 19, 2020. Compensation will be at the rate of \$130.00 per day.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following substitute (call-as-needed) teachers and support personnel:

- Sarah Emanuel, Social Sciences 7-12/Mid-Level Math 6-9/Secondary School Counselor 7-12
- Lisbeth Dmitrieva, SmartSTART Program, pending receipt of required documents
- Bhagya Chekka, Clerical at the rate of \$9.65 per hour

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Caroline Poiche as a Substitute Bus Driver at the prevailing rate of \$27.18 per hour effective January 29, 2020.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Solicitor for Board approval of the Master Owner Architect Agreement (AIA Document B132-2009) with Hayes Design Group and the following amendments to that agreement:

- 1) Amendment #1 – Additions & Alterations to the Intermediate School
- 2) Amendment #2 – Alterations to Middle School
- 3) Amendment #3 – New Elementary School

Roll Call – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Petrillo to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary