



South Fayette Township School District

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:44 PM in the Studio, in the High School 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: Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti, Paul Brinsky, Tom Iagnemma, Alan Vezzi, Len Fornella

Present Virtually: Prajakta Patankar

Absent: Teresa Burroughs, Joe Welch

Others: Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler; Student Representative Alekyha Buragadda; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Dan Engen, DRAW Collective; Teacher Vicki Slater; Director of Technology Rob Warfield; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dan Engen, DRAW Collective provided the following Facilities Update regarding the civil engineering proposals:

- Received two quotes from CEC and HRG for several scopes of work:
 - Land surveying, Environmental Site Assessments (ESA), Wetland & Stream Delineation, and Grading Analysis on the Battle Ridge site, Nike missile site and current bus depot (possible Elementary site)
- Grading Analysis:
 - Most important for determining most economical site for bus depot; three main areas with pros and cons for each area
 - Nike missile site for Elementary School, how much buildable area there; require retaining walls, etc.; cost to change the grade of the knob where buses park
- Requested a quote for an environmental assessment of the Nike missile silos themselves
- Solicited prices from asbestos testing agencies

The Board discussed the Federal Government conducting an analysis prior to the transfer of the Nike missile property to the District. Mrs. Geisler shared that folder of information with the Board and Mr. Engen. The Board added to possibly preserve some of the missile site as a piece of history. Mr. Engen recommended the Board approve tonight a motion for CEC to conduct the land survey.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Iagnemma seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the October 24, 2023, **revised** Regular Meeting agenda. **The following new motions were received and added today:**

- The Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal recommend Board approval to hire two Student Monitors in the Intermediate School, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024. These positions are due to internal moves.
- The Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal recommend Board approval to hire an Intermediate School Building Substitute teacher, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Board approval to accept the quotation from CEC Civil Engineering Consultants to perform the land surveys for the master plan as presented in the amount of \$101,000.

Voice Vote – All Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Committee Meeting	September 19, 2023
Regular Meeting	September 26, 2023

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

Athletic Fund	Mark Keener
High School Activity Fund	Sharon Aprea
Middle School Activity Fund	Sharon Aprea
Tax Collector Reports (July 2022 – June 2023)	Kevin Biber

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 for authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount \$890,754.21 beginning with check number 75858 through check number 76070 and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$78,933.82 beginning with check number 8599 through check number 8611.

Voice Vote – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller

Dr. Miller reported:

- Past three years Coffee & Conversation opportunities held 5-6 times per year; hosted by Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent; meetings last 60-90 minutes; Dr. Miller and Dr. Deichler share expected norms regarding personnel or student matters; share highlights of the District; parents then able to ask questions or share comments, Dr. Miller and Dr. Deichler respond to questions or facilitate any conversations; Mrs. Geisler takes notes
- Educator Listening Tours held in the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year; tours are scheduled with each grade level or department to have a conversation with all educators; asks “What is going well?” and “What do you need me to know or do in order for you to be more effective and efficient in your role as an educator?”; after conclusion of all meetings, Dr. Miller works with school administration to address any issues appropriate to resolve
- Educator & Paraprofessional “Wish” survey – each Spring Dr. Deichler sends a survey to all paraprofessionals and educators asking “What is one thing you wish we would take off your plate.” and “What is one thing you wish we do?”; afterwards Dr. Miller and Dr. Deichler review each response and address as many items as appropriate.
- Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council – formed this year to collaborate with high school’s student government, high school principals and School Board Student Representative; Ms. Buragadda and Dr. Miller facilitated the first two hour meeting held October 10, focusing on AP testing and the 2024-2025 calendar; students shared topics for discussion at future meetings

Student Representative's Monthly Report – Ms. Alekhya Buragadda

Ms. Buragadda reported:

- Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council meeting, students in grades 9-12 gave amazing insight and perspectives; very diverse group of students
- HOSA Club students traveled to Allegheny General Hospital to observe an aortic valve replacement
- Three high school students placed in their respective language levels at the World Language competition at Slippery Rock University
- Congrats to Dharini Maruthu, chosen to be the Interact District Governor for the 2024-2025 school year
- October 21 – 17 members of the HS Drama Club volunteered at the South Park Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House; Hundred Acres donated its proceeds to greater Pittsburgh charities
- South Fayette students met with the Mallinger family in advance of the five year commemoration of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting; members of SHOUT were interviewed by KDKA
- October 25 – HS Esports team hosting a launch party at 6:30 PM in the HS Studio; student speakers and live broadcast of the team’s scrimmage
- November 30 – Josh Funk coming to the Elementary School to chat with students and sign books
- October 21 – MS Halloween Dance
- Second graders wrote letters for the Wounded Warrior Project

BUSINESS OFFICE

Brinsky seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to authorize budget transfers as necessary beginning retroactive to October 1, 2023. If any transfers are necessary after the fiscal year end, appropriate detail will be supplied to the Board for ratification.

Voice Vote – All Yes

PERSONNEL

Iriti seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of following EPRs effective for the 2023-2024 school year:

Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Middle School Best Buddies, 23-24 school year	Rebecca McClintock (1/2) Donna Glass (1/2)
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – High School Science Bowl, 23-24 school year	Leslie Willetts
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – High School Student Government, 23-24 school year	Leslie Willetts
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – High School Spanish Club, 23-24 school year	Leslie Willetts
Substitute Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – High School Drama Club, 23-24 school year	Angela Vogel
Substitute Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – High School Art Club, 23-24 school year	Angela Vogel
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Intermediate School Lion Hearts, 23-24 school year	Cassidy Haid
High School Musical Sound Manager	Kayleigh Stultz
High School Musical Costume Design Manager	Cloe Hall
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Middle School Drama Club, 23-24 school year	Kara Garrubba
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Middle School Chorus, 23-24 school year	Leann Luck (1/2) Kara Garrubba (1/2)
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Middle School Musical, 23-24 school year	Leann Luck (1/3) Kara Garrubba (1/3) Nancy Iannarelli (1/3)

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principals for Board approval of the intermittent leave of absence request for Amy Shimkoski, Grade 7 ELA teacher in the Middle School with an effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of Stephanie Otricelli, a student at Point Park University, to complete her student teaching, pending receipt of required documents, with Jessica Slencak, Grade 1 teacher in the Elementary School, from January 9, 2024 through February 28, 2024 and with Kara Pappas, Special Education teacher in the High School from February 29, 2024 through April 19, 2024. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of Madelyn Rutkowski, a student at Duquesne University, to complete 30 hours of field experience with Micki Cerchiaro, Social Studies teacher in the High School, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Jessica Guest as a school bus driver, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year at the probationary rate of \$24.47 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$30.59 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Volleyball Coach Scott Sundgren recommend Board approval of the resignation of Danielle Rudolph as a Volunteer Assistant Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach and as an Assistant 7th/8th Grade Girls Volleyball Coach, effective retroactive to October 5, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, Head Varsity Baseball Coach Ken Morgan for Board approval of Luke Paulson as an Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Technology Rob Warfield for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Sophia Freeman, Help Desk Manager, effective on or about November 21, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for William Pfeifer, Paraeducator in the High School with an effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following students at Duquesne University, to complete 30 hours of field experience with Gary Smith, English teacher in the High School, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

- Mackenzie Steele
- Antonio Battista

Voice Vote – All Yes

New motions from the October 24, 2023 Executive Session agenda:

Brinsky seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Maureen Kings as a Permanent Substitute Guidance Counselor in the Middle School, effective October 30, 2023, at the Master’s +30 Step 1 rate of \$53,750, prorated.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Andrea Slebonick as a school bus driver, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year at the probationary rate of \$24.47 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$30.59 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute support personnel and teachers, pending receipt of required documents, for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Daniel Sammons, Paraeducator at the rate of \$12.50 per hour, Personal Care Paraeducator at the rate of \$13.50 per hour
- Lalita Narra, Paraeducator at the rate of \$12.50 per hour, Personal Care Paraeducator at the rate of \$13.50 per hour
- Kathy Coll, Elementary K-6, effective retroactive to October 1, 2023
- Kimberly Jones, Elementary K-6/Special Education K-12

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

Nurse – Middle School Halloween Dance, retroactive to October 21, 2023	Misty Menarcheck
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Middle School Media Club, 23-24 school year	Leann Luck (1/2) Nancy Iannarelli (1/2)
Teaches 6 classes in the High School	Desiree Dennison

Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Middle School Halloween Dance, retroactive to October 21, 2023	Leann Luck
Mentor Teacher for MS Perm Sub Guidance Counselor – Maureen King	Justina Perrott

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of Ava Collins, a student at Duquesne University, to complete her internship with Anjelica Lutz, Guidance Counselor in the High School, pending receipt of required documents, effective January 2, 2024 through May 23, 2024. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire the following as Student Monitors in the Intermediate School, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year at the probationary rate of \$12.22 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period the rate will be \$15.27 per hour. These positions are due to internal moves.

- Daxa Patel
- Deepa Mohandass

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Carolina Cappetta, as an Intermediate School Building Substitute teacher, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at the rate of \$150.00 per day.

Voice Vote – All Yes

EDUCATION

Iriti seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to conduct the Extended School Year (ESY) program in the summer of 2024. The program will run Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., beginning July 1, 2024, through July 25, 2024. The District will be closed July 4, 2024. The cost of the program will be included in the 2024-2025 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the following trial clubs effective for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Writing Club – High School
- Esports – High School
- Esports – Middle School
- Girls Who Code – Middle School
- Competitive Dance Coordinator

Voice Vote – All Yes

TRANSPORTATION

There were no items discussed.

ATHLETICS

Brinsky seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Bryan Bennett for Board approval to permit the Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity Basketball teams to travel to Charleston, South Carolina to play in a girls' basketball tournament. The team will depart South Fayette tentatively on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 and tentatively return on Saturday, December 30, 2023. 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, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Rick Chaussard for Board approval for the Varsity Wrestling team to travel to Erie, PA to compete in a wrestling tournament being held at Cathedral Prep High School. The team will depart South Fayette tentatively on Friday, December 15, 2023 and tentatively return on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. There is no cost to the District.

Voice Vote – All Yes

CONSTRUCTION

Vezi seconded Iriti on the motion for Board approval to accept the quotation from CEC Civil Engineering Consultants to perform the land surveys for the master plan as presented in the amount of \$101,000.

Voice Vote – All Yes

MISCELLANEOUS

Brinsky seconded Vezi on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to endorse the following as PSBA candidates for the 2024 Leadership positions up for election:

- Allison Mathis as 2024 President-Elect (one-year term)
- Sabrina Backer as 2024 Vice President (one-year term)
- Karen Beck Pooley as 2024-2026 PSBA Treasurer (three-year term)
- Marsha Pleta as 2024-2026 Western Zone Representative (three-year term)
- Erik Meredith as 2024-2025 Section W3 Advisor (two-year term)
- PSBA Trustees (two candidates for three-year terms)
 - Marianne Neel
 - Michael Faccinnetto

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the Stipulated Adjudication Agreement pertaining to a student.

Voice Vote – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Vicki Slater, teacher, thanked the Board for all of the work they do; South Fayette would not be what it is without them.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

Board Comments

There were no comments at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report

President Fornella

President Fornella had nothing to report.

South Fayette Foundation

Paul Brinsky

Mr. Brinsky reported the Cancer Awareness football game is on October 27, t-shirts are for sale; Dr. Miller added the High School Dance Team will be participating with the USC Dance Team at halftime.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported a new program Great PA schools, asking districts to submit stories; PSBA Trust Institute launching an international study group hosting the first study group in April 2024, focusing on education system in Germany; newly elected school board members will be required to complete five hours training, re-elected require three hours of training which will start in early December, either virtually or in person; locations include AW Beattie on 12/16 and Grove City on 1/13; virtual opportunities on 12/9, 1/27, 2/24, 4/27 and 5/4.

Parkway West

Tom Iagnemma

Mr. Iagnemma reported the October meeting rescheduled to November 2 and unable to attend, Mr. Vezzi will attend

SHASDA

Joe Welch

Mr. Welch was absent.

Dr. Miller reported the monthly superintendent meetings have started, student celebration in the Spring

Vezi seconded Iagnemma to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary