



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:36 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:** Teresa Burroughs, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma, Prajakta Patankar, Jason Olexa, Len Fornella

**Present Virtually:** Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti

**Absent:** Paul Brinsky

**Others:** Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Chris Juzwick; Student Representative Gaiatri Potdar; Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler; High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell; Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone; Middle School Associate Principal Dr. Kevin Maurer; Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Athletic Director Mark Keener; Director of Technology Rob Warfield; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary.

The following 2023-2024 budgets were presented:

- Intermediate School – Tom Kaminski
- Middle School – Dr. Erin Crimone
- High School – Dr. Laura Hartzell
- Student Support Services – Dr. Rachel Andler
- Athletics – Mark Keener

Patrick Harrigan showed a short video highlighting the District's music classes in celebration of March as Music in Our Schools month.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Iagnemma seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the March 28, 2023, revised Regular Meeting agenda. The following new motions were received and added today:

- The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services recommend Board approval of the rescinding of an acceptance letter from a Special Education teacher in the Intermediate School. The employee was approved at the February 28, 2023 meeting.
- The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent recommend Board approval for a student at Pennsylvania State University, to complete 40 hours of required community service with a High School math teacher, pending receipt of required documents, effective May 1, 2023 through June 7, 2023. There is no cost to the District.

- The Superintendent and High School Principal recommend Board approval of an intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for a High School Paraeducator, with an effective date to be determined.
- The Superintendent and Solicitor recommend Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the South Fayette Township School District and the South Fayette Education Association and a temporary professional employee for an unpaid leave of absence. (*information provided*)
- The Superintendent and High School Principals recommend Board approval to permit Mary Quirk, Bryan Seybert, and a school nurse TBD to accompany five students to participate in the 2023 PA Academic Competition in Harrisburg, PA from Thursday, April 27, 2023 through Friday, April 28, 2023. 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 will be paid for through fundraising efforts or by the students. The cost to the District will be for a substitute for two days.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Burroughs seconded Iagnemma on approval of Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, February 21, 2023
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 28, 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	Chris Juzwick
Middle School Activity Fund	Chris Juzwick
Board Summary Report (February 2023)	Chris Juzwick

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 authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$664,841.48 beginning with check number 74396 through check number 74585 and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$83,801.07 beginning with check number 8511 through check number 8524.

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:

- Congratulated the girls basketball team on a noble effort as runner-ups in the 5A state championship and the hockey team as State Champions in the 2A PIHL; celebrate the athletes in April
- Congratulated the cast and crews of the middle and high school musicals Shrek Jr. and Crazy for You, respectively; incredible performances by musicians, dancers, and actors.
- Celebrate Music in our Schools month with a short video montage of music classes in the district.

## **Representative Report**

Ms. Potdar reported:

- HS hockey team won PIHL state championship; swimmers also had a great time at the PIAA state championships, some of them placing in their respective events, Dr. Miller added Zoe Poe won the WPIAL 500 meter free style championships; six athletes from our girls and boys basketball teams were honored at the Big 56 First Team All Section banquet; Lady Lions a few points shy of the PIAA 5A State Championship, finishing an amazing season
- HS musical Crazy for You was amazing considering the hardship faced
- Caroline Praveen and Pranamy Rangaraju competed in the PA State Speech and Debate competition
- Commencement speakers selected from a panel of teachers, administrators, and students; I am honored to have been selected along with Himanish Kolli and Mohammad Shedeed
- HS Quiz Bowl team competed on Hometown High Q and will be attending the state level quiz bowl competition
- HS Health and Careers Club at a state level health competition in Philadelphia
- IS Annual Battle of the Books with Hermine's Army 2.0 winning first place
- ES welcomed Anthony Brown with an afternoon of singing and learning through music
- MS Esports team continues advancing in tournaments, Rocket League One team ranked in the top five teams in the Vanta Esports League after just six weeks of competition

## **BUSINESS OFFICE**

Patankar seconded Olexa on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the proposed 2023-2024 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,235,963.00. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,899,026.00. The South Fayette Township School District contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$43,642.00 and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).

And on the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Curriculum Director Cristine Wagner-Deitch for Board approval of a Client Agreement with Vector Solutions to provide an online professional development platform for teachers, paras and administrators, per solicitor approval of the agreement. The cost will be included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Technology Rob Warfield for Board approval of a three-year contract with Master Library, LLC, to provide new help desk and facilities management software, effective July 1, 2023, at a first-year cost of \$8,900.00, which is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget. The new software will replace the District's current help desk and facilities management software.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Food Service Tricia Wood for Board approval of the quote for nine (9) new point of sale cash registers for the Middle, Intermediate, and Elementary Schools, at a PEPPM pricing total cost of \$9,743.04.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a Fair Market Value (FMV) 1:1 Lease of 1,000 student laptops for the Middle School, 100 staff laptops Districtwide, and 120 all-in-one computers for the High School Computer Labs at an annual amount of \$264,214.99, for fifty-one (51) months with Dell Financial.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Patankar seconded Olexa on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval a Memorandum of Understanding with AIU #3 to provide access and written translation through an AI portal, effective March 29, 2023. The cost to the District is a one-time fee of \$500 and is included in the 2022-2023 budget.

Voice Vote – Hannah, Iriti, Burroughs, Welch, Iagnemma,  
Patankar, Olexa – All Yes  
Fornella - Abstained

## **PERSONNEL**

Iagnemma seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the resignation of Kathryn Bischoff as a Personal Care Paraeducator in the High School. Ms. Bischoff's last day worked was March 13, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the resignation of Colleen Campbell as a Personal Care Paraeducator in the Elementary School. Ms. Campbell's last day worked was March 24, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Tara Rao, Student Support Services Admin/Receptionist/Access Coordinator, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Rao has been employed by the District since March 2008.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval to hire Lisa Graeb as a Classroom Paraeducator in the Elementary School, pending receipt of required documents, effective retroactive to March 27, 2023, at the probationary rate of rate of \$15.62 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$19.53 per hour. This position is due to a resignation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year, pending receipt of required documents:

- Lindsey Egan, Health & Physical Education
- Alyson Davis, PreK-4/Special Ed PreK-12
- Marge Mignogna, Nurse
- Carrie Munkittrick, SmartStart Program
- Chinyu Hsu, Chinese PK-12/Mathematics 7-12
- Kerri Dimarco, SmartStart Program
- Meghan Schneider, 7-12 Biology, effective April 17, 2023

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Sondra Carmen as a Substitute Bus Aide, at the prevailing rate of \$20.70 per hour, effective retroactive to March 10, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance/HR Brian Tony, and Director of Technology Rob Warfield for Board approval of the following revised job descriptions:

- Information Systems Manager
- Help Desk Manager

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Food Service Tricia Wood for Board approval to hire Megha Verma as a Food Service employee in the High School, pending receipt of required documents, effective retroactive to March 22, 2023, at the probationary rate of \$12.24 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period the rate will be \$15.30 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Track & Field Coach Scott Litwinovich for Board approval of the following, effective for the 2023 spring season:

- Alexis Deyarmin, Assistant Middle School Track & Field
- Tanner Jones, Assistant Middle School Track & Field

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Football Coach Joe Rossi for Board approval of the following, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023 fall season:

- Joseph Franjione, Volunteer Assistant Football Coach
- Bruce Fronk, Assistant Football Coach
- Marty Spieler, Assistant Football Coach

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the following EPRs for the 2022-2023 school year:

Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – HS Music Trip – Nashville	Angela Vogel
Extra-curricular Nurse – MiniTHON	Misty Menarcheck
Extra-curricular Paraeducator – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip	Christine Magdich
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – SFHS Track & Field (remainder of the 2022-2023 season)	Leslie Willetts
EPR Nurse – Washington DC Field Trip (May 19-21, 2023)	Trina Howells
Mentor Teacher for Meghan Schneider	Allison Okel (effective April 17, 2023)

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Jennifer O'Donnell-Drazick, Paraeducator in the Intermediate School, with an effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the resignation of Anitha Kotte as a Student Monitor in the Intermediate School. Ms. Kotte's last day worked will be March 29, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the following as Building Substitutes in the Intermediate School, at the 3rate of \$150.00 per day, effective retroactive to March 27, 2023:

- Ramon West
- Claire Kucerovy

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler, and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Nicole Canofari, Life Skills & Autistic Support teacher in the Middle School effective on or about June 10, 2023. The request is for the 2023-2024 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval for Lauren Stanhagen, a current Classroom Paraeducator in the Elementary School, to move to a vacant Personal Care Paraeducator position in the Elementary School, at the rate of \$21.32 per hour, effective retroactive to March 27, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of Brittany Linsenbilger rescinding her acceptance letter as a Special Education teacher in the Intermediate School. Ms. Linsenbilger was approved at the February 28, 2023 meeting.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval for Michael Colangelo, a student at Pennsylvania State University, to complete 40 hours of required community service with Glenn Stewart, High School math teacher, pending receipt of required documents, effective May 1, 2023 through June 7, 2023. There is no cost to the District.

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

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the South Fayette Township School District and the South Fayette Education Association and a temporary professional employee for an unpaid leave of absence.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## **EDUCATION**

Iagnemma seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval to permit Eryn Carranza, Jeanne Tupper, and Christine Elek to accompany five students to participate in the PMEA All-State Ensemble at the PMEA State Conference, at the Kalahari Resort in Poconos, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, April 19, 2023 through Saturday, April 22, 2023. 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 2022-2023 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval to discontinue contracting with Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the services provided by a certain Speech and Language Therapist for the 2023-2024 school year and for the South Fayette Township School District to provide these services beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of a Service Agreement with Intermediate Unit #1 to provide emotional support programs for South Fayette students effective for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, per solicitor approval of the agreement. The cost to the District is based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) and is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to permit Dr. Felix Yerace, High School Social Studies teacher to host the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Region B Conference in the High School on Friday, March 22, 2024 (clerical day for teachers). There is no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval for Daniela Wiernik, High School German teacher to attend Education First (EF) Training in Lisbon, Portugal from Thursday, October 5, 2023 through Monday, October 9, 2023. The purpose is to provide training for first time group leaders. The cost of the training is paid for by EF. The only cost to the District will be for a substitute teacher for two days (October 9 is a clerical day for teachers).

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval to permit Greg Schutz, Jeff Sgro, and female parent/employee chaperone Suneeta Somireddy, to accompany the High School Underwater Robotics Club (approximately 27 students) to participate in the 2023 PA MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) Underwater ROV Competition at Villanova University, from Friday, May 12, 2023 through Saturday, May 13, 2023. 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 is paid for through fundraising efforts.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval for Melissa Unger, STEAM teacher in the Elementary School, to conduct a research study as part of her dissertation for her doctoral, with four homerooms of second grade students (with parents' permission) and teachers. The study will be conducted in April 2023 and again in September/October 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Curriculum Director Cristine Wagner-Deitch to attend the AASA Learning 2025 National Summit in Washington, D.C., from Monday, June 26, 2023 through Thursday, June 29, 2023. The costs are covered by funds from the Grable Foundation for our involvement in AASA's Learning 2025.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval of a Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between the District and La Roche University, effective for the 2022-2023 school year. The Agreement may be extended for additional one (1) year terms only upon the mutual written agreement of both parties.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval of a College in High School Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between the District and the University of Pittsburgh, effective for the 2022-2023 school year. The Agreement may be extended for additional one (1) year terms only upon the mutual written agreement of both parties.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principals for Board approval of revisions to Course Waivers effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval to permit Mary Quirk, Bryan Seybert, and a school nurse TBD to accompany five students to participate in the 2023 PA Academic Competition in Harrisburg, PA from Thursday, April 27, 2023 through Friday, April 28, 2023. 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 will be paid for through fundraising efforts or by the students. The cost to the District will be for a substitute for two days.

Voice Vote – All Yes

**TRANSPORTATION**

There were no items discussed.

**ATHLETICS**

There were no items discussed.

**CONSTRUCTION**

There were no items discussed.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Patankar seconded Olexa on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval of the final reading of revised Board Policy 233 Suspension & Expulsion.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

There were no comments at this time.

**Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

**Board Comments**

There were no Board comments.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee Report**

**President Len Fornella**

President Fornella had nothing to report.

**South Fayette Foundation**

**Paul Brinsky**

Mr. Brinsky was absent and Dr. Miller will have some information next month.

**PSBA/Legislative Committee Report**

**Lena Hannah**

Mrs. Hannah reported the virtual Advocacy Day is April 18; virtual webinar on April 4 for school safety and security; Outreach Office opens April 4 with office hours 3 days/week.

**Parkway West**

**Tom Iagnemma**

Mr. Iagnemma recognized March PM Student of the Month Nathan Spolnick, a student in the Electrical Systems Technology program; Dr. Miller added Nate helped with the installation of the electrical system of the freight farm



**SHASDA**

**Joe Welch**

Mr. Welch reported two upcoming events, Thursday, March 30 Annual Spring Superintendent meeting and April 23 the Student Celebration and Breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn Southpointe.

Welch seconded lagnemma to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary