



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023
7:30 PM

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:47 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, Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma, Jason Olexa, Len Fornella

Present Virtually: Prajakta Patankar, 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; Middle Associate Principal Dr. Kevin Maurer; Donna Meehan, Pranal Patel, Komal Shah, Bital Shah, Gauram Dullu, Riyansh Dullu, Ruhaan Dullu, Rajesh Potdar, Preet Lele, Eashwari Potdar, Preveena Soanpet, Mindy Clayton, K. Jahnambha, Bill Gray, Mai Hassan, Communications Director Patrick Harrigan; Director of Technology Rob Warfield; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dr. Miller and Dr. Maurer presented the following information regarding the Esports program:

- Esports is electronic sports; organized competitive side of video gaming; safe structured environment where participants develop as both players and team mates
- Over 130 colleges had Esports team in 2019 including local colleges such as PSU, Point Park, Seton Hill, and RMU as one of the first universities to give full scholarships to Esports
- Since June 22, 8,600 Esports teams in high schools; local districts include Avonworth, Baldwin, Canon McMillan, Duquesne, Elizabeth Forward, USC, and West Allegheny to name a few
- Pittsburgh Knights team founded in December 2017 by Rob Lee a graduate of the South Fayette Class of 2011 and James O'Connor
- Colleges offering millions in Esports scholarships annually; Esports curriculum and competition proven to improve GPA and attendance; a unique experience for students who may not participate in other sports/activities
- Ways Esports supports STEAM education; understanding of technology, working in a team, problem solving skills, critical thinking skills, using data to track progress, use of the scientific method to experiment and improve
- Helps students with life skills such as communication, problem-solving, and goal-setting
- Careers associated with Esports include team management, content creation, IT, and more
- Proposal for two pilot clubs of the Esports program one each in the Middle School and High School as an after school extracurricular for the 2023-2024 school year
- If successful, potential cost for head and assistant coaches for 2024-2045
- MS will repurpose HS computers for the MS arena; chairs previously purchased as part of an incubator project; HS students will create wall graphics for arena

- HS will purchase computers for the HS arena to also be used for Graphic Arts and gaming classes; purchase chairs for arena; HS students will create wall graphics for arena
- Register in two leagues Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association (PIEA) and Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League (PSEL), fall and spring seasons, playoffs and championships
- Participants required to have signed parent signed permission slips; team tryouts for specific games and seasons; families may be responsible for associated costs relating to fan apparel, etc.
- Started Spring 2022 as an AASA event; Summer 2022 local high school visits; planning meetings with RUM and Pittsburgh Knights; Fall 2022 student inquiries, Vanta League Partnership, winter incubator project

Dr. Miller and Dr. Maurer thank some of those involved from the parents and students to Mark Keener for providing jerseys, Rob Warfield for the technology side to Dr. Callison and Dr. Herring's support
The following Middle School students spoke regarding their experiences playing:

- Eashwari Potdar, the only female on the team; Fedor Kalinkou, Yaseen Saeed, Kavin Srikanth, Rishi Patel, and Ramcharan Mareedu

The Board discussed when the clubs would play, the participation levels, and the safety and security measures to ward off hacking into the sites.

Steve Niedenberger, Senior Auditor from Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP, provided the Board with the Audit Report for the period ending June 30, 2022, for the 2021-2022 school year. He added the opinion letter is an unqualified report, the highest-level opinion that can be rendered, which is also known as a clean audit of the financial statements. Mr. Niedenberger reviewed the following:

- Main Governmental Fund is the general fund
- Revenues/Expenditures, capital leases, capital projects, and refunding bonds
- Proprietary Fund – food service had a large increase due to the free meals provided during this school year
- Fiduciary Funds – student activities balance
- General long-term debt
- Implementation of governmental accounting standards (operating leases for copiers and such)
- Long term debt
- Fund Balance increase due to strong fiscal management of the district; large portion of fund balance already committed to future retirement cost increases and capital needs of the district

Mr. Niedenberger added the District met the threshold that required a single audit to be performed; (when a school district spends \$750,00 or more of Federal money; 2021-2022 spent over 3 million, bulk relating to the Food Service Fund); was also a clean audit opinion; no weaknesses in internal controls governing the Federal expenditures.

The following 2023-2024 budgets were presented:

- Business Office / Human Resources – Brian Tony
- Superintendent / School Board – Brian Tony
- Public Relations / Communications – Brian Tony, Patrick Harrigan

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Iagnemma seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the April 18, 2023, **revised** Committee Meeting of the Whole agenda. **The following new motion was received and added today:**

- **The Superintendent and High School Principals recommend Board approval to hire a Chemistry teacher in the High School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. This position is due to a retirement. (needs Board action taken on April 18)**

Voice Vote – All Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

1. The Board considered approval of minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

2. The Board considered 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 (March 2023)

Chris Juzwick

3. Expenditures were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller

Dr. Miller reported:

- April 18 – celebrated the winter sports teams with a campus parade led by five second graders chosen as Grand Marshalls
- April 26 – attended the PMEA Jr High District Chorus at the North Hills Middle School, who graciously allowed us to host the event there due to our High School theatre being closed; recognized Jessica Horzempa and Chris Elek for organizing the event; South Fayette well represented with Olivia Moore on the violin; Elle Newhouse on the cello, and soloists Bailey Cunningham and Mackenzie Concannon
- Mini-THON, 10 days away on April 28
- April 20 – Celebration of Excellence; a change this year, upcoming 9th grade students are invited to the High School's showcase of course offerings
- Fifteen academic leaders from Cajon Valley School District will be visiting the District in early May

BUSINESS OFFICE

President Fornella announced all motions on the agenda that need Board action taken will be voted on at the end of the agenda.

1. 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 reduced amount of \$261,875.72, (previously approved at the March 28, 2023 meeting) for fifty-one (51) months with Dell Financial. This is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the 2021-2022 School District Audit as prepared by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to utilize Mockenhaupt Benefits Group to prepare the Biennial Actuarial Valuation Report for the District's OPEB amount as of July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023, for an estimated amount not to exceed \$6,000.00. The District utilized Mockenhaupt for our previous OPEB Valuation in 2021 at a cost of \$6,000.00.

PERSONNEL

1. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers and support personnel for the 2022-2023 school year: **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
 - Natalie DiGiorno, PreK-4/Special Education K-12, pending receipt of required documents
 - Sondra Carman, Bus Aide, at the prevailing wage of \$20.70 per hour
 - **Isabella Porcari, Grades 4-8 (all subjects)/7-8 English**

2. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the following as Building Substitutes, effective retroactive to April 11, 2023, at the rate of \$150.00 per day: **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
 - Ashley Iagnemma in the Elementary School
 - Alphonsa Amalanayagam in the High School

3. The Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request for Katie Weber, Grade 2 teacher in the Elementary School, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

4. The Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request for Colleen Poluszejko, Grade 2 teacher in the Elementary School, effective for the first grading period of 2023-2024 school year. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

5. The Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request for Jennafer Teta, Grade 1 teacher in the Elementary School, effective on or about September 22, 2023. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

6. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler recommend Board approval to hire Sarah Papapietro as a Personal Care Paraeducator in the High School, pending receipt of required documents, at the probationary rate of \$17.05 per hour, effective April 24, 2023. After completion of a successful probationary period the rate will be \$21.32 per hour. This position is due to a resignation. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

7. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the following EPRs for the 2022-2023 school year: **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – High School MiniTHON (effective April 28-29, 2023)	Leslie Willetts
Mentor Teacher for HS Chemistry teacher (2023-2024 school year)	Bryan Seybert

8. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler recommend Board approval of the following personnel for the Extended School Year Program that will operate for 5 weeks in the summer of 2023: **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
 - Teachers at the rate of \$43.50 per hour, maximum 4.0 hours of instruction and planning per day:

- ✓ Alexis Deyarmin
 - ✓ Michelle Stern
 - ✓ Sarah Nee
 - ✓ Jennifer Greenawald
 - ✓ Lexi Revi
 - ✓ Ben Laughton
 - Personal Care Paraeducators at the rate of \$21.32 per hour for the 2022-2023 school year and at the rate of \$21.96 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year, maximum 3.5 hours per day:
 - ✓ Molly Fuchs
 - ✓ Teil Bruneau
 - ✓ Terry Oberst
 - ✓ Myriam Fowler
 - ✓ Mindy Pillar
 - ✓ Lisa Sweeney
 - ✓ Kathleen Fischer
 - ✓ **Sophia McNavish**
 - Paraeducators at the rate of \$19.53 per hour for the 2022-2023 school year and at the rate of \$20.11 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year, maximum 3.5 hours per day:
 - ✓ Sarah Sweet
 - ✓ Anna Kuss
 - ✓ Patty Campanella
 - ✓ Amber Greenwood
 - School Certified Nurse at the rate of \$43.50 per hour, maximum of 3.5 hours per day
 - Traci Goforth
 - Substitute teacher at the rate of \$43.50 per hour:
 - ✓ Taylor Coyne
9. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the reappointment of Dr. Alene D'Alesio, Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, as School District Dentist for the 2023-2024 school year. The services will be provided at no cost to the District. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
10. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval to appoint Dr. Kevin Kotar, DO, Preferred Primary Care Physicians, as School District Physician for the 2023-2024 school year at the rate of \$150.00 per hour. This is a new appointment. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
11. The Superintendent and Director of Technology Rob Warfield recommend Board approval to hire Sophia Freeman as the Help Desk Manager, at the salary **\$52,000**, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year, effective May 1, 2023. Her next eligible date for a salary increase will be July 1, 2024. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
12. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval for Breanna Snyder, a student at Slippery Rock University, to complete her student teaching with David Taylor, Math teacher in the Middle School, pending receipt of required documents, effective August 21, 2023 through December 7, 2023. There is no cost to the District. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
13. The Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, High School Principals, and the head winter season coaches recommend Board approval of the following coaches for the 2023-2024 season: **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

Girls Basketball

Head Coach	Bryan Bennett
Assistant Coach	Garret Del Re
Assistant Coach	Olesia Stasko
Assistant Coach	Sarah McMurtry
7th Grade Head Coach	Keith Froelich
8th Grade Head Coach	Garrett Del Re

Boys Basketball

Head Coach	Dave Mislan
Assistant Coach	Frank Halloran
Assistant Coach	Josh Patterson
Assistant Coach	Jared Knox
Assistant Coach	Brandon Orosz
7th Grade Head Coach	Tanner Jones
8th Grade Head Coach	Glen Gutierrez

Wrestling

Head Coach	Rick Chaussard
Assistant Coach	Alex Kramer
Assistant Coach	Brett Smith
Assistant Coach	Josh Mollica
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Robert Vettorai
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Josh Miller
Junior High Head Coach	Vacant
Junior High Assistant Coach	Trevor McIntyre
Junior High Assistant Coach	Jason Santavicca

14. The Superintendent and High School Principals recommend Board approval to hire Jason Marko as a Chemistry teacher in the High School at the Master's +15 Step 2 rate of \$54,545, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. This position is due to a retirement. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

EDUCATION

1. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principals recommend Board approval of math revisions to the High School Program of Studies, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
2. The Superintendent recommends Board approval for the Administration to submit for applicable federal and state grants, such as but not limited to: Title I; Title II; Title III; Title IV; Safe Schools Initiatives; STEAM; and Pennsylvania Ready to Learn Grants for the 2023-2024 school year. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
3. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval to offer a hybrid online Summer Remediation course for Algebra I. The program will run from June 12, 2023 through July 20, 2023. The cost to the parents would be \$290.00 for residents and \$310.00 for non-residents. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 40 hours of instruction. If there are 6 students enrolled, the fees would cover costs; if fewer than 6 students are enrolled, the District would fund the difference. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

4. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval to offer a hybrid online Summer Remediation course for Geometry. The program will run from June 12, 2023 through July 20, 2023. The cost to the parents would be \$290.00 for residents and \$310.00 for non-residents. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 40 hours of instruction. If there are 6 students enrolled, the fees would cover costs; if fewer than 6 students are enrolled, the District would fund the difference. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**

5. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval to dispose of the list of textbooks in the Middle School as per Board Policy 706.1. The District will attempt to resell the textbooks, if not, they will be donated. **(needs Board action taken on April 18)**
 - The Call of the Wild, ISBN-10 1945644516; ISBN-13 978-1945644511
 - The Giver, ISBN-10, 0440237688
 - The Write Source 2000, ISBN-10. 0669386251; ISBN-13. 978-066938625
 - English Composition and Grammar, Second Course, ISBN-13. 978-0153118012
 - Various Thesauri

TRANSPORTATION

There were no items discussed.

ATHLETICS

There were no items discussed.

CONSTRUCTION

There were no items discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items discussed.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

Olexa seconded Iriti 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 reduced amount of \$261,875.72, (previously approved at the March 28, 2023 meeting) for fifty-one (51) months with Dell Financial. This is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

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Voice Vote – All Yes

Olexa seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following as Building Substitutes, effective retroactive to April 11, 2023, at the rate of \$150.00 per day:

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

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Jared Knox
Brandon Orosz
Tanner Jones
Glen Gutierrez

Wrestling

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Volunteer Assistant Coach
Volunteer Assistant Coach
Junior High Head Coach
Junior High Assistant Coach
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Rick Chaussard
Alex Kramer
Brett Smith
Josh Mollica
Robert Vettoral
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- English Composition and Grammar, Second Course, ISBN-13. 978-0153118012
- Various Thesauri

Voice Vote – All Yes

Iriti seconded Welch to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary