



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
7:30 PM

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:43 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, Len Fornella

Present Virtually: Prajakta Patankar, Paul Brinsky

Absent: Jason Olexa

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; Marci Horner, Davis Demographics; Georgia Leonard, Project Manager, Davis Demographics; 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.

Georgia Leonard, Project Manager, Davis Demographics reviewed the following regarding the Resident Student Forecast:

- Current and historical student data
- Utilization summary – compare utilization capacity for each grade configuration and their respective areas
- Historic live birth counts
- Student Yield Factors – help determine forecasted number of students from new residential developments
- Residential development by housing type and status (included map and listing)
- Districtwide 10-year resident student forecast
- Current and forecasted resident student enrollment

The Board discussed live birth counts, student density, and Atlas platform.

Brian Tony and Chris Juzwick provided the following updates regarding the 2023-2024 Proposed Final Budget and areas discussed:

- Proposed Final Budget needs Board approval at the May 23, 2023 meeting
- On public display for 30 days prior to June 27, 2023, approval of the 2022-2023 Final Budget
- Enrollment
- Revenue/expenditure running totals
- Millage options: no increase, 26.7; .5 millage increase to 27.2; to the index of 1.4418 millage increase to 28.1418; other options 1.0 millage increase to 27.7 and .25 millage increase to 26.95
- Proposed and if needed new staffing
- Debt service (principal and interest)

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Welch seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the May 16, 2023, **revised** Committee Meeting of the Whole agenda. **The following new motions were received and added today:**

- **Consider the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase (TELP) for a new District server infrastructure replacement at an annual amount of \$45,443.07 for sixty (60) months with Dell Financial, with a \$1.00 buyout at the end of the 60-month lease. This Lease Purchase is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.**
- **Consider the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the Esports Program at the Middle School and High School of a Fair Market Value (FMV) Lease of 13 desktop computers and 14 desktop monitors at an annual amount of \$10,555.39, for a fifty-one (51) months with Dell Financial. This is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.**
- **Consider the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of a Standard Work Order from Crossroads Speech & Hearing, Inc., to provide a second speech-language therapist for the District's Extended School Year (ESY) program that will operate for 5 weeks in the summer of 2023. *(information provided)***
- **The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the retirement/resignation of a Student Monitor in the Intermediate School. The employee's last day worked will be June 8, 2023 and has been employed by the District since September 2012.**

Voice Vote – All Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Committee Meeting	Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Regular Meeting	Tuesday, April 25, 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 (April 2023)	Chris Juzwick

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

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller

Dr. Miller reported:

- AASA recognized the District as a Lighthouse District, the highest level of recognition given to schools by AASA; identifies exemplary school districts across the US; members of the Learning 2025 Network; will be recognized in Washington DC in June
- District received the “Best Communities for Music Education” designation by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM) for its commitment to music education
- Last week was Educator Appreciation week, thank everyone who helped recognize amazing Lion staff; PTO's, parents, student groups, and administration showed appreciation for amazing educators and the work they do
- Tom Vander Ark, national leader, researcher and author, this month wrote about the District and our work on data science; quite an exciting moment for the District
- Commencement on June 8, at 7:00 PM in the Stadium; rain date of June 9 at 7:00 PM or June 10 at 9:00 AM.
- Boys volleyball team won vs South Park; girls lacrosse lost; girls softball won, boys lacrosse playing tomorrow

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.

Due to the Act 1 timeline which requires the 2023-2024 Proposed Final Budget be approved 30 days prior to the approval of the 2023-2024 Final Budget, the Board is required to approve the 2023-2024 Proposed Final Budget at the May 23, 2023 meeting. The Board will retain the authority to increase or decrease the expenditure amounts and final tax millage amount prior to approval of the 2023-2024 Final Budget at the June 27, 2023 meeting.

1. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler recommend Board approval of the 2023-2024 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Title III Consortium Memorandum of Understanding. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt the Proposed Final Budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The proposed final budget revenue of \$ _____ and expenses of \$ _____ balances with a millage rate of _____, and borrowing from the Fund Balance in the amount of \$ _____. This will leave a total estimated fund balance of \$ _____. We will continue to look at the budgeted revenue and expense amounts throughout the next month, making recommendations to further revise the 2023-2024 Final Budget. (We are required by law to adopt the 2023-2024 final budget by June 30, 2023.)
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to authorize budget transfers resulting from local independent audit reclassifications made subsequent to June 30, 2022, or other closing date. If any transfers are necessary after the fiscal year end, appropriate detail will be supplied to the Board for ratification.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to appoint the School Depository for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:
 - PNC Bank (Main Depository)
 - Pennsylvania Treasurer's INVEST Program (Investment Account)

- Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (Check Writing and Investment Account)
 - Citizens Bank (Construction Fund Account)
 - PLGIT (Construction Fund Account)
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to renew the following insurance policies for 2023-2024 as proposed by CMRegent and UPMC through Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc.:

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
• Package, with Auto, plus Fraudulent Impersonations (CMRegent)	\$147,627	\$151,440	\$176,777
• Umbrella (CMRegent-\$10,000,000 coverage)	\$ 20,784	\$ 20,856	\$ 20,998
• Workers Compensation (UPMC)	\$118,454	\$120,684	\$136,689
• School Leaders Errors/Omissions (CMRegent)	\$ 18,382	\$ 19,174	\$ 19,537

Sports and Student Accident Insurance – Bollinger Insurance Company, as follows:

• Athletic Plan AAA – Primary	\$ 18,648	\$ 18,648	\$ 18,648
• Student Plan – School Time Coverage	\$ 30	\$ 30	\$ 30
• Student Plan – 24-hour coverage	\$ 113	\$ 113	\$ 112

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance/HR Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with PowerSchool Group LLC to provide training and implementation of a recruitment and selection module at an annual cost of \$8,400, beginning July 1, 2023. There will be a one-time cost of \$5,430.00 for professional services and setup fees which are included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the School-Based Access Program (SBAP) Support Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2023-2024 school year.
8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the Behavioral Health Professional Services Agreement, as approved by the Superintendent and Solicitor, between Allegheny Clinic and the District. The Clinic will provide the Chill Project by AHN to the High School and Middle School, and will also provide school based behavioral health services to the four school buildings as outlined in the agreement, effective August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024.
9. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the Comprehensive Services Agreement, including Addendum A: Special Education Services, with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2023-2024 school year.
10. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval of a partnership with Green Building Alliance to provide resources and support, as needed, for environmentally supportive initiatives, effective May 24, 2023. There is no cost to the District.

11. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to create Esports spaces in both the Middle School and High School in preparation for a trial Esports Club, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. The costs associated with the creation of these spaces is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
12. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase (TELP) for a new District server infrastructure replacement at an annual amount of \$45,443.07 for sixty (60) months with Dell Financial, with a \$1.00 buyout at the end of the 60-month lease. This Lease Purchase is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
13. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the Esports Program at the Middle School and High School of a Fair Market Value (FMV) Lease of 13 desktop computers and 14 desktop monitors at an annual amount of \$10,555.39, for a fifty-one (51) month lease with Dell Financial. This FMV Lease is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
14. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of a Standard Work Order from Crossroads Speech & Hearing, Inc., to provide a second speech-language therapist for the District's Extended School Year (ESY) program that will operate for 5 weeks in the summer of 2023.

Information – 2023 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution 23-01, the final will be approved in June 2023.

PERSONNEL

1. The Superintendent and Elementary School Principal recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request for a Grade 2 teacher in the Elementary School, effective on or about May 9, 2023. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
2. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services recommend Board approval to hire an Access Coordinator, pending receipt of required documents, effective May 30, 2023. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
3. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services recommend Board approval of the FMLA leave of absence request for a Paraeducator in the Middle School effective retroactive to May 8, 2023. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
4. The Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal recommend Board approval to hire a Building Substitute in the Intermediate School, effective retroactive to April 27, 2023. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
5. The Superintendent and Director of Finance recommend Board approval to hire the Sub Call-Off Person, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
6. The Superintendent and High School Principal recommend Board approval of the retirement/resignation of a Science teacher in the High School effective July 31, 2023. The employee has been employed by the District since August 2012.

7. The Superintendent, Facilities Director, and Custodial Shift Manager recommend Board approval of the retirement/resignation of a Custodian in the High School. The employee's last day worked will be August 11, 2023 and has been employed by the District since August 2013.
8. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal recommend Board approval of the leave of absence request for a Grade 6 Science teacher in the Middle School effective for the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
9. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services recommend Board approval of Substitute Personal Care and Classroom Paraeducators for the ESY program in the Summer of 2023.
10. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services recommend Board approval to hire a Speech Language Therapist, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new position due to the transfer of entities from the AIU to the District for this position (approved in March 2023).
11. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval to hire the following personnel for the Summer Orchestra Camp which will be held from Monday, July 24, 2023 through Thursday, July 27, 2023. They each will be paid for 5 hours of instruction per day, 1 additional hour for the concert and 7 hours of planning/preparation.

- IS Orchestra Camp Director
- MS Orchestra Camp Director

12. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the following EPRs:

IS Specials Teacher – Teaching more than 7 classes (effective 2022-2023 school year)
EPR Nurse – Prom (effective retroactive to May 12, 2023)
Extra-curricular Paraeducator – Prom (effective retroactive to May 12, 2023)

13. The Superintendent and Aquatics Directors recommend Board approval to hire Lifeguards and Swim Instructors, pending receipt of required documents, effective June 1, 2023.
14. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent recommend Board approval to hire a teacher for the Hybrid Online Summer Remediation Geometry Course that will run from June 12, 2023, through July 20, 2023. The teacher will be paid for a total of 40 hours of instruction.
15. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent recommend Board approval to hire a teacher for the Hybrid Online Summer Remediation Algebra I Course that will run from June 12, 2023, through July 20, 2023. The teacher will be paid for a total of 40 hours of instruction.
16. The Superintendent recommends Board approval of the following reappointments for the 2023-2024 school year:
 - (a) School Board Treasurer
 - (b) Tucker Arensberg, P. C. as School District Solicitor

17. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval for two students from Slippery Rock University, to complete their student teaching, pending receipt of required documents, from August 21, 2023 through December 7, 2023. There will be no cost to the District.
18. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval for a student from Duquesne University to complete student teaching from March 4, 2024 through April 26, 2024, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.
19. The Superintendent, Athletic Director, and Head Girls Softball Coach recommend Board approval of the status change for a paid Assistant Softball Coach to a Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach, effective for the 2022-2023 season.
20. The Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and the spring head coaches recommend Board approval of the following compensations to be paid in June 2023.
 - Boys Baseball
 - Girls Softball
 - Spring Track
 - Girls 7/8th Grade Volleyball
 - Girls & Boys 7/8th Grade Swimming
 - Boys Tennis
 - Boys Volleyball
 - Girls Lacrosse
 - Boys Lacrosse
 - Competitive Cheerleading
 - Team Cheerleading
21. The Superintendent and Athletic Director recommend Board approval for Assistant Athletic Director to receive the last half of his pay in June 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year. The other portion was paid in December 2022.
22. The Superintendent and Athletic Director recommend Board approval for Assistant Athletic Director to receive the last half of her pay in June 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year. The other portion was paid in December 2022.
23. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the retirement/resignation of a Student Monitor in the Intermediate School. The employee's last day worked will be June 8, 2023 and has been employed by the District since September 2012.

EDUCATION

1. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the Flexible Instructional Days (FID) effective for the 2023-2024 school year. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**
2. The Superintendent and High School Principals recommend Board approval to permit James Hausman and an additional chaperone TBD to accompany 4 students to participate in the 2023 Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference being held at the Kentucky National Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky from Tuesday, June 27, 2023 through Sunday, July 2, 2023. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. There will be no cost to the district. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**

3. The Board considered the recommendation of Superintendent and Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison for Board approval for the District to partner with the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University to host a 3-4 day User-Centered Design & Innovation Summer Institute for up to 20 High School students, the week of July 10, 2023 on the Carnegie Mellon Campus. There is no cost for the students. The cost for the District will be transportation and is included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone for Board approval to enter into an agreement for a one-year pilot with GoFormative to provide a web-based tool that will allow teachers to create digital formative assessments, tasks, or assignments, effective September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024. The cost to the District is \$2,647.27 and included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone for Board approval to hold a Summer Orchestra Camp in the summer of 2023. The camp will be held from Monday, July 24, 2023 through Thursday, July 27, 2023. The morning session will run from 9:30 AM to 11:45 AM and the afternoon session will run from 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM. Both sessions will be open to orchestra students entering grades 4 through 8. There will be a concert on Thursday, July 27, 2023. The \$40.00 registration fee will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the following as online course providers for the 2023-2024 school year. The costs will be included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
 - Educere
 - Edgenuity through Seneca Valley
 - University of Missouri
 - Waterfront Learning (AIU)
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to dispose of the attached list of High School English, math, and science books as per Board Policy 706.1. The District will attempt to resell the textbooks; if not, they will be donated.

TRANSPORTATION

There were no items discussed.

ATHLETICS

There were no items discussed.

CONSTRUCTION

There were no items discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Superintendent and Solicitor recommend Board approval of the Stipulated Adjudication Agreement pertaining to a student. **(needs Board action taken on May 16)**

2. The Board considered appointing Lena Hannah and _____ as delegates to participate in the PSBA Delegate Assembly meeting to be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. This will be a hybrid event, allowing delegates to have the choice of attending in-person or via a zoom connection. The in-person attendance will be at PSBA Headquarters in Mechanicsburg, PA and available for the first 120 delegates who register for the in-person option. All remaining delegates will participate via Zoom.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Mrs. Geisler read the following email:

To the South Fayette Township School Board,

My name is Kavvya Ravikumar, and I recently graduated from the South Fayette Township School District last year.

I sincerely request the following public comment be read aloud at the first meeting of this month (May 16, 2023):

As a student who has firsthand seen the highly competitive and ambitious school environment that the South Fayette Township School District boasts, I have come to the understanding that this environment not only fosters phenomenal student performance but also subjects students to extreme amounts of stress.

I plead, not only as a student but as a fellow peer to all students residing in the district, that the school board take the following actions to reduce student stress and improve the school environment as a whole:

- 1) Removing mandates for students to take AP exams for every single AP class they have taken so that they can not only save money on each exam but also focus more time and energy on only taking AP exams that their colleges of choice require (thereby reducing their stress and allowing them to also not be stressed for other school responsibilities that appear during the final quarter of the school year such as final exams, final papers, as well as SAT and ACT exams)

- 2) Mandating that there is no summer work over summer break (something our neighboring school district, Upper St. Clair School District, has already done)—by removing summer work requirements over the break, not only will students be able to pursue enriching activities that they were unable to during the school year, but they will also get to spend time with family and friends without any restrictions. Teachers and professors will also get more time to do the same and have more time to put toward plans for the upcoming school year rather than putting so much time toward answering inquiries or grading summer work.

- 3) Mandating limits on homework and tests: in the Western Allegheny School District, there have been limits on homework mandating that students in grades 7 to 9 and grades 10 to 12 do not spend time on homework exceeding 90 minutes and 2 hours, respectively, including the time that students may spend in preparation for exams or tests a week or two prior to their exams; this will not only limit the amount of stress students are facing, allowing them to perform better on exams, homework, and other assignments, but will also allow teachers to not be grading such an excess of homework and exams and ensure that they have more time to focus on other materials of student importance.

I sincerely thank the South Fayette Township School Board for giving the community an opportunity to voice our views for the benefit of our students and our school district.

I truly hope that the Student Board is able to take action on behalf of our students in order to ensure their well-being, utmost happiness, and best possible school performance.

Respectfully,

Kavvya Ravikumar

Undergraduate, University of Pittsburgh

There were no additional comments at this time.

Hannah seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the 2023-2024 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Title III Consortium Memorandum of Understanding.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Elizabeth Frambes, Grade 2 teacher in the Elementary School, effective May 9, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to hire Deborah Herbster as the Access Coordinator, pending receipt of required documents, effective May 30, 2023, at the rate of \$26,200, prorated for the 2022-2023 school year. Her next eligible date for a salary increase will be July 1, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the FMLA leave of absence request for Nancy Iannarelli, Paraeducator in the Middle School, effective retroactive to May 8, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Nicole Lally as a Building Substitute in the Intermediate School, at the rate of \$150.00 per day, effective retroactive to April 27, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to hire Joan Fordeley as the Sub Call-Off Person, at the rate of \$9,000, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the Flexible Instructional Days (FID) effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval to permit James Hausman and an additional chaperone TBD to accompany 4 students to participate in the 2023 Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference being held at the Kentucky National Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky from Tuesday, June 27, 2023 through Sunday, July 2, 2023. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. There will be no cost to the district.

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

Iriti seconded Welch to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary