



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
7:30 PM

Minutes

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:43 p.m. in the Studio in the High School by President Tom Iagnemma with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Iagnemma 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: Esther Cardillo, Rebecca Bruce, William Gray, Jen Iriti, Len Fornella, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma

Present Virtually: Prajakta Patankar

Absent: Jen Iriti

Others: Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C., Superintendent Dr. Michelle Miller, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, Director of Finance Brian Tony, Student Representative Alekhya Buragadda, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, Susan Vasalani and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary (present virtually), Molly Fuchs, Molly Ellis, Stacey Tomlinson, Carolyn Potts Mandy Evans, Rhonda Fratto, Angela Vogel, Eckfak Kacem, Myriam Fowler, Wendy Williams, Lauren Crossen, Sophia McNavish, Shelly Clevenger, Aimee Dernosek, Melissa Berry, Jen Greenawald, Leslie Willetts

President Iagnemma announced the meeting is being recorded.

Director of Finance Brian Tony provided information related to the 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget.

- Proposed Final Budget needs Board approval at tonight's meeting
- Approved 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget will be on public display in the administration offices
- Projected enrollment: 3,554
- Revenue/expenditure running totals
- Millage options: no increase, 26.7; .25 millage increase to 26.95; to the index of 1.896 millage increase to 28.569; other options 1.0 millage increase to 27.7
- In comparison with other districts' millage rate, South Fayette is 12th of 41 districts with Upper St. Clair and Mt. Lebanon being significantly higher.
- Recommended approving the Proposed Final Budget to the index, a millage increase of 1.896; continue to make adjustments prior to the approval of the Final Budget in June
- Student Revenue and Growth: cost to educate per student exceeds the school tax received, need grants and other ways to create revenue to cover the cost
- Review of expenditures, how millage impacts the taxpayer, value of a mil, district tuition rates in relation to area school districts

The Board asked clarifying questions related to required funds for PSERs payments, the maximum budget deficit, the cost of student education, and expenditures related to new hires.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Committee Meeting
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

2. The Board considered approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

Athletic Fund
High School Activity Fund
Middle School Activity Fund
Board Summary Report (April 2024)

Mark Keener
Sharon Aprea
Sharon Aprea
Brian Tony

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 on the following.

- Commencement will be held on June 4, with rain dates scheduled for June 5 and June 6.
- Many events are planned for seniors and their families including the senior breakfast, senior walk through, and senior parade
- Spring Athletes: Many track athletes took the top 3 spots in their respective WPIAL events. Olivia Renk earned a first place medal in the 100 and 200 meter dash; volleyball, baseball, and softball teams had great seasons, boys and girls lacrosse teams were in the semifinal, and the boys play tomorrow in the WPIAL Championship at Robert Morris tomorrow at 8 p.m.
- The South Fayette Foundation of Excellence (SFFE) Golf Outing will be held on July 22. Golfers are welcome to attend. Maureen Pedzwater is stepping down as director of SFFE. Plans for her replacement are being discussed. Mrs. Pedzwater has been an incredible school leader and has dedicated her time and energy to the Foundation, providing opportunities for our Lion Learners and Educators.
- Mr. Callison arranged multiple school tours for educators across the country (e.g. Kansas City, Missouri, Ohio, New York) related to World of Work, innovative practices, and innovative instructional spaces.
- Dr. Deichler planned the second annual Medallion Gala which was held in May to recognize staff members who are future focused, student centered, and innovation driven.
- Parkway lost power today. Students who attend Parkway stayed at the high school and will have virtual, flexible instruction tomorrow. Parents will receive additional information from Parkway and South Fayette.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Due to the Act 1 timeline which requires the 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget be approved 30 days prior to the approval of the 2024-2025 Final Budget, the Board is required to approve the 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget at the May 21, 2024 meeting. The Board will retain the authority to increase or decrease the expenditure amounts and final tax millage amount prior to approval of the 2024-2025 Final Budget at the June 25, 2024 meeting.

Bruce seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the proposal from Tower Engineering. The Professional Services fee will be a lump sum of \$53,300.

Voice Vote - All Yes

Welch seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt the Proposed Final Budget for the 2024-2025 school year. The proposed final budget revenue of \$ 78,201,401 and expenses of \$ 80,654,108 balances with a millage rate of 28.569, and borrowing from the Fund Balance in the amount of \$ 2,452,707. This will leave a total estimated fund balance of \$ 28,308,842. We will continue to look at the budgeted revenue and expense amounts throughout the next month, making recommendations to further revise the 2024-2025 Final Budget. (We are required by law to adopt the 2024-2025 final budget by June 30, 2024.)

Roll Call - Bruce, Burroughs, Cardillo, Fornella, Gray, Patankar, Welch, Iagnemma - All Yes
Absent - Iriti

Bruce seconded Welch in the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the 2024-2025 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Title III Consortium Memorandum of Understanding.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the addendum to the 2024-2025 AIU Comprehensive Services Agreement for School-Based Access Program (SBAP) Support Services.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the AIU's Educational Services Agreement to utilize the McMurray campus for an emotional support placement effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Voice Vote - All Yes

1. 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, 2023, or other closing date. If any transfers are necessary after the fiscal year end, appropriate detail will be supplied to the Board for ratification.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to appoint the School Depository for the 2024-2025 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)

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to renew the following insurance policies for 2024-2025 as proposed by CMRegent and UPMC through Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc.

	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
• Package, with Auto, plus Fraudulent Impersonations (CMRegent)	\$151,440	\$176,777	211,653
• Umbrella (CMRegent-\$10,000,000 coverage)	\$ 20,856	\$ 20,998	\$ 3,108
• Workers Compensation (UPMC)	\$120,684	\$136,689	\$149,103
• School Leaders Errors/Omissions (CMRegent)	\$ 19,174	\$ 19,537	\$ 23,725
• Cyber Liability (\$1,000,000 Coverage)	\$		
(\$2,000,000 Coverage)	\$ 24,651	\$ 24,651	\$ 24,651

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

• Athletic Plan AAA – Primary	\$ 18,648	\$ 18,648	\$ 18,648
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4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a revision to the annual payment for the Dell 1:1 Lease of 1,200 student laptops for the High School, 100 staff laptops Districtwide, and 30 all-in-one computers for the Middle School Computer Lab at an annual amount not to exceed \$270,752.80, for fifty-one (51) months with Dell Financial. The lease has been changed to non-tax exempt. The original motion was approved at the April 23, 2024 meeting. This is included in the proposed 2024-2025 budget.
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a revision to the annual payment for the 70 new Dell Chromebooks for District staff (paraeducators) and ten (10) Dell Latitudes for maintenance and transportation staff at an annual amount not to exceed \$15,431.54 for fifty-three (53) months with Dell Financial, with a \$1.00 buyout at the end of the 53-month lease. The lease has been changed to non-tax exempt. The original motion was approved at the April 23, 2024 meeting. This is included in the proposed 2024-2025 budget.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval of the Concurrent Enrollment Agreement (pending review by the Solicitor) with La Roche University effective August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. There will be no cost to the District.
7. 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., (as reviewed by the solicitor) 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 2024.

Information – 2024 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution 24-01, the final will be approved in June 2024.

Brian Tony stated that there will be an increase which will be a benefit for taxpayers.

PERSONNEL

Gray seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following Building Substitutes:

- Maria Rowe, Elementary School, effective retroactive to May 8, 2024
- Julia Horick, Intermediate School effective retroactive to May 20, 2024

Voice Vote - All Yes

Gray seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal for Board approval to hire Olivia Iagnemma as a Building Substitute teacher in the Intermediate School effective retroactive to May 8, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Voice Vote - All Yes
Abstained - Iagnemma

Gray seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal for Board approval to hire Diana Maitland Elementary School Administrative Assistant effective July 1, 2024. Effective July 17, 2024, they will become the Lead Administrative Assistant.

Voice Vote - All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for the Board Secretary that is effective July 1, 2024, to be appointed as the Board Secretary of Record effective June 1, 2024.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal for Board approval of the leave of absence requests for the following teachers in the Elementary School:
 - Grade 2 teacher, effective on or around May 16, 2024
 - Learning Support Teacher, effective on or around September 8, 2024
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal for Board approval of the leave of absence request for a Special Education teacher in the High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following personnel for the Elementary and Intermediate School STEAM Camps (Board approved in March). The camps will be held from Monday, July 8, 2024, through Thursday, July 11, 2024:
 - ES and IS Camp Director
 - IS Camp Teachers
 - ES Camp Teachers
 - ES Camp NurseInformational – no nurse is required for the IS Camp as a nurse will already be present in the building during the same time for the ESY camp.
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following EPRs for the 2023-2024 school year:

EPR Nurse – Prom (effective retroactive to May 10, 2024)
Extra-curricular Personal Care Paraeducator – Prom (effective retroactive to May 10, 2024)
EPR Nurse – Summer STEAM Camp

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Board approval to hire a teacher for the Hybrid Online Summer Remediation Algebra I Course that will run from June 10, 2024, through July 18, 2024. The teacher will be paid for a total of 40 hours of instruction at the current EPR rate.
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Board approval to hire a teacher for the Hybrid Online Summer Remediation Geometry I Course that will run from June 10, 2024, through July 18, 2024. The teacher will be paid for a total of 40 hours of instruction at the current EPR rate.
8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director for Board approval of the FMLA request of a Custodian, retroactive to April 22, 2024.
9. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA request of a Bus Driver, retroactive to May 1, 2024.
10. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services for Board approval for a student earning a Master's at Eastern University, to complete clinical hours with the Elementary School nurse, effective for the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year. There is no cost to the District.
11. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for approval of the following reappointments:
 - (a) School Board Treasurer for 2024-2025
 - (b) School District Solicitor for 2024-2025
12. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director, and Head Boys Varsity Volleyball Coach for Board approval to change the status of a Volunteer Assistant Coach to a paid Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach, effective for the 2023-2024 season.
13. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and the spring head coaches for Board approval of compensations for the following coaches to be paid in June 2024.

Boys Baseball

Head Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Assistant Coach
 Assistant Coach

Girls Softball

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach

Spring Track

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Head 7/8th Grade Coach
Asst. 7/8th Grade Coach
Asst. 7/8th Grade Coach
Asst. 7/8th Grade Coach

Girls 7/8th Grade Volleyball

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach

Girls & Boys 7/8th Grade Swimming

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach

Boys Tennis

Head Coach
Assistant Coach

Boys Volleyball

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach

Girls Lacrosse

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach

Boys Lacrosse

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach

Cheerleading – Competitive Cheerleading

Team Cheerleading

Head Coach

14. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director for Board approval for an Assistant Athletic Director to receive the last half of his pay in June 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. The other portion was paid in December 2023.

15. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director for Board approval for an Assistant Athletic Director to receive the last half of her pay in June 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year. The other portion was paid in December 2023.

EDUCATION

1. The Board considered 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 2024 Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference being held in Orlando, Florida from Tuesday, June 25, 2024, through Sunday, June 30, 2024. There will be no cost to the district.
The Board agreed to vote on this item at the next meeting due to insufficient information.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Middle School Principal Dr. Eric Crimone for Board approval of the proposed course title changes for the Middle School Program of Studies effective for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - Previous Course Title: Industrial Arts 6, New Course Title: Technology Education 6
 - Previous Course Title: Industrial Arts 7, New Course Title: Technology Education 7
 - Previous Course Title: Industrial Arts 8, New Course Title: Technology Education 8

TRANSPORTATION

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of Three Rivers Limousine Service, Inc. as an approved contractor to transport South Fayette students, effective June 1, 2024. The costs are included in the 2023-2024 budget and the 2024-2025 budget.

ATHLETICS

There were no items to discuss.

CONSTRUCTION

There were no items to discuss.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items to discuss.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Leslie Willetts, president of the South Fayette Educational Support Professionals, commented the following. As the President of the South Fayette Educational Support Professionals [sic], we are confident we can achieve this [sic] when both the Union and the district leadership including board members and administrators, work together. I know that we share the same goals of meeting the needs of our students every day, making sure every building and bus has the capable staff, and support services that are needed to keep our district running, and the support and strengthening of our staff and district together. So, reaching a collective bargain agreement ahead of the expiration of our current contract is one way we can achieve these important goals together. I thank you for your time.

The following was an email comment.

Hello Board Members, I hope this email finds you well. I'm emailing to express concerns regarding the number of changes that have occurred regarding the 2023-2024 district calendar since its initial approval. Each time a change occurred, a revised district calendar was provided, along with an email. My concern is that the old calendars are still available on the website. This can cause significant confusion as to which calendar is the "most recently approved," when attempting to quickly access the calendar via a google search. Why are the old calendars still available? Secondly, I'd like to inquire about what professional training occurs during the 2-hour delay Mondays which occur 1 time per month. I believe having access to this information would better help me understand the necessity of having monthly 2-hour delays, which makes having two full-time working parents difficult for our family. Thank you for your response, and kindest regards. Sincerely, Monika Chiesa

Fornella seconded Burroughs to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary