



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, June 18, 2024
7:30 PM

MINUTES

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:53 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: William Gray, Jen Iriti, Len Fornella, Prajakta Patankar, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma, Teresa Burroughs

Absent: Esther Cardillo, Rebecca Bruce

Others: Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C., Superintendent Dr. Michelle Miller, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, Director of Finance Brian Tony, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, Board Secretary Susan Vasalani

President Iagnemma announced the meeting is being recorded.

Director of Finance Brian Tony provided an update related to the 2024-2025 Final Budget which was presented requires Board approval on June 25, 2024

- Approved 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget is on public display in the administration office
- Projected enrollment: 3,554
- Reviewed revenue/expenditure differences from May to June including the PA Smart Grant being unavailable, an increase in Title 1 and Title 2 funds, and an increase in Access funding.
- Provided updated calculations based on millage options along with the impact on taxpayers
- In comparison with other districts' millage rate, South Fayette is 12th of 41 districts with Upper St. Clair and Mt. Lebanon being significantly higher.
- Review of expenditures, how millage impacts the taxpayer, value of a mil, district tuition rates in relation to area school districts
- The transportation allocation from the state will be delayed resulting in a shortfall of \$250,000. Funds will eventually be received, but uncertain of when.

Board asked clarifying questions related to debt services, transportation funds from the state, the projection of the final budget as it relates to past years, and construction funds.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Committee Meeting	Tuesday, May 21, 2024
Regular Meeting	Tuesday, May 28, 2024

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	Sharon Aprea
Middle School Activity Fund	Sharon Aprea
Board Summary Report (May 2024)	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

- Commencement was held on June 4; thanked Dr. Dirda and Mrs. Holley for their leadership and planning as well as the administration and board members who attended
- Dr. Miller and Dr. Deichler led the Leadership Team's Operational Planning professional development from June 10-13.
- Ryan Neely, new Finance Director, and Nicolle Pleil, new Food Service Director, will begin on July 1, 2024. Thomas (T.J.) Salopek, new assistant high school principal, joined on June 3.
- This week at Avonworth School District, teachers in grades K-8 participated in World of Work training for the four pilot districts. World of Work will be fully implemented in grades K-8 in the coming school year.
- Recognized retiring Board Secretary and Superintendent's Administrative Assistant Cindy Geisler who has served the District for 18 years. Dr. Miller thanked her for her service to the District, faculty, staff, community, and Lion Learners.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Gray seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the following increase/decrease in Fund Balance designations to be effective retroactive to June 1, 2024.

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
• Commitment for OPEB	\$7,763,473.00	\$7,763,473.00
• Administrative Assignment - Commitment for 2023-2024 Budget Deficit	\$5,804,614.00	\$5,804,614.00
• Commitment for Capital Projects	\$8,949,924.00	\$9,655,502.00
• Commitment for PSERS	\$4,500,000.00	\$4,500,000.00
• Restricted (Healthcare)	\$ 527,489.00	\$ 527,489.00
• Unassigned	\$5,216,049.00	\$4,510,471.00

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 Comprehensive Services Agreement, including Addendum A: Special Education Services, with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2024-2025 school year.

Voice Vote - All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt the Final Budget for the 2024-2025 school year. The final budget revenue of \$_____ and expenses of \$_____ would balance with a _____ millage rate and borrowing from the fund balance in the amount of \$_____.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval of the following 2024-2025 tuition rates for non-resident students. This amount is determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with the requirements of Section 2561 of the Pennsylvania School Code.
 1. Grades 7 through 12 \$14,785.74
 2. Grades K through 6 \$11,023.49
 3. Kindergarten (1/2 elementary) \$ 5,511.94
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the School District Solicitor Chris Voltz, the Superintendent, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt Resolution 24-01, 2024 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion, for the District to reduce property taxes, for qualified homestead/farmstead properties by \$206.21. In accordance with the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) the District must reduce property taxes beginning July 1, 2024.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt revised Resolution 24-02 for the 2024-2025 school year permitting taxpayers to pay their real estate taxes in three (3) installments.
5. 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 to enter into an agreement (solicitor completed review) with The Watson Institute to provide classroom planning, observation and direct consultation services, effective to July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to enter into an Internship Agreement (per solicitor's review) with Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest) for students to complete their practical experiences, effective for one year from the date of the final signature of the Agreement. There will be no cost to the district.
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to enter into a Post-Secondary Program/Public School District Service Agreement (per solicitor's review) with St. Anthony School to provide placement of a student at Duquesne University, effective August 26, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Technology Rob Warfield for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Consolidated Communications for local and long distance phone service for a period of 36 months beginning July 1, 2024. The monthly cost will be \$1,352.55 plus applicable taxes and is included in the 2024-2025.

PERSONNEL

The Superintendent proudly announced that tenure was earned by the following teachers who have been employed since January 2021 and August 2021 and have fulfilled all requirements as set forth in Pennsylvania School Code, Title 24, PS 11-1108.

- Payal Mital, Biology, High School
- Keven Gregg, Social Studies, High School

Iriti seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval to hire Mary Josey as the High School BCIT teacher, at the Bachelor's Step 1 rate of \$51,750, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents. This is due to a resignation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of three Shuttle Drivers for the commencement ceremony, retroactive to June 4, 2024.

- Lorie Mebane
- Bob Meehan
- Wendy Williams

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of four Parking Attendants for the commencement ceremony, retroactive to June 4, 2024.

- Andrew Schnelbach
- Steve Hennon
- Sharon Matrazzo
- Judi Bedillion

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the resignation of Pratima Jukalkar, Elementary School Breakfast Monitor, Student Monitor, and Paraprofessional-Classroom Monitor, retroactive to June 4, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Aquatics Co-Directors for Board approval of four new swim instructors, retroactive to June 15, 2024.

- Cloey Barnes
- Caroline Stoecklein
- Carrie Fisher
- Addison Bowers

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Aquatics Co-Directors for Board approval of three lifeguards, retroactive to June 15, 2024.

- Kevin Wang
- Camille Berg
- Jayla Alex

Voice Vote – All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval for the following EPR positions for the ESY summer program.
 - Substitute Paraeducator/Personal Care Paraeducator
 - Personal Care Paraeducator
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to accept the sabbatical leave of absence request for a 4th Grade teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of the FMLA request for a Custodian, retroactive from May 28, 2024, to May 31, 2024.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following personnel for the Summer Orchestra Camp which will be held from Monday, July 29, 2024, through Thursday, August 1, 2024. 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
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Board approval for a student from Robert Morris University, to complete her student teaching with a Biology teacher at the High School, from August 28, 2024 - December 13, 2024. There will be no cost to the District.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener and Head Varsity Football Coach Marty Spieler for Board approval to hire an Assistant Varsity Football Coach effective for the 2024-2025 season, pending receipt of required documents.
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and High School Principal Dr. Dirda for Board approval of the coaches for the following sports for the 2024-2025 season, pending receipt of required documents.

Boys Baseball

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Volunteer Assistant Coach
Volunteer Assistant Coach

Girls Softball

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Head 7/8th Grade Coach
Volunteer Assistant 7/8th Grade Coach

Girls & Boys Swimming/Diving

Head Coach
Assistant Coach/Diving Coach
Head 7/8th Grade Coach
Assistant 7/8th Grade & Varsity Coach
Assistant 7/8th Grade & Varsity Coach
Volunteer Diving Coach

Track

Spring Head Coach/Track Coordinator
Spring Assistant Track Coach
Spring Assistant Track Coach
Spring Assistant Track Coach
Spring Assistant Track Coach

Head 7/8th Grade Track Coach & Assistant Varsity Coach
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach
Winter Head Coach/Track Coordinator
Winter Assistant Track Coach
Winter Assistant Track Coach
Winter Assistant Track Coach

Girls 7/8th Grade Volleyball

Head Coach
Assistant Coach
Assistant Coach
Volunteer 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

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

8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for a student at the University of Pittsburgh to complete a minimum of 90 hours with the Superintendent as part of intern requirements for the Superintendents' Letter of Eligibility program, effective through the 2024-2025 school year. There will be no cost to the District.

EDUCATION

Burroughs seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison for Board approval of an Agreement for Professional Services with Stanford University to provide professional development services during the 2024-2025 school year as part of the data science component of Project ASCENT. The cost will be paid from the PASmart grant.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, Director of Curriculum Cristine Wagner-Deitch, and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval for an optional honors credit program for the Cybersecurity 2 course. Students taking this course may choose to receive honors credit if they complete an additional capstone project.

Voice Vote – All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Curriculum Cristine Wagner-Deitch, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to dispose of the attached list of High School science and social studies books as per Board Policy 706.1. The District will attempt to resell the textbooks; if not, they will be donated.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval for Adrienne Endy and approved chaperones to accompany the High School Social Studies Travel Group on an international trip to France in the summer of 2026. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. There will be no cost to the District.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to renew the agreement with TeachFX to provide an app-based professional development tool effective for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost is not to exceed \$10,000 and will be covered by the 2023-2024 Ready to Learn Grant funds.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent to attend the League of Innovative Schools Fall 2024 Convening in Lindsay, California, from September 30, 2024, through October 2, 2024. The conference is for superintendents only. The cost will be included in the 2024-2025 budget.
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Robert Morris University to offer college in high school (CHIS) courses for the 2024-2025 school year. There will be no cost to the District.

TRANSPORTATION

Burroughs seconded Gray on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval for the District to provide one 72-passenger school bus for the 2024 South Fayette Township Touch-a-Truck event scheduled for Sunday, July 14, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Fairview Park. The cost to the District is estimated at \$246.63, and includes driver salary/benefits and fuel.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

There were no comments from residents and/or taxpayers.

Burroughs seconded Welch to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and return to Executive Session.
President Iagnemma announced there will not be any votes taken after the Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Executive Session may be held to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.