



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2024  
7:30 PM

## MINUTES

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 8:14 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

**Present Virtually:** Jen Iriti, Joe Welch

**Absent:** Teresa Burroughs

**Others:** Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C., Superintendent Dr. Michelle Miller, Director of Finance Brian Tony, Teachers Dana Populo and Jodi Jack, Molly Fuchs, Molly Ellis, Stacey Tomlinson, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, Board Secretary Susan Vasalani

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

- Approved 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget has been available to the public 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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Patankar seconded Gray on the approval of Minutes from the following meetings:

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

And on the 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

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 on authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$930,395.08 beginning with check number 77724 through check number 77944 and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$25,756.62 beginning with check number 8700 through check number 8727.

Voice Vote - All Yes

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

There were no comments.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

### **New Business**

Bruce seconded Cardillo on the recommendation of the Solicitor to add the following to Section IV (Education) of the agenda that arose within the last 24 hours, is de minimus in nature and does not involve the expenditure of any District funds: "6. The Superintendent and Solicitor recommend Board Approval for Agreement with Student."

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance to add a motion to Section III (Personnel) which was inadvertently for board approval for the administrative salary adjustments for 2024-2025.

Voice Vote - All Yes

## **BUSINESS OFFICE**

Fornella made a motion to adopt the Final Budget for the 2024-2025 school year with a .5 millage increase as recommended by Director of Finance Brian Tony. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Iriti seconded Bruce to adopt the final budget with no increase to millage. The final budget revenue of \$75,038,220 and expenses of \$80,094,171 will balance with a 26.7 millage rate and borrowing from the fund balance in the amount of \$5,055,951.

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

Bruce seconded Gray on 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.

Grades 7 through 12	\$14,785.74
Grades K through 6	\$11,023.49
Kindergarten (1/2 elementary)	\$ 5,511.94

Voice Vote - All Yes

Iagnemma stated a roll call vote would be taken on the recommendation of the School District Solicitor, 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.

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

Patankar seconded Bruce on 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.

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

Iriti seconded Bruce on 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.

And on 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.

And on 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. (*revised* )

And on 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 with the beginning date to be determined. The monthly cost will be \$1,352.55 plus applicable taxes and is included in the 2024-2025.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of a 4-year Service Contract Agreement with Johnson Controls, to perform annual fire alarm inspections, cleaning, and sensitivity readings for the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School, Elementary School, and Stadium, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028.

And on the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of a 4-year agreement with Johnson Controls to monitor the Panic Alarm System in the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School, Elementary School, Student Support Services building, and the Administration Building/Field House, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028. The total cost will be \$3,500.00 per year and is included in the 2024-2025 budget.

And on the recommendation of Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of an Addendum to the current three-year agreement with Cintas (through US Communities) to supply mats, dust mops, and mechanic uniforms at an annual cost of \$35,000, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. This cost is included in the 2024-2025 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Curriculum Cristine Wagner-Dietch for Board approval to purchase the updated EnVision Math 2.0 workbooks and online resources for grades K through 5. The costs are included in the 2024-2025 budget.

## **PERSONNEL**

Patankar seconded Gray on 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.

- Terry Oberst, Substitute Paraeducator/Personal Care Paraeducator
- Lauren Crossan, Personal Care Paraeducator

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to accept the sabbatical leave of absence request for Brittainy Hambelton, 4th Grade teacher, for the 2024-2025 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of the FMLA request for Anthony Beregi, Custodian, retroactive from May 28, 2024, to May 31, 2024.

And on 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 Christina Crivelli
- MS Orchestra Camp Director Jeanne Tupper

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval for Faith Miller, a student from Robert Morris University, to complete her student teaching with Tomasina Crapis-Breth, Biology teacher at the High School, from August 28, 2024 to December 13, 2024. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener and Head Varsity Football Coach Marty Spieler for Board approval to hire Demetrious Cox as Assistant Varsity Football Coach effective for the 2024-2025 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval of the coaches for the following sports for the 2024-2025 season.

### **Boys Baseball**

Head Coach - Ken Morgan  
Assistant Coach - Craig Wiltrek  
Assistant Coach - Andrew Barney  
Assistant Coach - James Trainor  
Assistant Coach - Jonathon Kletzli  
Assistant Coach - Marc Snider  
Assistant Coach - Ben Murray  
Assistant Coach - Luke Paulson  
Volunteer Assistant Coach - Brett Wilner  
Volunteer Assistant Coach - Nick Yaworski

### **Girls Softball**

Head Coach - Olesia Stasko  
Assistant Coach - Courtney Blocher  
Assistant Coach - Judy Kirkpatrick  
Assistant Coach - Autumn Mozick  
Head 7/8th Grade Coach - Samantha Hartman  
Volunteer Assistant 7/8th Grade Coach - Samantha Baker

### **Girls & Boys Swimming/Diving**

Head Coach - Todd Clark  
Assistant Coach/Diving Coach - A.J. Mannarino  
Head 7/8th Grade Coach - Todd Clark  
Assistant 7/8th Grade & Varsity Coach - Melanie Miller  
Assistant 7/8th Grade & Varsity Coach - Gianna Boburka  
Volunteer Diving Coach - John Gray

### **Track**

Spring Head Coach/Track Coordinator - Scott Litwinovich  
Spring Assistant Track Coach - Joe Winans  
Spring Assistant Track Coach - Elizabeth Kline  
Spring Assistant Track Coach - Robert Reynolds  
Spring Assistant Track Coach - Wes Chappel  
Head 7/8th Grade Track Coach & Assistant Varsity Coach - William Finnerty  
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach - Julia Kuczynski (Denison)  
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach - Matt Timcheck  
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach - Sean McCreery  
Assistant 7/8th Grade Track Coach - Alexis Podgorski (Deyarmin)  
Winter Head Coach/Track Coordinator - Scott Litwinovich  
Winter Assistant Track Coach - Joe Winans  
Winter Assistant Track Coach - Elizabeth Kline  
Winter Assistant Track Coach - William Finnerty

### **Girls 7/8th Grade Volleyball**

Head Coach - Scott Sundgren  
Assistant Coach - Tara Savisky  
Assistant Coach - Justina Yanosik  
Volunteer Assistant Coach - Danielle Rudolph

### **Boys Tennis**

Head Coach - Brian Garlick  
Assistant Coach - Victoria Chagnon

### **Boys Volleyball**

Head Coach - Ron Kelly  
Assistant Coach - Adam Diodata  
Assistant Coach - Alex Verlinich  
Assistant Coach - Ryan Miller

### **Girls Lacrosse**

Head Coach - Michael Jordan  
Assistant Coach - Mike Young  
Assistant Coach - Breanna Martini  
Assistant Coach - Mackenzie Shaak

### **Boys Lacrosse**

Head Coach - Shawn Leydig  
Assistant Coach - Jack Halley  
Assistant Coach - Granville Wagner  
Assistant Coach - John Dunn

Assistant Coach - Dan Senisi

**Cheerleading**

Head Coach - Maggie Conosciuto

Assistant Coach - Elizabeth Frambes

Assistant Coach - Amanda Moon

Assistant Coach - Christine Stilley

7/8th Grade Coach - Stephanie Harris

7/8th Grade Coach - Laura Nagel

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

Voice Vote - All Yes

**New Motions from the June 25, 2024, Executive Session agenda.**

Bruce seconded Gray on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval to hire Jen Drazick as an Elementary School Special Education Teacher (life skills/autistic support), at the Bachelor's Step 2 rate of \$53,195 effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval to hire Angelina Defilice as a High School Art teacher, at the Bachelor's step 1 at the rate of \$51,750, effective date to be determined. This is due to a resignation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the resignation of Colleen Poluszejko, Second Grade Teacher, effective June 21, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval to accept the sabbatical leave of absence request of Melissa Unger, STEAM Teacher, for the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for retroactive Board approval of the following EPR for the 2023-2024 school year:

High School - Stage Crew Sponsor	Taiylor Baumgardner
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And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to renew the contract of Dr. Matt Callison, Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnership, from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029.

Voice Vote - All Yes

Iriti seconded Bruce on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance for Board approval for the administrative salaries for 2024-2025.

Voice Vote - Bruce, Cardillo, Gray, Iriti, Patankar, Welch, Iagnemma - Yes  
Fornella, Gray - No

Fornella stated that he is not opposed to administrative salary increases in general; however, he does not believe they are comparatively fair and equitable across the board.

**I. EDUCATION**

Bruce seconded Iriti on 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.

And on 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.

And on 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.

And on the recommendation to consider Board approval for 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 is included in the 2024-2025 budget.

And on 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.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval for Agreement with Student.

Voice Vote - All Yes

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Patankar seconded Gray on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the District to provide four school buses and drivers, and six drivers for golf carts for the South Fayette Community Day scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The cost to the District is estimated at \$3,494.01, and includes drivers' salary/benefits and fuel.

Voice Vote - All Yes

## **ATHLETICS**

Gray seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a 3-year UPMC Performance Specialist Agreement, pending solicitor approval, beginning with the start of the 2024-2025 school year and will conclude at the end of the 2026-2027 school year. The annual costs will be as follows.

2024-2025	\$121,859
2025-2026	\$125,514
2026-2027	\$129,279

Voice Vote - All Yes

## **CONSTRUCTION**

There are no items to discuss.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

There are no items to discuss.

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

There were no comments.

### **Solicitor's Report**

The Pennsylvania Board of Education released new regulations for sex discrimination investigations that go into effect August 1, 2025. The Solicitor will work with the Administration to be certain employees are trained and aware of their new reporting requirements.

### **Board Comments**

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Executive Committee Report**

**President Tom Iagnemma**

Mr. Iagnemma had no information to report.

##### **B. South Fayette Foundation**

**Jen Iriti**

Mrs. Iriti had no information to report. Mrs. Iriti stated that another liaison is needed as she is unable to attend the meetings at the scheduled time.

##### **C. PSBA/Legislative Committee Report**

**Prajakta Patankar**

There is a cyber risk oversight public education certification available.

##### **D. Parkway West**

**Tom Iagnemma**

Mr. Iagnemma had no information to report.

##### **E. SHASDA**

**Joe Welch**

Mr. Welch had no information to report.

Dr Miller stated the South Fayette Foundation for Excellence Golf Outing will be held on July 22, 2024. Sponsors and basket donations are needed. Golfers are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Miller thanked Director of Finance Brian Tony for his budget presentation. She thanked Director of Food Services Ms. Patricia Woods for her years of service since joining the District in 2002 and wished her well in her retirement.

Iriti seconded Cardillo to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

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