



# South Fayette Township School District

## Committee Meeting of the Whole

### *Minutes – Virtual Meeting*

Tuesday, July 21, 2020  
7:30 PM

The virtual Committee Meeting of the Whole of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:48 PM using Zoom by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella apologized for the late start as the Board held an Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

**Present:** William Ainsworth, Tom Iagnemma, Paul Brinsky, Teresa Burroughs, Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti, Alan Vezzi, Len Fornella

**Absent:** Todd Petrillo

**Others:** See attached list of attendees.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Joe Brennan, PJ Dick provided the following update on the MS Classroom Alterations Project:

- Demo complete; walls/ bulkheads complete; drywall starting July 23
- Plumbing, electrical, and power rough-ins complete; plumbing inspection complete; electrical and framing inspections upcoming
- RFI's regarding duct work and piping to some units in classrooms; additional work
- Submittals complete, final review today
- Masonry onsite tomorrow
- Delay in display boards, arrive prior to August 18, no issue for start of school

President Fornella announced for the HS Roof Replacement Project the number of bids received were lower than expected, only two, and the Board will take formal action to reject all bids later in the meeting.

Dr. Lockette and Stephanie DeLuca explained the current restrictions and reviewed the following changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar for Board approval:

- Shift start date two weeks later to September 2
- Last day of school and graduation will be on June 11, only one week shift
- Four students days turn into additional professional development days August 27 through September 1
- Meets student hours for grades K-5 at 900 hours and grades 6-12 at 990 hours
- Teacher Induction begins August 17
- If opening in the brick and mortar setting, week one will be three days to help students transition to a new learning environment, second week four days and third week full five days

Dr. Lockette, Dr. Evancho, and Stephanie DeLuca reviewed the following, but not limited to, revisions based on feedback from the community, to the draft Health and Safety Plan:

- Add a hybrid/blended model in the yellow phase; following restrictions of no more than 25 people in one space
- AP/honors/college courses added to the Cyber Academy
- Update the plan with a 'yellow phase'

- Create FAQ list to be shared along with the updated H&S Plan and the Enrollment Form

Dr. Evancho and Stephanie DeLuca reviewed the following updates regarding online learning and the Cyber Academy:

- Differentiated between cyber and online learning; green phase in the brick and mortar for grades K-12 functions alongside the cyber academy also for grades K-12 and the different resources for each, content and delivery of services are different; yellow or red phase the entire district is online
- Both online and cyber academy have asynchronous and synchronous learning
- Some scenarios in the cyber academy will depend on enrollment
- Turning in of assignments, assessments, and grading changes for online learning/cyber academy
- PreAP courses added to the Middle School in cyber academy
- Revising enrollment to a 9 week minimum instead of a full semester
- Formal plans presented July 28

The Board discussed which mandates the District will follow, if the county mandates are more restrictive than the state's, the District has to follow the county; chose brick and mortar or cyber academy based on which phase the county is in; continuous learning for quarantined students; student absenteeism is adjusted at the state level.

President Fornella asked for the differences between the cyber academy and online learning to be presented at next week's meeting; many questions, priority 1 safety of students/staff/community and 1A most effective and complete education.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, June 23, 2020
Special Board Meeting	Monday, June 29, 2020

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	Rebecca Bruce
Middle School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the provided list of gifts/donations.
4. The Board considered approval of expenditures that were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

### **Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette**

Dr. Lockette had nothing additional to report at this time.

### **Business Office**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to award the bids to lease/purchase buses. The buses will be purchased through an additional lease schedule with Laurel Capital Corporation. The terms will be for sixty (60) months with a \$1.00 buyout at the end; the bank qualified tax exempt interest rate will be 2.545% and total purchase price of the two-72 passenger buses, one-48 passenger bus, two-24 passenger buses, and one-24 passenger lift van with 2 w/c slots will be \$457,278.00.

**Personnel**

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following personnel for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Victoria Chagnon, High School PE/Health teacher (50%) at the Bachelor’s Step 1 rate of \$48,081 (50%), this is a new position
- Garrett Del Re, High School Social Studies teacher at the Bachelor’s Step 1 rate of \$48,081, this is a new position
- Katherine Deitrick, High School Science teacher at the Master’s Step 1 rate of \$49,903, this is a new position
- Taylor Connors, Middle School Guidance Counselor at the Master’s Step 1 rate of \$49,903, this is a new position
- Kate Rarick, Permanent Substitute Kindergarten teacher, at the Master’s Step 1 rate of \$49,903, prorated, this is due to a leave of absence
- Sarah Karger, Permanent Substitute High School English teacher, at the Master’s Step 1 rate of \$49,903, prorated, this is due to a leave of absence
- Katelyn Luke, School Psychologist, Act 93 10-month position at the salary rate of \$44,304, this is a new position
- Victoria Schreffler, High School Special Education teacher, at the Bachelor’s Step 1 rate of \$48,081, this is a new position

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Caroline Wazenegger as the Arts Alive teacher in the Intermediate School at the Bachelor’s Step 2 rate of \$50,170 effective for the 2020-2021 school year. This position is a new position.

**SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE MOTIONS.**

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of following EPRs for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mentor Teacher for Victoria Chagnon	Sarah Cremonese Rob Eldridge
Mentor Teacher for Garrett Del Re	Shawn McArdle
Mentor Teacher for Katherine Deitrick	Joe Winans
Mentor Teacher for Taylor Connors	Justina Perrott
Mentor Teacher for Kate Rarick	Janelle Reck
Mentor Teacher for Sarah Karger	Jeannie Scott
Mentor Teacher for Alexandra Toras	Jeanne Tupper
Mentor Teacher for Victoria Schreffler	Rebecca Rudy
Mentor Teacher for Caroline Wazenegger	Charlotte Rudolph
HS Spring Musical Director	Chris Elek Eryn Carranza Cara Fornella

Roll Call – Ainsworth, Iagnemma, Brinsky, Burroughs, Hannah, Iriti, Vezzi - All Yes  
Fornella - Abstained

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the list of call as needed substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the following student teachers and their mentor teachers in the High School during the 2020-2021 school year. There are no costs to the District:

- Kira Augustine, from Duquesne University, student teaching with Chris Elek, High School Music teacher from March 1, 2021 through April 23, 2021. There is no cost to the District.
- Jacob Kennedy, from University of Pittsburgh, mentoring with Adrienne Endy, High School French teacher from August 24, 2020 through December 19, 2020, and his student teaching from January 18, 2021 through June 4, 2021.
- Craig Blocksidge, from University of Pittsburgh, mentoring with Megan Hackworth, High School Social Studies teacher from August 24, 2020 through December 19, 2020, and his student teaching from January 18, 2021 through June 4, 2021.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of Matt Bacco as the Assistant Athletic Director for the 2020-2021 season at the salary as per the current contract, \$7,445.00.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Golf Coach Rocky Violi for Board approval of Matt Bacco as an Assistant Girls Golf Coach for the 2020-2021 season, contingent on the season commencing.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Girls Tennis Coach Brian Garlick recommend Board approval of Katherine Deitrick as an Assistant Girls Tennis Coach for the 2020-2021 season, contingent on the season commencing.

**SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE MOTIONS.**

Kalias Muhammad, Firwood Drive, how many of the new hires are persons of color. President Fornella informed Mr. Muhammad his comment will be addressed by Dr. Lockette.

Roll Call – All Yes

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the Flexible Instructional Days (FID) effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

Dr. Lockette added these remote learning days would be used in the case of snow days, water main breaks or similar instances. These days are not associated with the COVID-19 crisis.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the following textbooks for the courses in the High School. The costs were included in the approved 2020-2021 budget. The textbooks will be available for review by the Board and the public upon request:

Course	Book(s)
Applied Physics & Engineering	Engineering Fundamentals, 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition

Applied Positive Psychology	Positive Psychology, 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition The Happiness Advantage by Shawn Achor U Thrive by Daniel Lerner & Alan Schlechter
AP French	Controversies, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition Controversies Workbook, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition
Astronomy	Astronomy by Andrew Fraknoi, David Morrison, Sidney C. Wolff
PreCalculus	PreCalculus with Limits, 4th edition

- The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to dispose of the following 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.

Spotlight on Music  
Grade 5  
Publisher: Macmillan McGraw Hill  
Date: 2005  
ISBN: 0-02-295679-4  
Count: 30  
Reason: Have not used along with curriculum in over ten years

Spotlight on Music  
Grade 6  
Publisher: Macmillan McGraw Hill  
Date: 2005  
ISBN: 0-02-295678-6  
Count: 30  
Reason: Have not used along with curriculum in over ten years

### **Transportation**

There were no additional items discussed.

### **Athletics**

- The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of the changes to the 2020-2021 Athletic Handbook for Students, Parents, and Coaches.

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

### **Construction**

The Board agreed to make and approve the following:

Brinsky seconded Hannah to approve the motion that in light of the fact that the District received only two bids from interested contractors for the High School Roof Replacement Project, and in light of the fact that the lower of those two bids was approximately 20% above the estimated probable cost, the Board hereby exercises its option to reject all bids received for the High School Roof Replacement Project.

### **SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE MOTION.**

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

**Miscellaneous**

Burroughs seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistants to the Superintendent for Board approval of the revised 2020-2021 school calendar as presented, with the first day of school to begin on September 2, 2020.

Mr. Keener added this change will not affect fall sports or band.

Mrs. Burroughs asked if students select the SFSD cyber option will they still be able to participate in sports/band.

Dr. Lockette responded yes they will.

**SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE MOTION.**

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – Ainsworth, Iagnemma, Brinsky, Burroughs,  
Hannah, Iriti, Fornella – All Yes  
Vezi – No

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

President Fornella asked for comments to be limited to a minute.

Kelly Weiss Strausburg, Old Oakdale Road, amount of time student will be spending learning; approximate time cyber academy students will spend learning asynchronous vs synchronous at the ES/IS, cyber academy have dedicated teachers; class sizes for cyber

Lisa Passyn, Sharalyn Drive, provide information from the AIU or county regarding the plan for a positive case; may help parents make a decision.

Brinsky seconded Ainsworth to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary