



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, July 25, 2023  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:37 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:** Paul Brinsky, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma, Len Fornella

**Present Virtually:** Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti, Prajakta Patankar

**Absent:** Teresa Burroughs, 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; High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Chuck Herring, Mohammad Shedeed, Raneem Shedeed, Rasha Mousi, Adam Shedeed, Reda Shedeed, Charles Banks, Director of Technology Rob Warfield; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Robert Butts introduced James Lieber, Esquire, from Lieber Hammer Huber & Paul, P.C. Mr. Lieber proudly recognized Mohammad Shedeed as Co-recipient of the 2023 Caplan-Lieber Human Relations Award. Mr. Lieber continued that two additional former South Fayette students, Breanna Snider and Mitchell Howard, were also recipients of this prestigious award. He explained the award is presented to one student who has shown initiative and leadership in combatting prejudice and fostering good relations between diverse groups within the school environment and/or community.

Mr. Shedeed thanked the Board and administration for recognizing him at a Board meeting, thanked Dr. Herring for nominating him, and also thanked his parents and family; going to Pitt to study neuroscience to be a psychiatrist; member of the national organization Work to Be Well, creating podcasts on various subject matter related to mental illness and can be heard on Spotify at TALK2BEWELL.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Brinsky seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the July 25, 2023, revised Regular Meeting agenda. The following new motions were received and added today:

- The Superintendent, Athletic Director, and Head Boys Soccer Coach recommend Board approval of an Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 season.
- The Superintendent, Athletic Director, and Head Girls Soccer Coach recommend Board approval of an Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 season.

- The Superintendent and Director of Transportation recommend Board approval of the retirement/resignation of a Bus Driver. The employee's last day worked will be November 30, 2023. The employee has been employed by the District since October 2000.
- The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval to hire the following personnel effective for the 2023-2024 school year:
  - 50% STEAM Applications 8 teacher in the Middle School, this is a new position
  - Chemistry teacher in the High School, this position is due to a retirement
- The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of following EPRs for the 2023-2024 school year:
 

Mentor Teacher for MS 50% STEAM Applications 8 teacher
Mentor Teacher for HS Chemistry teacher
Mentor Teacher for Grade 2 Perm Sub
- The Superintendent and High School Assistant Principal recommend Board approval of the resignation of the Administrative Assistant in the High School Attendance Office effective for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler recommend Board approval for the Middle School Python course name to be changed to STEAM Applications 8.
- Board approval of the resignation of School Board Director Dr. Jason Olexa, effective July 25, 2023.

Voice Vote – All Yes

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Welch seconded lagnemma on approval of the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, June 27, 2023

And on 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

And authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount \$1,991,949.41 beginning with check number 74999 through check number 75449 and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$5,612.26 beginning with check number 8560 through check number 8564.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

There were no comments at this time.

**Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

**New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller**

Dr. Miller reported:

- Band practice and athlete conditioning has begun
- High School theatre floor replacement is complete
- Thanked the custodial staff, maintenance and facilities for preparing the buildings
- August 9 – New Teacher Induction begins
- August 17 – first day back for all staff, Board members are welcome to attend
- August 23 – first day of school for students

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

Welch seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the two-year agreement with Steeltown Security & Investigations, LLC to provide security services for the campus effective August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2025.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the rent for Extended Day Services for the 2023-2024 school year.

Program	Per Month Rate	\$ Amount Increase
Before and After School Program (ES)	\$ 960.00	\$ 35.00
Before and After School Program (IS)	\$ 960.00	\$ 35.00
Kindergarten Program	N/A	N/A
Summer Program	\$2,915.00	\$100.00

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to accept the 2023-2024 IDEA 619 Pass Through Funds in the amount of \$5,022.00 through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit DART Early Intervention Program. These federal funds will support school-age students, age 5, in Kindergarten receiving special education programs and services.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler recommend Board approval to enter into an agreement with Human Services Administration Organization (HSAO) to provide services for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) effective retroactive from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Voice Vote – All Yes

**PERSONNEL**

Brinsky seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the resignation of Deborah Herbster as the Access Coordinator. Ms. Herbster’s last day worked was July 13, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to appoint Dr. Patricia Smith as an Interim High School Principal effective on or about August 2, 2023 until the position is filled; pending receipt of required documents, at a rate of \$500.00 per day.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to hire the following paraeducators, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year; these are new positions:

- Cassidy Haid, Personal Care Paraeducator in the Intermediate School at the probationary rate of \$17.57 per hour; after completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$21.96 per hour
- Sean Flanigan, Classroom Paraeducator in the Intermediate School at the probationary rate of \$16.09 per hour; after completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$20.11 per hour

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Jamie Violi, Grade 1 teacher in the Elementary School effective on or about October 19, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval for Sydney Snyder, a student at Washington and Jefferson College, to complete her internship with Sarah Cabonor, ESL teacher in the Intermediate School, pending receipt of required documents, effective August 24, 2023 through December 6, 2023. There is no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval for Emma Bradley, a student at Duquesne University, to complete her Pre-Practicum Observation for 10 hours with Justina Perrott, School Counselor in the Middle School, pending receipt of required documents, effective August 24, 2023 through December 24, 2023. There is no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire the following school bus drivers, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year at the probationary rate of \$24.47 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$30.59 per hour. These positions are due to retirements.

- Janice Edkins
- Patrick Gillespie

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of Matt Bacco as an Assistant Athletic Director effective for the 2023-2024 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of Olesia Stasko as an Assistant Athletic Director effective for the 2023-2024 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Football Coach Joe Rossi for Board approval of Ishan Rayka as Volunteer Assistant 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach Maggie Conosciuto for Board approval of the resignation of Sarah Ambrosini as an Assistant Cheerleading Coach effective for the 2023-2024 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Boys Soccer Coach Rob Eldridge for Board approval of James Kita as an Assistant Boys Soccer Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Soccer Coach Nick Rosser for Board approval of Camille Holzschuh as an Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Michael Diminno as a Bus Driver. Mr. Diminno's last day worked will be November 30, 2023. Mr. Diminno has been employed by the District since October 2000.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following personnel effective for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Lauren Beck as the 50% STEAM Applications 8 teacher in the Middle School at the Master's Step 1 rate of \$52,250, prorated at 50%; this is a new position
- Stephanie Everhart as a Chemistry teacher in the High School at the Master's Step 3 rate of \$54,920; this position is due to a retirement

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

Mentor Teacher for Lauren Beck	Dawn McCullough
Mentor Teacher for Stephanie Everhart	Bryan Seybert
Mentor Teacher for Grade 2 Perm Sub	Caroline Downey

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts for Board approval of the resignation of Marlo Marasco as the Administrative Assistant in the High School Attendance Office effective for the 2023-2024 school year.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## EDUCATION

Iagnemma seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to run a 3-hour delay day, if needed, in the High School for the administration of the PSATs on a date TBD in October 2023. Only the students being tested will report to school at the regular start time and the remainder of the high school students would report on a 3-hour delay schedule starting at 10:20 AM.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to run asynchronous days, virtual instructional days, if needed, in the High School for the administration of the Keystone Exams during the December 2023 testing window.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts for Board approval to have May 15, 16, and 17, 2024 as asynchronous, virtual instructional days for all High School students in order to administer the Spring Keystone Exams.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts for Board approval for Dr. Felix Yerace and approved chaperones to accompany 6 to 14 students attending the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) State Conference being held at Altoona Area High School in Altoona, Pennsylvania from Friday, September 22 through Saturday, September 23, 2023. Students would be responsible for making up all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals, with a portion paid for by the students; a portion is included in the 2023-2024 budget, with the remaining costs covered by Student Government.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts for Board approval to permit Dr. Felix Yerace and approved chaperones to accompany 6 to 14 students attending the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) "LEAD" Conference being held in Crystal City, Virginia from Friday, November 10 through Sunday, November 12, 2023. The cost of the trip includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals, with a portion paid for by the students; a portion is included in the 2023-2024 budget, with the remaining costs covered by Student Government.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to utilize Dr. Linda Conlon, Conlon Performance Consulting Professionals, LLC, to support professional development of professional educators in the area of instruction and enrichment, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a rate of \$800.00 per day, to be paid from the Ready to Learn grant.

And for Board approval for the Superintendent to attend the "AASA Focus Groups: Planning for the Future" in Tempe, Arizona, from Wednesday, September 27 through Friday, September 29, 2023. The cost of the trip will be funded by AASA.

And for Board approval for the Superintendent to attend "Elevating the Ingenuity of Schools and Communities: A National Convening on Transforming Education R&D", in Washington, D.C., from Monday, October 16, through Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Dr. Miller will also be attending the League of Innovative Schools Advocacy day on October 18, 2023. This conference is in place of the fall convening of Digital Promise and is included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And for Board approval for the Superintendent to participate in a newly established national superintendent networking cohort titled "The Superintendent Collaborative". Superintendents were included by invitation only. Collaboration and networking events will primarily be virtual with one in-person convening in Scottsdale, Arizona on Wednesday, December 6 through Friday, December 8, 2023. The cost of the trip is included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And for Board approval for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler to attend the 2024 AASA National Conference in San Diego, California, from Thursday, February 15, 2024 through Saturday, February 17, 2024. Dr. Miller has submitted two proposals to present at this conference. The cost of the trip will be funded by AASA Learning 2025 through the Grable Foundation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval for the Middle School Python course name to be changed to STEAM Applications 8.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Iagnemma seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the District to provide four shuttle buses and drivers, and six drivers for the Township owned golf carts for the South Fayette Community Days scheduled for Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The cost to the District is estimated at \$3,385.84, and includes drivers' salary/benefits and fuel.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## **ATHLETICS**

Hannah seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to purchase new uniforms for the boys' basketball team. The total cost of the uniforms is \$6,228.00 and is part of the 2023-2024 uniform rotation program. A total of 60 uniforms (30 white and 30 kelly green) will be purchased through Century Sports.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of the changes to the 2023-2024 Athletic Handbook for Students, Parents, and Coaches.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of the following official fees for the 2023-2024 school year:

	<u>2022-2023 Actual Fees</u>	<u>2023-2024 Fees</u>	
Varsity Football	\$99.00	\$99.00	(6 Officials)
Junior Varsity Football	\$65.00	\$65.00	(4 Officials)
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football	\$55.00	\$55.00	(4 Officials)
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football	\$55.00	\$55.00	(4 Officials)
Football Clock Official	\$62.00	\$62.00	(1 Official)
Football Workers (Varsity 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM)	\$67.00	\$67.00	(Varies)
Ticket Booth	\$52.00	\$52.00	(Varies)
Girls/Boys Varsity Soccer	\$80.00	\$80.00	(3 Officials)
Girls/Boys Junior Varsity Soccer	\$55.00	\$55.00	(2 Officials)
Girls/Boys JV/Varsity Volleyball (2 Games)	\$85.00	\$90.00	(2 Officials)
Girls/Boys Cross Country (Dual & Tri-Meets)	\$60.00-\$75.00	\$60.00-\$75.00	(1 Official)
Girls/Boys 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Soccer (1 Game)	\$50.00	\$50.00	(2 Officials)
Girls 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball (2 Games)	\$65.00	\$68.00	(1 Official)
Girls/Boys 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball (2 Games)	\$65.00	\$68.00	(2 Officials)
Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball	\$99.00	\$99.00	(3 Officials)
Girls/Boys Junior Varsity Basketball	\$65.00	\$65.00	(2 Officials)
Girls/Boys Varsity Swimming	\$80.00	\$82.00	(3 Officials)
Girls/Boys 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swimming	\$60.00	\$60.00	(1 Official)
Varsity Wrestling	\$85.00	\$87.00	(1 Official)
Junior High Wrestling	\$65.00	\$65.00	(1 Official)
Varsity Baseball/Softball	\$80.00	\$80.00	(2 Officials)
Junior Varsity Baseball/Softball	\$65.00	\$65.00	(2 Officials)
Varsity Track & Field (Dual & Tri-Meets)	\$80.00-\$99.00	\$80.00-\$99.00	(1 Official)
7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Track & Field (Dual & Tri-Meets)	\$60.00-\$75.00	\$60.00-\$75.00	(1 Official)
Girls/Boys Varsity Lacrosse	\$85.00	\$87.00	(3 Officials)
Girls/Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse	\$67.00	\$69.00	(2 Officials)
Junior High Basketball	\$55.00	\$60.00	(2 Officials)
Junior High Baseball	\$65.00	\$65.00	(2 Officials)
Middle School Softball	\$60.00	\$65.00	(2 Officials)

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Cross Country Coach Joe Winans for Board approval for the Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams to travel to the 2023 Legends Cross Country Meet on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Turnbull County Fairgrounds in Cortland, Ohio. The District will supply the transportation to and from the meet.

Voice Vote – All Yes

**CONSTRUCTION**

There were no items discussed.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Brinsky seconded Welch on Board approval of the resignation of School Board Director Dr. Jason Olexa, effective July 25, 2023.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

There were no comments at this time.

### Solicitor's Report

Mr. Voltz reviewed the process to fill the vacant Board position; must be filled within 30 days; President Fornella will contact former Board members or previous applicants inquiring if they are interested in filling the three month seat.

### Board Comments

Mrs. Iriti thanked Dr. Olexa for his service and was in invaluable member of the Board. President Fornella also thanked Dr. Olexa for his service and valuable input at meetings.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Executive Committee Report**

President Fornella had nothing to report.

**President Len Fornella**

### **South Fayette Foundation**

Mr. Brinsky deferred to Dr. Miller who reported the golf outing on June 17 at Hickory Heights was a success, raising over \$13,000 for teacher mini grants; thanked the corporate sponsors, donations and volunteers.

**Paul Brinsky**

### **PSBA/Legislative Committee Report**

Mrs. Hannah shared information via email with the Board.

**Lena Hannah**

### **Parkway West**

Mr. Iagnemma had nothing to report.

**Tom Iagnemma**

### **SHASDA**

Mr. Welch had nothing to report.

**Joe Welch**

Hannah seconded Iagnemma to suspend the meeting at 8:12 PM to enter into another Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues. President Fornella announced a vote may be taken following Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:24 PM and returned to the Regular Meeting.

Iriti seconded Iagnemma to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary