



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, August 27, 2019  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:40 PM in the High School Conference Center by President Jen Iriti with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Iriti 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:** Todd Petrillo, Lena Hannah, Paul Brinsky, Teresa Burroughs, Len Fornella, Alan Vezzi, Arik Quam, Jen Iriti

**Absent:** Alex Czaplicki

**Others:** Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette, Superintendent; Student Representative Alexandra Bennett; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education Stephanie DeLuca; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho; Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz; Teachers and Support Staff: Tomasina Crapis, Kristy Skerbetz, Tom Perpetua, Jamie Chappel, Mandy Evans, Kathy Ainsworth, Angela Vogel, Leann Luck, Deb Stewart, Carol Capozzoli, Caroline Poiche, Leslie Willetts; Bill Ainsworth, Tom Iagnemma, Mr. Luck, John Alan Kosky, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

### **Consent Agenda**

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on approval of Minutes from the following Board Meeting:

Committee and Regular Meeting                      July 16, 2019

And on approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

Aquatics Fund	Sara Cremonese
Athletic Fund	Mark Keener
High School Activity Fund	Harriet Dausch
Middle School Activity Fund	Harriet Dausch
Board Summary Reports	Maria Aguilar
(February and March 2019)	

And to authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$2,328,926.23 beginning with check number 65740 through check number 66157, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$32,869.08 beginning with check number 7832 through check number 7863, and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$25,130.00 using check numbers 603 and 604.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

There were no comments at this time.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Tony reported the E-rate filing for the financing for the switches and wireless access points was done incorrectly by the vendor; using last year's enrollment numbers. Thanking Mrs. Burroughs for her assistance, the vendor will re-file which could result in increased discounts for future E-rate opportunities.

### **New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

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

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- Continuing working with consultants to create ethnic and racial intimidation policies and update the handbooks
- Feasibility Meeting with Hayes Design Group to review options for grade configurations:
  - September 10 and October 8 with start times to be determined
- August 27 – Crisis communication training held, very beneficial, filmed administrators, funded by state grant

### **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Bennett reported the following:

- Homecoming preparations are beginning with an Hawaiian theme
- MiniThon car wash fundraiser raised over \$900
- Helper Helper app notifies students of opportunities to volunteer for various events
- Linkcrew orientation for freshman held on August 14, helps transition freshman to the high school with the help of junior and senior mentors
- CSI, Interact, FBLA, and Robotics Clubs starting to meet

### **Business Office**

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Root & All, LLC to provide assistance in the creation of a Comprehensive Communications Plan, one of the Strategic Goals of the District's Strategic Plan, effective for the 2019-2020 school year. This was included in the 2019-2020 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for Board approval to purchase network switches and wireless access points for the entire District through CoStars vendor Communication Consulting, Inc. The cost will be \$167,613.00, less the E-Rate discount of \$67,045.20, for a net cost of \$100,567.80. The switches will improve wireless performance and security.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for Board approval to lease/purchase the network switches and wireless access points with Laurel Capital Corporation. The terms will be for 3-years with a \$1.00 buyout at the end; annual payments in advance at the tax exempt interest rate of 3.05%. Each annual payment will be \$34,534.65. This was included in the 2019-2020 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with DDI, Inc. to provide the 360 Evaluation Tool for the Superintendent and Administrators effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Personnel**

Brinsky seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following mentor teachers for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Michael Perrott
- Victoria Lojek
- Danelle Matz

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the rate change for substitute bus drivers to \$17.50 per hour effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and High School Principals for Board approval of Connie Iorio (Moretti) as the Girls Head Varsity Lacrosse Coach effective for the 2019-2020 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and High School Principals for Board approval of Shawn Leydig as the Boys Head Varsity Lacrosse Coach effective for the 2019-2020 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Bryan Bennett for Board approval of the following resignations effective for the 2019-2020 winter season:

- Alex Gensler as a Girls Assistant Basketball Coach
- Garrett Del Re as a Girls Assistant Basketball Coach

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Melanie Oyler, Grade 5 teacher effective on or about November 4, 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Food Service Director Tricia Wood for Board approval to hire Melanie Melville as a Food Service employee at the probationary rate of \$9.28 per hour, effective for the 2019-2020 school year and pending receipt of required documents. After completion of a successful probationary period the rate will be \$11.60 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Jaimie Lily, Paraeducator in the Elementary School with the effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to extend the personal necessity leave of absence request for John Albert, Bus Driver, to the end of October 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval to extend the personal necessity leave of absence request for Robert Gilbert, Custodian, to the end of October 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to terminate the professional contract of Daniel Bal retroactive to July 16, 2019, for the reasons set forth in the statement of charges approved by the Board of School Directors on July 16, 2019.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Education**

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, High School Principals, and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to change the title of the GSA Club in the High School to Gender Sexuality Alliance effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education, and High School Principals for Board approval of the following as online course providers for the 2019-2020 school year. The costs were included in the 2019-2020 approved budget.

- Educere
- Edgenuity through Seneca Valley
- University of Missouri
- Waterfront Learning (AIU)

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education for Board approval to permit Dr. Jeff Evancho, Nicole Bianco, and Joe Becker (Middle School Science teachers) to attend the Digital Promise Challenge-Based Learning workshop in Cincinnati, Ohio, from Thursday, September 12, 2019, through Saturday, September 14, 2019. This collaboration represents a second phase of work with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and curriculum development. All expenses will be paid for by Digital Promise.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education, and High School Principals for Board approval to permit Tom Isaac, High School Science teacher to attend the High School Research Teachers Conference in Washington, DC from Friday, September 27, 2019, through Sunday, September 29, 2019. The conference promotes the use of science in public policy. All conference expenses will be paid for by the Society for Science and The Public. The only expense for the District will be for one substitute teacher for one day.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to conduct the Extended School Year (ESY) program in the summer of 2020. The program will run Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM beginning June 15, 2020, through July 16, 2020. The District will be closed on Thursday, July 2, 2020, in observance of the July 4 holiday. The cost of the program is included in the 2019-2020 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval for Band Director Eryn Carranza and Choral Director Christine Elek to travel with the Music Department (band, orchestra, and choir) to New York City, New York from Thursday, April 16, 2020, through Sunday, April 19, 2020, for the annual Music Department Trip. Students will be responsible for all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. There would be no cost to the district.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Transportation**

There were no items discussed.

## **Athletics**

Hannah seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Cross Country Coach Joe Winans for Board approval to permit the Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country teams to travel to Hershey, Pennsylvania from Friday, September 20, 2019, to Saturday, September 21, 2019, to compete in the PIAA Foundation Invitational. 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. There would be no cost to the District.

Voice Vote – All Yes

## **Construction**

There were no items discussed.

## **Miscellaneous**

Burroughs seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to endorse the following as PSBA candidates:

- Art Levinowitz as President-elect (one-year term)
- David Hein as Vice President (one-year term)
- Julie Preston as Central At-Large Representative (three-year term)
- Sabrina Backer as Section 1 Advisor (two-year term)
- Ron Cole as Section 3 Advisor (two-year term)
- Marsha Pleta as Section 5 Advisor (two-year term)
- Tricia Steiner as Section 7 Advisor (two-year term)
- Kathy K. Swope as Trustee (term ends December 31, 2022)
- Mark B. Miller as Trustee (term ends December 31, 2022)

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to recognize the South Fayette Band Parents as part of the Act 195 Resolution of 1990 which was revised on January 20, 1994, January 23, 2007, and March 27, 2012. The resolution permits non-profit organizations to receive a small games of chance license.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

John Alan Kosky, Millers Run Road, seeking relief for the LERTA resolution; working with a company to build a test tract for autonomous vehicles; signed a sales agreement in March; township approved the request on August 21; other sites considered include Findlay Township and Robinson Township in Washington County; amenities for South Fayette include accessibility to the new Southern Beltway, good school district, and Newbury development; 10 year tax relief for this property only; developer to determine location in October/November.

There were no additional comments.

## **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Wolfe reported personnel and legal matters were discussed in Executive Session.

## **Board Comments**

There were no Board comments.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee Report

President Jen Iriti

President Iriti reported the 360 Evaluation discussions continue.

South Fayette Foundation

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported the Summertime BBQ fundraiser raised approximately \$7,300 of which 30% will go to the South Fayette Historical Society, looking at making the next one a fall event, thanked the students who performed and volunteered and all who attended; golf outing raised over \$10,000 and will be moved to a new location next year.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported she forwarded two articles on Charter School Reform which now Governor Wolf has taken on.

Parkway West

Alan Vezzi

Mr. Vezzi reported there was no meeting in August.

SHASDA

Alex Czaplicki

Mr. Czaplicki was absent, but Dr. Lockette reported the first meeting is in September.

Vezzi seconded Brinsky to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM and enter into another Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters.

President Iriti announced there may be a vote taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary