



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

August 20, 2024

7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:38 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: Esther Cardillo, William Gray, Jen Iriti, Len Fornella, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma

Absent: Rebecca Bruce, Teresa Burroughs, Prajakta Patankar

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

Food Services Director Nicholle Pleil provided the following update

- Pricing will remain the same for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Free breakfast will be provided again this year.
- Finger scanning of students will expedite the lunch line.
- The department is working on new food options.
- A luncheon was provided to all for all staff.

Board members asked questions related to fingerprinting students for food purchases.

Superintendent Dr Miller provided an overview of the District Dashboard.

- Quality Profile provides opportunities to track progress and growth.
 - Teachers and Leaders
 - 25 of District's teachers are Nationally Board Certified, 186 hold Master's degrees
 - Teachers hold leadership positions in education, secure grants, and present internally as well as at the local, state and national level.
 - School Culture
 - Surveyed students in grades 6-12 to determine areas to best support students so they feel emotionally and physically safe, and have a sense of belonging.
 - Plan to provide a refresher for students on how to utilize Safe to Say.
 - Reviewed opportunities available to students to appreciate diversity.
 - Academic Learning
 - Class of 2024 graduates post secondary plans were self-reported in May 2024.
 - *Pittsburgh Business Times* rankings: 4th in the region in 2024, up from 6th in 2023; high school ranked second in the region
 - *Newsweek* 23rd in PA High Schools, 8th in Pennsylvania Metro Schools
 - Majority of students are engaged in a school or community activity.
 - Strong attendance percentages are shown across schools.
 - Many students are involved in the arts including chorus, band, orchestra, drama clubs, musicals, and PMEA Festivals.

Dr. Miller thanked the School Board for their leadership which is providing teachers and administrators the opportunity to serve the District, students, and families.

CONSENT AGENDA (*data in lilac*) (*includes common items, such as but not limited to: Minutes, Financial Reports, Tax Refunds, Gift/Donations, Expenditures*)

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

Committee Meeting
Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2024
Tuesday, July 23, 2024

2. The Board considered approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

Athletic Fund
High School Activity Fund
Middle School Activity Fund

Mark Keener
Sharon Aprea
Sharon Aprea

3. Expenditures were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller

- Welcomed Senior Nandana Menon to the Board as the Student Representative.
- The District kickoff “Creating the Most Magical Lion Experience” was held on August 15, 2024.
- High School Art Teacher Melissa Contis created a painting during the kickoff. Pictures of the painting were shared with our educators.
- The first day of school was August 21, 2024 with 3,600 students.
- The District was awarded a \$20,000 Tugboat grant “Expanding Horizons: VR Integration for Immersive Learning and Career Exploration” to be used to expand the CAVERN space that supports extended reality for groups of students. South Fayette is the first to have a CAVERN space in K-12 education as is in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University’s Entertainment Technology Center.
- The District is one of few schools identified for a possible visit by the United States Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona on September 6, 2024. The District was identified due to the District’s inclusive programming for students with special needs (e.g., Unified Bocce team, Freight Farm, Best Buddies).
- The 3rd annual Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held on October 3, 2024. All are welcome to attend. Hall of Fame inductees will be honored at the October 4, 2024, football game.
- The South Fayette Foundation for Education awarded \$8,000 in teacher grants.
- The first Annual Report was created as a celebration of the 2023-2024 school year.
- Families will receive a magnet with a QR Code which will connect to the most updated District information. Jen Donovan has done excellent work to prepare these for the start of the school year.

- Special thanks was given to the administration team, facility department, technology department and administrative assistants for their preparation for this school year.

BUSINESS OFFICE (*data in blue*)

Fornella seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for approval to renew the agreement with the Keystone Oaks School District and the Project Succeed Consortium effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler to enter into an agreement with Sigma Games for supplemental gaming simulation/instruction in the Middle and High School life skills classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost will be paid for by the Transition Discoveries grant.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for approval of the nomination of Esther Cardillo for a position on the ACSHIC Board.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison, and Director of Curriculum Cristine Wagner-Deitch for the District to request funding for the District's Future-Focused Learning Summit on October 14, 2024 through a variety of sponsorships by mostly K-12 school vendors.

Voice Vote - All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a Contract Service with the PA-Educator.net Clearinghouse. The term of the agreement is from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025, at a cost of \$1,950.00. This price has remained the same since the 2014-2015 school year.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for the adoption of the Resolution, as presented by Bond Counsel, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$_____, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, for the purpose of providing funds for additions and alterations to the Intermediate School. (Bond Counsel will present at the August 27 Board meeting.)

PERSONNEL (*data in pink*)

Welch seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist to hire Abigail Bronco as an Elementary School Permanent Substitute Special Education Teacher, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators to hire the following Building Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of required documents.

- Macy Cain - Elementary School (every other day)
- Tracy Sipos - Elementary School
- Abbigale Alauzen - Elementary School
- Amy Zuckett - Intermediate School
- Dan Sammons - Intermediate School
- Delaney Mangis - Intermediate School
- Julia Hornick - Intermediate School
- Abby Leister - Intermediate School

- Kristin Fagan - Middle School
- Brad Parisi - Middle School
- Breanna Snyder - Middle School
- Zaina Boulus-Kennedy - High School
- James Lacitignola - High School
- Cameron McChesney - High School
- Cameron Meier - High School
- Zach Paci - High School

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Suzanne Abbott
- Krista Baldalf
- Debi Basu
- Janice Billot
- Lara Bizzak
- Abigail Bronco
- Rebecca DiFranjo
- Keri DiMarco
- Lindsey Egan
- Albert Gesthier
- William Humlan
- Melissa Mares
- Marsha McFalls
- Dane Medich
- Maureen Pedzwater
- Nazli Pervez
- Smitha Philip
- Daniel Sammons
- Jamie Scarmazzi
- Kristen Sheleheda
- Aaron Timco
- Mackenzie Timco
- Amy Turnball
- Deekota Yadav
- Susan Yeaman
- Channel Yoder
- **Linda Brentin**

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for approval of the following (call as needed) substitute support personnel, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Natasha Green
- Jane Venum
- Michele Budavich
- Lori Demnyan
- Rajya Lakshmi Palukuri
- Bhagdya Cheeka
- Rachael Morelli
- Jen Swider
- Sonya Horwath
- Michele Henderson
- Aaron Timco
- Smitha Philip

- Andrea Betten
- Walter Andrew Schenlbach-Goes by Andrew
- Rajya Lakshmi Palukuri
- Tami Aubrey

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for approval of the following (call as needed) substitute nurses, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Cathy Reon
- Marge Mignogna
- Jennifer Ring
- Kelly Keller

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie to hire the following substitute bus drivers, at the rate of \$20 per hour, pending receipt of required documents.

- Dennis Brown
- Joe Martineck
- David Soubie

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for approval of the following EPR for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mentor for Intermediate School Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher Karina Fry	Amy Krappweis
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And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Services Dr. Rachel Andler to hire the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of required documents.

- Austin March, Personal Care Paraeducator, Elementary School, replacement
- Jett Pattison, Classroom Paraeducator, Middle School, new position, included in the 2024-2025 budget

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for approval of the following resignations/retirement.

- Daron Eichenlaub, Custodian, resignation, effective August 1, 2024
- Stephanie Haney, Paraeducator, resignation, effective for the 2024-2025 school year
- Brenda Blanchard, Custodian, retirement, effective October 11, 2024

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Jamie Richardson, student from Point Park University in the ABCTE program, to be a Student Teacher with Elementary School Teachers Robin Sciotto and Cara Fornella from October 7, 2024, to January 10, 2025, pending receipt of required documents.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Services Dr. Rachel Andler for approval of the leave of absence request for Kayleigh Stultz, Paraeducator, effective on or about October 21, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Food Services Nicolle Pleil to hire the following High School Food Service Workers for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of required documents.

- Linda Lynn
- Crystal Steban

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Principals to hire the following Breakfast Monitors for the 2024-2025 school year, pending receipt of required documents.

- Asra Syeda, Elementary School
- Echfak Kacem, Intermediate School
- Uma Sankaralingam, Intermediate School

Voice Vote - All Yes

EDUCATION (*data in white*)

Gray seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the revisions to 2024-2025 Elementary, Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools' Faculty Handbooks.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the revisions to the 2024-2025 Elementary, Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools' Student-Family Handbooks

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the Title 1 Non-Public School Agreement, pending Solicitor review, with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, effective August 26, 2024, through June 30, 2025; to provide remedial reading instructional services in line with the Title 1 Program at St. Louise De Marillac and Archangel Gabriel School.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Curriculum Director Cristine Wagner-Deitch for Board approval to purchase materials to pilot PhD Science in grades 3-5 to address new science standards. The cost is covered in the approved 2024-2025 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Natasha Dirda for Board approval to engage in an agreement with Purdue Global Law School to support the High School Cybersecurity Teacher through professional development and project implementation. There will be no cost for this partnership, and the graduate student will only interact with the instructor and administration.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Dr. Matt Callison to participate in the 2024 Convening of the NSF-funded INTERACT Incubator focused on developing research infrastructure to advance equity in K-12 STEM settings. The Convening occurs in Bloomington, Indiana, from September 10-13, 2024. Participation is funded by the INTERACT Incubator. There is no cost to the District.

Voice Vote - All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler of an Articulation Agreement between the District and Western Governors University, for pre-service students to obtain their required field experience, effective beginning August 28, 2024. There will be no cost to the district.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for school psychology students from Duquesne University to complete their practicum/ internship experiences with the School Psychologists of Student Support Services, pending receipt of required documents, during the 2024-2025 school year. There will be no cost to the District.
3. The Board considered the Superintendent and Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships to implement a student entrepreneurial program, STARTedUP, provided that sponsorships are secured to support program costs. This program is intended for students in grades 7-12.

TRANSPORTATION (*data in green*)

There were no items to discuss.

ATHLETICS (*data in salmon*)

There were no items to discuss.

CONSTRUCTION (*data in white*)

There were no items to discuss.

MISCELLANEOUS (*data in yellow*)

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.

Fornella seconded Welch to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Voice Vote – All Yes