



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 27, 2024  
7:30 PM

### **MINUTES**

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:45 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:** Rebecca Bruce, Teresa Burroughs, Esther Cardillo, William Gray, Len Fornella, Jen Iriti, Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma

**Absent:** Teresa Burroughs

**Others:** Superintendent Dr. Michelle Miller, Assistant Superintendent Kristin Deichler, Director of Finance Brian Tony, Director of Finance Ryan Neely, Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C., Leslie Willetts, Allison Sekolsky, Coleen Martinez, Lauren Crossan, Molly Mehok, Molly Ellis, Wendy Williams, Stacey Tomlinson, Charlene Miller, Shelly Clevenger, Veronica Martinez, Kirthika Ramadas, Myriam Lester, Megha Verma, Anitha Varagesh, Tara Mey, Dee Kyle, Chris Elek, Carolyn Potts, Cindy Potts, Tom Edkins, Dawn Cesaretti, Jen Greenawald, Lauren Stanhagen, Anna Slattery, Melissa Berry, Amanda Evans, Kathleen Coll, Lisa Sweeney, Melissa Contis, Myriam Fowler, Jen Swider, Tom Willetts, Tami Aubrey, Jodi Dickinson, Andrea Betten, Sharon Matrazzo, Lisa Yerkey, Jim Yerkey, Cindy Dursay, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, Michael Radage, Board Secretary Susan Vasalani

Daniel Engen with Eckles Architecture provided a DRAW Facility Project update

- Intermediate School project is underway in design, reviewing additions of classrooms, World of Work rooms, and orchestra space
- Additions are designed as an extension of areas on each floor.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Committee Meeting  
Regular Meeting

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

And on the 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  
**Board Summary Report (July 2024)**

Mark Keener  
Sharon Aprea  
Sharon Aprea  
**Brian Tony**

And on the authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$1,746,554.92 beginning with check number 78137 through check number 78369 and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$392,203.57 beginning with check number 81200044 through check number 81200045, and the Cafeteria Fund for \$31,310.42 beginning with check number 8735 through check number 8756. (Information provided)

Voice Vote - All Yes

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

- Leslie Willetts, President of the South Fayette Educational Support Professionals, stated the following: Three months ago I stood before you during the May Board meeting, thanking you for your service in leading our district. I expressed optimism about what I hoped that our union and Board leaders would share a common desire to strengthen our district together and achieve a fair and competitive contract for all support staff. At that time, I believed I would be standing before you tonight in August, thanking you for reaching our goal of that fair contract. But sadly, it's not the case. Our contract expired in June. We have not yet reached a tentative agreement, and we started the school year with several unfilled support staff positions. We thought both the district and the union could approach negotiations as an opportunity to strengthen our district together, a way to show respect for the work that we do. The lack of resolve is weakening morale and building frustrations. South Fayette is financially sound. Our asks are reasonable and are well within the financial abilities of our district. We are asking for competitive wages and benefits which are vital to retain and recruit quality staff. Our support staff are the lowest paid employees in the district, yet pay the highest percentages in healthcare costs. Some cannot even afford to participate in our healthcare consortium plans. South Fayette ESP practically pays the highest health care costs compared to every other district in Allegheny County, and our custodians are one of the lowest paid compared to neighboring districts. Some members are also denied the recommendation of the number of sick days as set forth by the Allegheny County Sick Day ordinance. Negotiations provided time for both sides to think critically about what really matters and where to place value. Every custodian, maintenance, mechanic, worker, driver, food service employee, tech monitor and paraeducator deeply value our students and our facilities. Our students and our community deserve nothing less. I ask, no, I implore you to please consider what is important. This district is prolonging a settlement and choosing not to pay a living wage for many of our staff. Revered board members, if you agree that our work is valuable to our students and their families. Please bring this perspective into your proposal at the bargaining table to achieve an equitable contract. I thank you.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

### **New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- South Fayette students attended the 2024 Eradicate Hate Global Summit. Dr. Miller showed a video of the efforts put forth during the event.
- The District has secured 5 scholarships for students or educators to attend the October 2024 Summit.
- The Eradicate Hate Global Summit is the most comprehensive anti-hate conference in the world. It unites experts and leaders from around the globe, who are dedicated to eradicating all forms of hate-fueled violence. The purpose of the Summit is to provide a unique, multidisciplinary forum to share ideas and build working relationships to drive the development and deployment of effective approaches to reduce hate-fueled violence.

### **Student Report - Nandana Menon**

- High School students placed 5th in the nation at the July 2024 Health Occupational Students of America Conference in Houston, Texas.
- A group of High School students placed second in the nation at the National Technology Student Association Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- The AHN Chill Project was introduced at the Middle School this summer.
- Two summer STEAM camps were offered for Elementary and Intermediate School students.
- Extended School Year students participated in the South Fayette Olympic Games with members of our Lions football team.
- A Leadership Challenge Workshop was held on August 5, 2024, with select high school students.
- The opening day for faculty and staff was August 15, 2024.
- The K-5 Meet the Teacher showed the highest attendance in recent years.
- Students were welcomed back on August 21, 2024 with the district-wide PBIS program.
- Many students showed their Lion Pride on Green and White Friday.

### **BUSINESS OFFICE**

Fornella seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for 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.

Voice Vote - All Yes

Gray seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony on the adoption of the Resolution, as presented by Bond Counsel, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000, 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 and relocation of the Bus Depot.

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

Absent - Burroughs

Fornella seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for approval to increase the clerical substitute rate to \$13.00 per hour, retroactive to August 21, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for approval for Ryan Neely, Director of Finance, to act as the ACT 32 Tax Collection Committee (TCC) first alternate delegate for the South Fayette Township School District per Resolution 23-05 TCC Voting Delegate Appointment for the South Fayette Township School District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services to enter into an agreement with Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc. d/b/a Maxim Staffing Solutions to provide licensed health care providers for supplemental staffing services effective retroactive to July 1, 2024.

Voice Vote - All Yes

### **PERSONNEL**

Cardillo seconded Bruce on the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler to hire homebound tutoring positions for the 2024-2025 school year. The

tutors will be a current employee or a substitute previously approved by the Board.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Girls Tennis Coach Victoria Chagnon for approval of Marla Zielinski as a Volunteer Girls Tennis Coach for the 2024-2025 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for approval of Scott Sundgren as the Boys Volleyball Head Coach for the 2024-2025 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board for approval of the following resignations.

- Stephanie Haney, **Food Service Worker**, effective for the 2024-2025 school year
- Karina Fry, Intermediate School Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, effective August 20, 2024

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.

- Sara Anderson
- Jamie Richardson
- Yessinia Balla
- Camryn Whipple
- **Lindsey Minerd**

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.

- Marguerite Robson
- Janice Edkins
- Melissa Higgins

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone for approval of the following Building Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.

- Nicholas Valetti
- Taylor Boarts
- Cameron Somma
- Julie Nangle

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Facilities Steve Timmins to hire Tiffany Moore as a Custodian, at the probationary rate of \$14.57 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$18.21 per hour, effective date to be determined, pending receipt of required documents.

## EDUCATION

Pantakar seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for approval 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.

And on 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.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships Matt Callison 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**

No items were discussed.

## **ATHLETICS**

No items were discussed.

## **CONSTRUCTION**

No items were discussed.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

No items were discussed.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

### **Board Comments**

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee Report**

**President Tom Iagnemma**

Mr. Iagnemma had no information to report.

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

**Jen Iriti**

Dr. Miller reported that Maureen Pedzwater will be retiring. The process of transitioning has started. Ryan Neely will be the Treasurer and Susan Vasalani will be the Secretary.

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

**Prajakta Patankar**

Ms. Patankar reported that the PSNC will be held on October 6-8, 2024, with opportunities for professional development, performances by students, and networking opportunities. The registration deadline is September 12, 2024. Two Board members may attend.

### **D. Parkway West**

**Tom Iagnemma**

Mr. Iagnemma had no information to report.

### **E. SHASDA**

**Joe Welch**

Mr. Welch had no information to report.

Cardillo seconded Welch to adjourn Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

Voice Vote – All Yes