



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:43 PM in the Pride Room in the Administration Building 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, Alex Czaplicki, Paul Brinsky, Len Fornella, Alan Vezzi, Arik Quam, Jen Iriti

**Absent:** Teresa Burroughs

**Others:** Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette, Superintendent; Student Representative Alexandra Bennett; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Aguilar; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho; High School Principal Aaron Skrbini; High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell; Teachers and Support Staff: Cathy Ainsworth, Debi Stewart, Martha Halstead, Natalie Macek, Christina Madden, Jennifer Drazick, Caroline Poiche, Jaimie Lilly, Kelly DiGiacomo, Charlene Miller, Shelly Clevenger, Jodi Dickinson, Leslie Willetts, Lisa Bonnaure, Richard Williamson, Mark Petrillo, Daron Eichenlaub, Carolyn Potts, Diane Wolford, Pratima Jukalkar, Bilquees Mandozi Gulam, Shiva Chaturvedi, Mandy Evans, Stephanie Haney, Uma Sankaralingam, Nancy Iannarelli, Angela Vogel, Leann Luck, Shannon Frye, Rhonda Fratto, Cheryl Vogt, Tom Perpetua, Melanie Oyler, Beth Poluszejko, Dave Lamm, Muhammad Janjuh, and Molly Fuchs; A. Patricia Frye, Ashley Tokich, John Luck, Sis Luck, Bill Ainsworth, Rob Gancas, Tom Iagnemma, Jamie Doyle, PFM, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Jamie Doyle, PFM presented the Board with refinancing options for General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012, 2012A, and 2013. She reviewed the following information:

- Interest rates at an all-time low at the end of August
- Summary of District's existing debt portfolio
- Summary of the two step refinancing plans: Step 1 to refinance a portion Series 2012 bonds for an estimated net savings of \$204,278; Step 2 to refinance the remaining Series 2012 bonds, all of Series 2012A and Series 2013 bonds for an estimated net savings of \$82,241, for a total estimated net savings of \$286,520
- District's borrowing capacity
- Estimated timeline if the Board approves the motion this evening

The Board agreed to approve the motion this evening.

### **Consent Agenda**

Czaplicki seconded Hannah on approval of Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Special Meeting	August 6, 2019
Committee Meeting	August 20, 2019
Regular Meeting	August 27, 2019

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

Aquatics Fund  
Athletic Fund  
High School Activity Fund  
Middle School Activity Fund  
Board Summary Reports  
(April and May 2019)

Sara Cremonese  
Mark Keener  
Harriet Dausch  
Harriet Dausch  
Maria Aguilar

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the provided list of gifts/donations.

And to authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$702,246.17 beginning with check number 66158 through check number 66397, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$73,551.99 beginning with check number 7864 through check number 7892, and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$34,071.40, beginning with check number 605 through 607.

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**

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

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- Dr. Evancho and he met with Mr. Wolfe to review draft of “Racial and Ethnic Intimidation” policy; determined existing Unlawful Harassment and Bullying policies would need updated; term “Ethnic and Racial Intimidation” do not cover other protected groups (gender, gender identity, religion, etc.), present new policy as “Diversity and Equity” in October along with changes to other two policies
- Attended Parkway Superintendent meeting, Parkway’s enrollment has increased every year for the past four years and surpassed 900 (912) for the first time; District’s enrollment at 81 and spread across the various programs; Parkway’s NOCTI Exam Pass rate of 96.2% ranked fourth in the state out of the 73 CTCs statewide; vet tech program very popular
- Digital Promise and Grable Foundation co-hosting ED Clusters conference in Pittsburgh this week; kickoff at O’Reilly Theater last night, recognizing South Fayette as a member of League of Innovative Schools by Karen Cator, Director of Digital Promise; visits today to other schools; exhibition at Hotel Monaco with several of our teachers presenting projects

Dr. Evancho added for about a year South Fayette, Evergreen School District in San Jose, and Middletown School District near Cincinnati, cohorts of middle science teachers working together to integrate next generation science standards into the curriculum; Dr. Evancho, two teachers, and administrations went to Middletown School District to work on open education resources; October Board meeting updates to previous data presentations; November meeting will be presenting current curriculum and the Strategic Plans approach on updating/revising the curriculum across the District

- Reminder Board meeting with Hayes Design Group on October 8 at 6:30 to review final model; administration meeting with HDG this week to review building to building needs, growth and building configurations in preparation for the October 8 meeting

- Shout out to Brandon Soubie and Steve Timmins and their staff, and High School administration and teachers for a smoothly run process of getting students back home due to the no water pressure situation on Friday; the football game went on as scheduled and water pressure returned

### **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Bennett reported the following:

- Homecoming dance went well even though the music wasn't what everyone wanted, given the circumstances with the boil water advisory, it went well; decorations and food were good
- Seniors talking about decorating their caps this year

### **Business Office**

Brinsky seconded Vezzi for the Board of School Directors of the South Fayette Township School District to authorize the Administration to work with PFM Financial Advisors LLC, as Financial Advisor, Dinsmore & Shohl LLP as Bond Counsel, and the local Solicitor in conjunction with the issuance of the District's General Obligation Bonds Series of 2019 and Series of 2020, the proceeds of which will be used to currently refund all or a portion of the District's outstanding 2012, 2012A, and 2013 Bonds via competitive internet auction with a minimum net savings target of \$150,000 for the 2019 Bonds and \$50,000 for the 2020 Bonds.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Personnel**

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho for Board approval to hire the following as after school tutors for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Tomasina Crapis, High School Keystone Biology
- Lyndsy Grinko, High School Keystone Biology
- Hannah McGuire, substitute High School Keystone Biology
- Alycia Dorsey, High School Keystone Algebra I
- Kelley Hallett, High School Keystone Algebra I
- Glenn Stewart, substitute High School Keystone Algebra 1
- Theresa Smyczek, High School Keystone Literature

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for the following students from Duquesne University to complete their student teaching from January 6, 2020, through April 24, 2020, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

- Marissa D'Amore with Noelle Gagliardino and Rebecca Colangelo in the Elementary School
- Mikayla Hazy with Shannon Roche, High School Math teacher

Voice Vote – All Yes

Czaplicki seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the EPR list for the 2019-2020 school year.

Petrillo, Czaplicki, Hannah, Brinsky, Vezzi, Quam, Iriti – All  
Yes  
Fornella – Abstained

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Facilities Director Steve Timmins, and Custodial Shift Manager Steve Lower for Board approval to hire Thomas Daley as a Custodian effective for the 2019-2020 school year, pending receipt of required documents at the probationary rate of \$11.02 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$13.78 per hour. This is due to a retirement.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire the Wendy Towers as a Bus Aide at the prevailing rate of \$18.39 per hour effective retroactive to August 22, 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Jamie Chappel as a substitute Bus Aide at the prevailing rate of \$18.39 per hour effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Melissa Lenhart as a substitute Bus Driver at the rate of \$17.50 per hour, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Varsity Lacrosse Coach Connie Iorio for Board approval of the following as Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coaches effective for the 2019-2020 season, and pending receipt of required documents.

- Todd Shaak
- Michael Young

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Boys Baseball Coach Ken Morgan for Board approval to change the status of James Kirker from a Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach to a paid Assistant Baseball Coach effective for the 2019-2020 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hire Suneetha Katta as a Student Monitor in the Elementary School effective September 25, 2019, at the probationary rate of \$9.59 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$11.99 per hour. This is due to an internal move.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to hire Kayleigh Stultz as a Paraeducator for after-school extra-curricular activities in the High School at the rate of \$17.35 per hour, effective retroactive to September 21, 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the personal necessity leave of absence request for Anitha Kotte, Student Monitor in the Intermediate School effective October 3, 2019, through October 30, 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to hire the following Personal Care Paraeducators for after-school extra-curricular activities in the corresponding buildings at the rate of \$18.94 per hour, effective September 25, 2019:

- Krystle Carlisle for the Intermediate School
- Rebecca McClintock for the Intermediate School
- Leann Luck for the Middle School

- Angela Vogel for the Middle School

And for the Board to authorize a 5.00% salary increase for Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Lockette, effective retroactive to July 1, 2019.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers for the 2019-2020 school year, pending receipt of required documents:

- Mary Isaac, Early Childhood (Pre K-4)
- Eileen Ranalli, School Nurse

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Aquatics Director Lizzy Buckholt for Board approval to hire the following as Instructors at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Whitney Cole
- Samantha Eckenrod

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Education**

1. The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell recommend Board approval to permit Gary Smith and approximately 14 chaperones to accompany the senior class on a trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio on June 2, 2020. This trip replaces the annual Senior Banquet and Senior Picnic. There will be no cost to the District.

The Board agreed to table to above motion at this time.

Petrillo seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to permit Charlotte Rudolph, Elementary Music teacher to attend the 2019 American Orff Schulwerk National Professional Development Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah from Thursday, November 21, 2019, through Saturday, November 23, 2019. The cost of the conference is included in the 2019-2020 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to permit Shad Wachter, Intermediate School Technology Literacy teacher to accompany student Meghan Kuczinski to attend the International Community for Collaborative Content Creation (IC4) Program at the New York Hall of Science in New York City, New York, on Saturday, October 12, 2019. The cost of the day trip will be paid for from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant. The student's mother will also accompany her daughter on the trip.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Transportation**

Petrillo seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the bus stops and routes for the 2019-2020 school year. For audit purposes; the records will be kept in the transportation office.

Voice Vote – All Yes



Mrs. Aguilar added in the past when districts wouldn't pay the invoices from the charter schools, PDE would deduct that amount from a district's allocated BEF funds, now if districts don't pay the invoices from the charters school when they are received, PDE will start charging each district a fee when the deductions are made.

Parkway West

Alan Vezzi

Mr. Vezzi reported the Diesel Mechanic program is doing well with 15-16 students.

SHASDA

Alex Czaplicki

Mr. Czaplicki reported the first meeting is this week.

Brinsky seconded Petrillo to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM and enter into another Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters.

President Iriti announced there will not be any votes taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary