



South Fayette Township School District

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:34 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: Joe Welch, Tom Iagnemma, Alan Vezzi, Len Fornella

Present Virtually: Teresa Burroughs, Prajakta Patankar

Absent: Paul Brinsky, Jen Iriti, Lena Hannah

Others: Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler; Student Representative Alekyha Buragadda; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Teachers Mary Quirk, Anne Liberatore, and Jeanne Tupper; Khalil Harper; Dan Engen, DRAW Collective; John Taormina, PJ Dick; Director of Technology Rob Warfield; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dan Engen, DRAW Collective provided the following Facilities Update regarding additions and alterations to the Intermediate School, additions and alterations to the Administration Building; relocation and construction of a new Bus Depot; alterations to the Middle School; options for the location of the new Elementary;

- Intermediate School, which will meet the needs for 10 years:
 - 3rd grade/ground floor – add 4 full size classrooms, 1 Spec Ed classroom, 1 small group classroom, and 1 faculty work room
 - 4th grade/first floor – add 4 full size classrooms, 1 Spec Ed classroom, 1 small group classroom, and 1 faculty work room
 - 5th grade/second floor - add 4 full size classrooms, 1 Spec Ed classroom, 1 small group classroom, 1 faculty work room, and an orchestra room by enclosing the outdoor roof garden
- District Offices:
 - Add 8 additional office spaces for the addition of Student Support Services to the building, and 1 large conference room; expand forward over the ticket booth
- Bus Depot:
 - Relocate to the newly purchased property (Dimun) on Battleridge Road with two access roads; location to be determined based on the topographical survey
- Middle School:
 - Overall the building in amazing shape for its age
 - Ground floor – pool area (diving area does not meet depth code), requesting 8 lane pool and additional spectator seating, ventilation of chemicals; replacement of the pool is a good option; cafeteria at capacity, extend into courtyard

- First floor (main) – no significant ADA changes, new gym lockers; auditorium moisture issue, renovate the entire space and expand the stage; overall 6 classrooms short; administration and assistants currently separated, no privacy in the conference room
- Second floor – renovate library
- Grades scattered throughout the building

Dr. Miller added after meetings with the Administrators, the recommendation is to stay with the current grade level configurations, which is Option A.

The following were also reviewed:

- The gym in the new Elementary School would be a storm shelter to accommodate all Elementary and Intermediate occupants
- Old Elementary School site for playing fields, storage, parking, and restrooms
- Costing Options Summary and Master Plan Schedule
- New Middle School with new pool costs vs additions and alterations ½ cost of a new building
- Building an access road on the Sray farm

Mr. Engen recommended the next steps are for Board approval of the Intermediate School additions and alterations and the topographical survey of the Dimun property and an aerial survey of all District property.

John Taormina, PJ Dick added the costs and schedule are fair and impacts of supplies and skilled labor costs exist.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Welch seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the September 26, 2023 **revised** Regular Meeting agenda. **The following new motions were received and added today:**

- **The Superintendent and Elementary School Principals recommend Board approval of the resignation of a mentor teacher for a Grade 1 Permanent Substitute teacher, effective retroactive to September 25, 2023.**
- **The Superintendent and Elementary School Principals recommend Board approval of a mentor teacher for a Grade 1 Permanent Substitute teacher, effective September 26, 2023.**
- **The Superintendent and Director of Transportation recommend Board approval of the resignation of a bus driver, effective on or about October 6, 2023.**
- **The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the FMLA leave of absence request for a Biology teacher in the High School, effective retroactive to September 11, 2023.**
- **The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval to hire an Intermediate School Building Substitute teacher effective retroactive to September 21, 2023.**
- **The Superintendent and Facilities Director recommend Board approval to hire a custodian, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.**
- **The Superintendent, Director of Technology, and Director of Finance/HR recommend Board approval to hire an Administrative Assistant for Technology (12 month position) with an effective date to be determined.**

Voice Vote – All Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Committee Meeting	August 15, 2023
Regular Meeting	August 22, 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	Sharon Aprea
Middle School Activity Fund	Sharon Aprea

And on authorization for payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount \$1,017,883.09 beginning with check number 75624 through check number 75857, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$104,544.56 beginning with check number 8580 through check number 8598, and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$20,543.50 beginning with check number 038 through check number 039.

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:

- Updated Parkway numbers include an overall 7.25% increase (89 South Fayette), totaling 1,317; 2022-2023 issued 1,831 Industry Certifications, 142 earned by South Fayette students; 2022-2023 98% of students passed their NOCTI exams; Mr. Iagnemma is South Fayette's Representative; Dr. Darby Copeland is the Executive Director; began two-year term as President of the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators (PACTA) in July

Student Representative's Monthly Report

Ms. Buragadda reported:

- Congratulations to five Elementary students for winning the Principal's Pride Award
- Thanks to the maintenance and custodial staff for their work during the summer months
- Grades 2-5 enjoyed a RIASEC assembly with the band, cheerleaders, and dance team to help them discover their interests and potential careers
- September 23 – South Fayette hosted 11 other bands at their annual Festival of Bands
- SHOUT students along with Dr. Herring and Dr. Mital are participating in a student lead discussion on combatting hate in school at the 2023 Eradicate Hate Global Summit
- Congratulations to Homecoming King and Queen Cooper Bruce and Kaylee Swider and the rest of the Homecoming Court

- September 15 – Middle and High Schools held pep rallies to cheer on the football team playing Peters Twp.
- September 15 – Homecoming Carnival was a great success
- Congratulations to Rishika Somireddy, Varun Shiralkar, and Preetam Jukalkar as semifinalist in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship competition
- September 12 – first day of school for the Little Lions Early Learning Academy
- Congratulations to Student Government for winning the Distinguished Student Leader award at the PAC State Conference in Altoona

BUSINESS OFFICE

Welch seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the Professional Services Agreement between the South Fayette Township School District and the Lancaster-Lebanon IU13, for Cristine Wagner-Deitch, Director of Curriculum to provide data leadership consulting services to PIL (Pennsylvania Inspired Leaders), effective retroactive from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The District will receive an amount not to exceed \$3,981.25.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the sale of 17 District vehicles to Songer Services, for a total of \$33,000.

Voice Vote – All Yes

PERSONNEL

New motions from the September 26, 2023 Executive Session:

Burroughs seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the EPR list for the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Tony added these vehicles are no longer usable and are being sold for parts.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to hire the following as after school tutors for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Lydia Sopp, Intermediate School Math PSSA Tutor
- Suzanne Abbott, Intermediate School ELA PSSA Tutor
- Meghan Schneider, High School Biology Keystone Tutor
- Jessica Rogowicz, High School Algebra Keystone Tutor
- Victoria Schreffler, High School Algebra Keystone Tutor
- Taylor Coyne, Intermediate School Math PSSA Tutor

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of (call as needed) substitute support personnel, pending receipt of required documents, for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Ranjani Bora, Clerical at the rate of \$11.00 per hour
- Deepa Mohandass, Clerical at the rate of \$11.00 per hour and Student Monitor at the rate of \$10.00 per hour
- Jennifer Caproni, Clerical at the rate of \$11.00 per hour
- Michelle Budavich, Clerical at the rate of \$11.00 per hour and Student Monitor at the rate of \$10.00 per hour

- Eileen Schmidt, Classroom Paraeducator, at the rate of \$12.50 per hour and a Personal Care Paraeducator at the rate of \$13.50 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principals for Board approval of the resignation of Norene Sarnowski as a mentor teacher for Olivia Iagnemma, Grade 1 Permanent Substitute teacher, effective retroactive to September 25, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principals for Board approval of Sarah Nee as the mentor teacher for Olivia Iagnemma, Grade 1 Permanent Substitute teacher, effective September 26, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the resignation of Lori Kercher as a bus driver, effective on or about October 6, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the FMLA leave of absence request for Tomasina Crapis, Biology teacher in the High School, effective retroactive to September 11, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Amy Zuckett as an Intermediate School Building Substitute teacher effective retroactive to September 21, 2023, at the rate of \$150.00 per day.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval to hire Ronald Adams as a custodian, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, at the probationary rate of \$14.57 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$18.21 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Technology Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance/HR Brian Tony for Board approval to hire Marissa Tatano as an Administrative Assistant in Technology (12 month position) with an effective date to be determined, at the salary rate of \$34,000, prorated for the 2023-2024 school year.

Voice Vote – All Yes

EDUCATION

Burroughs seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone for Board approval to dispose of the attached list of textbooks in the Middle School as per Board Policy 706.1. The District will attempt to resell the textbooks, if not, they will be donated.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to permit Charlotte Rudolph, Intermediate School Music teacher to attend the 2023 Professional Development Conference sponsored by American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from Wednesday, November 1, 2023 through Saturday, November 4, 2023. The cost of the conference includes registration, travel, lodging, meals, and a substitute teacher for 3 days and is included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts for Board approval to permit Dr. Felix Yerace, High School Social Studies teacher to attend the 2023 LEAD Conference sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), in Arlington, Virginia from Friday, November 10, 2023 through Sunday, November 12, 2023. The cost of the conference includes registration, travel, lodging, meals and one substitute teacher for one day and is included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts for Board approval to permit Dr. Felix Yerace, High School Social Studies teacher to attend the 2023 National Conference on Student Activities sponsored by the National Association of State Student Council Executive Directors (NASSCED) in San Francisco, California from Friday, December 1, 2023 through Sunday, December 3, 2023. The cost of the conference includes registration, travel, lodging, meals and one substitute teacher for one day and is included in the 2023-2024 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to permit Dr. Chuck Herring, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Dr. Payal Mital, High School Biology teacher to attend the National Association of Independent Schools 2023 People of Color Conference in St. Louis, Missouri from Wednesday, November 29, 2023 through Saturday, December 2, 2023. The cost of the conference includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals are included in the 2023-2024 budget. The cost to the District will be for one substitute teacher for three days. There is a \$100 discount per person if registration is completed by October 31, 2023.

Voice Vote – All Yes

TRANSPORTATION

Patankar seconded Welch on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the bus stops and routes for the 2023-2024 school year. For audit purposes, the records will be kept in the transportation office.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of A.J. Myers and Sons, Inc. as an approved contractor to transport South Fayette students, effective September 27, 2023. The costs are included in the 2023-2024 budget.

Voice Vote – All Yes

ATHLETICS

There were no items discussed.

CONSTRUCTION

There were no additional items discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items discussed.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

Board Comments

There were no Board comments at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report

President Fornella

President Fornella had nothing to report.

South Fayette Foundation

Paul Brinsky

Mr. Brinsky was absent, Dr. Miller reported the Cancer Awareness football game is in late October and t-shirts will be sold.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah was absent.

Parkway West

Tom Iagnemma

Mr. Iagnemma had nothing to report.

SHASDA

Joe Welch

Mr. Welch had nothing to report.

Welch seconded Vezzi to suspend the meeting at 9:19 PM to enter into another Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues. President Fornella announced there will not be any votes taken following Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:47 PM and returned to the Regular Meeting.

Welch seconded Vezzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary