



# South Fayette Township School District

## Special Meeting

### *Minutes – Virtual Meeting*

Tuesday, July 14, 2020  
7:00 PM

The virtual Special Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:12 PM using Zoom by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella 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. This meeting was properly advertised.

**Present:** William Ainsworth, Tom Iagnemma, Todd Petrillo, Paul Brinsky, Teresa Burroughs, Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti, Alan Vezzi, Len Fornella

**Others:** See attached list of attendees.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dr. Lockette started by saying the Health & Safety Plan/Reopening Plan is a living breathing document and will change as necessary according to the changing conditions and guidelines provided by the county and state. He added the District's plan is consistent with the majority of other districts in the Allegheny County at this time. He concluded the Continuity of Education Plan will also be reviewed in the event the District closes.

Dr. Lockette, Dr. Evancho, Dr. Andler, Stephanie DeLuca, and Kara Miles presented the Health & Safety Plan. The following areas were reviewed but not limited to:

- State mandates include Board approved Athletics Health & Safety Plan (Marching Band) which was approved at the June 23 meeting; Board approved Health & Safety (Reopening) Plan, on the agenda for approval tonight; and universal face coverings
- Various resources included parent, teacher, and student surveys; PDE guidance for reopening; CDC, PDH, ACHD, AIU/Superintendents, neighboring state guidelines (Maryland/Ohio), other county health departments
- Parent surveys included questions regarding technology, online learning program, social & emotional needs/support, and fall reopening
- Teacher surveys included questions on challenges/successes in online environment, concerns/potential solutions for the fall, professional development needs/areas of expertise
- Student surveys regarding online learning included but were not limited to: enjoyable experience, support learning needs, would you do it again, prefer synchronous/asynchronous/combo of both, social/emotional stress, use of resources shared by counselor,
- Students' additional needs for future online learning included but were not limited to: live instruction w/teachers, social engagement with peers/teachers, opportunities for immediate feedback from teachers, more two-way communication, more challenging assignments, project-based assignments,
- Reopening scenarios 1) total reopen for all students/staff (some families opt for distance learning out of safety/health concerns); 2) scaffolded reopening: some students engaged in in-person learning, others distance learning; 3) blended reopening balancing in-person learning and remote learning; 4) total remote learning for all students

Dr. Lockette stated the District's Health & Safety Reopening Plan at this time is a total reopening on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. The following sections of the plan were reviewed by not limited to:

- Pandemic Coordinator/Team of Kevin Maurer and Tyler Geist

- Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation to include: daily cleaning checklists; daily cleaning of all learning spaces, offices, restrooms, communal/common spaces, and buses including between runs
- Social distancing and other protocols include: students/staff practice social distancing to the maximum extent possible; classroom furniture arranged to support social distancing; large group spaces used for six feet distance during lunch; grade levels split in half for lunch; preassigned seating and split into cafeteria/gym; limited number of classrooms at recess; hand washing/sanitizing before lunch, after recess and upon arrival; hygiene signs posted in/around classrooms & restrooms; announcements and teacher reminders/instruction on proper handwashing/social distancing; restrict non-essential visitors/volunteers; temperature/self-assessment questionnaire of visitors; visitors entering buildings required to wear face coverings;
- Limit sharing of materials by: encourage outside recess/PE classes when possible; students assigned own textbooks/devices; families purchase school supplies/kits
- Stagger use of communal/hallway spaces include: K-5 potential use of homeroom classrooms for special area instruction; stagger schedules for traveling to other essential spaces; hallway traffic for essential travel only
- Transportation includes: social distancing at bus stops; parents provide transportation to/from school; students sit w/family member and in same seats daily; additional kindergarten bus runs added to reduce number on bus; drivers and students required to wear face coverings on bus
- Limit movement/group interaction by: K-5 staggering recess; K-5 reading rooms schedule; K-12 stagger enrichment and “pull out” schedules
- Monitoring student/staff health by: all students/staff complete self-assessment/temperature check prior to reporting to school; students/staff feeling ill must stay home or sent home, particularly if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms as determined by building nurses; students/staff/visitors with symptoms or history of exposure will be isolated to designated areas; ACHD will be notified of potential concerns/cases; nurses will use symptoms/history algorithm to determine isolation/quarantining criteria for ill/exposed student/staff; District will work with county/state health departments determining when students/staff should isolate/quarantine and when to notify staff/families of possible case while maintaining confidentiality; students/staff/visitors return to school when CDC/ACHD guidelines for COVID-19 symptom resolution have been met
- Students/staff at higher risk: provide PPE; provide remote learning opportunities; adhere to state/federal employment law/extended leave allowances; reconvene IEP meetings to adjust for special needs; social/emotional screener identifies students experiencing social/emotional distress and deploy appropriate services; additional personnel available; utilize SAP/school based mental health providers
- Face coverings required in all public spaces, including inside school buildings per PDH July 1, 2020 order and when less than six feet from others; may be removed when eating/drinking when spaced six feet apart; students with medical conditions who are unable to remove a mask without assistant should consider using a shield; plexiglass installed in all office areas

Dr. Evancho and Mrs. DeLuca presented the following information included but not limited to regarding the Cyber Academy Initial Plan:

- Scenarios driven by enrollment and facilitated by South Fayette teachers; enrollment for one semester minimum; asynchronous assignments/synchronous learning when appropriate; continuous assessments; grading
- Special Education: IEP teams determine services delivered to best meet individual student needs; ESL services provided and determined on individual need
- Grades K-5: synchronous and asynchronous program; enrollment per grade level will determine scenario and if specials are blended or asynchronous
- Grades 6-8: synchronous and asynchronous program; core courses online/synchronous schedule; enrollment determines if specials/world languages will be asynchronous
- Grades 9-12: two scenarios depend on enrollment; minimized Program of Studies offered; graduation requirements can be accommodated
- Enrollment Process: seeking 100% participation; responses due by July 31; enroll in brick and mortar or cyber academy; transportation commitment

## Continuity of Learning Initial Plan – Full –Online

- Blended approach of asynchronous and synchronous include teacher intentionality; scheduling live meetings; assessment and grading; attendance; communication

Dr. Lockette reviewed the next steps:

- Publish approved Health & Safety Plan
- Fall Instructional Enrollment Form
- Use data/numbers to inform decisions
- Continue to monitor situation
- Communicate decisions and updates

The Board discussed the protocols for wearing masks/shields; what numbers will constitute a school closure; Cyber Academy offering AP/honors courses; if a student or staff is diagnosed with COVID-19; support/resources for students with social/emotional needs; additional masks for students/staff; cleaning/sanitizing supplies for classrooms and buses; transportation; support from families to start children to wear a mask and understand social distancing;

At 9:52 PM the Board agreed to take an 8 minute break and resume the meeting at 10:00 PM.

The meeting resumed at 10:00 PM with President Fornella quoting *John Donne*, ‘no man is an island’, continuing we are a community together, within the county, state, country, and world; have to make very difficult decisions within the next few weeks; working together with other schools and the AIU to devise plans that are consistent and rational with slight differences; understands there are opinions on both ends of the spectrum on how/should we return to school; understand and share concerns as a Board and Administrative Team; recognize there is no right/wrong answer but revise the best plan. Comments will be limited to one minute or less due to the number of people who have questions and/or comments and the Board and Administration will not respond at this time, but will answer any questions; Dr. Lockette will provide an overview/commentary to questions/comments following the meeting; all emails comments/questions will be considered. Please be respectful, no yelling and no personal commentary. Everyone is trying to do the best job they can, to determine the best alternative during these very difficult times.

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

Sara Emanuel, problems with her audio, could not comment.

Lisa Passyn, Sharalyn Drive, parents being cautious sending students to brick and mortar, any relief on number of absences allowed for students; number of free classes online, will the Cyber Academy allow the option to take an AP class online through a university.

Adam VanScoy, Sandstone Drive, mischaracterization to classify this as a semester commitment to the Cyber Academy versus brick and mortar; students have to settle for something less than what they are qualified for and there is coming back from that at the end of the semester; question omitted.

Julie Ging, Willowbrook Drive, what plans are in place for multiple students and faculty members contracting the disease, spread and transmission by bus loads and classrooms full of students and faculty.

Joe Welch, Rutherglen Drive, PDE not requiring it, but ethical and moral obligation to protect the staff/faculty, supply more than the minimum PPE required, encourage N95 masks for the vulnerable staff; the proposed plan is all or nothing, what options if conditions change; blended options available if teachers are quarantined.

Chandra Karnati, Oakmont Drive, if a student chooses the brick and mortar option and has to be quarantined for two weeks, can they attend the cyber academy.

There were no additional comments at this time.

Dr. Lockette commented on the questions presented:

- What protocols with exposures of faculty/students – they will be quarantined in a designated area on campus; notify parents; notify health department for further guidance and will make decisions moving forward on quarantining others/contact tracing
- Move from brick and mortar to online if quarantined – will be on a case by case basis, if can accommodate online, use resources available based on the student's needs

Additional Questions from public:

Stacy Hurt, Saddlewood Drive, considered delaying the start of the school year to have more information/data, to make a decision by July 31 is a tight deadline.

Nicole Magdich, Thoms Run Road, members of athletics/band required to attend brick and mortar; permitted to do period one band then go home to attend cyber.

Corrine Harkins, Northridge Drive, intentionality on safety for students and staff; more transparency on cleaning products and frequency; plan for students going in and out of the library; lunchtime who will monitor the students, paras or monitors; how often is garbage emptied; if a staff is quarantined will their sick days be amended; same for student sick days; timeline for training teachers for online learning; plans for EDS; more transparency to help make the decision for my child.

Julie Ging, Willowbrook Drive, COVID symptoms similar to cold symptoms, no way to differentiate, adhere to make them stay home how will school work be made up; buses are a petri-dish; enough sanitizing/cleaning supplies; mix of cyber and evening STEAM session in person.

Heather VanScoy, Sandstone Drive, have a separate high school meeting, not comfortable enough to make the decision for our senior.

Nicole Magdich, Thoms Run Road, students scheduled as Big Helpers for preschool next year, how will that work.

President Fornella, all comments/concerns/questions considered and will be addressed in the near future; the Health & Safety Plan is a living, breathing document and will change to ensure the best plan and maximize the educational opportunities for all students. Thank you

Dr. Lockette added questions sent via email will be addressed, create an FAQ list to answer the more common questions; don't have answers to all questions yet, working collectively with other districts. Thank you.

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

There were no additional comments at this time.

### **Business**

Iriti seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistants to the Superintendent, and Safety and Security Co-Coordinator for Board approval to authorize the administration to advertise for bids for the purchase and installation of one - Avigilon Analytic Appliance - Avigilon MODEL VMA-AIA1-CG2-NA or equivalent and one - Avigilon 64TB NETWORK VIDEO RECORDER – AVIGILON

MODEL HD-NVR4-PRM-64TB-NA or equivalent for the existing camera system for the 2020-2021 school year. The items will be paid for with the PCCD CARES Grant.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistants to the Superintendent, Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the quote to purchase the following additional functionalities to be added to the Parent Portal of PowerSchool effective for a three year period beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. The costs for the first year, \$12,032.32, will be paid for by the PCCD COVID-19 School Health and Safety Grant, the costs for the remaining years will be included in the technology budget.

- Enrollment Express for online student enrollment
- Ecollect which enables parents to fill out any forms electronically that the District requires.

Dr. Lockette added two of the three motions are covered by the CARES Grant.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

### **Miscellaneous**

The Board agreed to table the motion below to give the public more time to review the plan and to make any necessary revisions to the plan.

1. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services recommend Board approval of the Health & Safety Plan as presented.

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

There were no comments at this time

Brinsky seconded Ainsworth to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary