



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes – Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
7:30 PM

The virtual Committee Meeting of the Whole of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:42 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.

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

Absent: Paul Brinsky

Others: See attached list of attendees.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dr. Lockette congratulated President Fornella on his 40 years of service as a School Board Member. Dr. Lockette introduced Jim Summerville, PSBA Member Services Manager who also congratulated President Fornella and on behalf of PSBA thanked him for his 40 years of dedicated service to the students and staff of South Fayette Township School District. He added due to the pandemic, the certificate and plaque will be mailed to President Fornella. President Fornella thanked everyone and added it has been a privilege and an honor to serve the students, staff, and community for so many years to make South Fayette a great district.

Dr. Lockette reviewed the following regarding the Transition Plan:

- Choice of 4-day per week (M/T/R/F) or South Fayette Cyber Academy (Wednesday asynchronous day for both models)
- October 19 - Enrollment forms sent out; one form per child enrolled in the District and are due October 23
- November 10 – grades K-5 will start the new models
- December 1 – grades 6-12 will start the new models
- Week of November 9 – start of asynchronous Wednesday for both models for all grades K-12

Dr. Andler reviewed the following updates regarding the Transition Plan:

- ◆ Universal Screener/PASS (People Attitudes towards Self and School) staff training last week
- ◆ Universal Screen/PASS parent training video/information will be sent out next week
- ◆ Grades K-5 will be screened in the classroom either in person or virtually during the first 2-weeks in November
- ◆ Grades 6-12 will be screened during their English course on an asynchronous day
- ◆ Review data to identify at risk students in need of support/interventions and receive information from their counselors and parents for what resources are available
- ◆ Second administration of screener in March/April 2021 to determine if any additional services are needed
- ◆ Areas identified why students are reaching out to counselors include anxiety and social /peer interactions; counselors/Student Support Services continuing to provide student support groups

The Board discussed comparison of COVID impact on students; in-house and outside resources available; social/emotional aspect of the overall student body.

Dr. Hartzell presented the following information regarding year end Senior activities and locations for the graduating class of 2021 and beyond:

- ◆ Senior students and parents feedback
- ◆ Continue Senior Parade with food trucks, picnic, and Senior Breakfast
- ◆ Graduation inside options: South Fayette Gymnasium or Robert Morris University
- ◆ Graduation outside option: South Fayette Stadium
- ◆ COVID options for both inside and outside
- ◆ Pros and cons for each location include: parking; security; seating; IT including live streaming; additional costs if held off campus; weather/rain date

Dr. Lockette presented the following criteria regarding the change of Kevin Maurer's title from Middle School Assistant Principal to Middle School Associate Principal:

- ◆ Sequential successful annual leadership and performance evaluations
- ◆ Individual achievements and extra efforts that align with the Strategic Plan
- ◆ Co-designed and co-hosted the PAMLE Western Regional Conference
- ◆ Lead TRUE Grit Program – a program to help young male students transition from middle school to high school
- ◆ Co-Safety and Security Coordinator, outstanding job in dealing with the pandemic with Tyler Geist
- ◆ Obtaining Doctorate from Point Park University

Dr. Lockette thanked Mr. Maurer for his hard work and going the extra mile.

Mr. Maurer thanked Dr. Lockette, the Board, and administrators for this recognition; an honor to work and grow both as an educator and administrator in South Fayette.

Consent Agenda

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

Special Meeting	September 1, 2020
Committee Meeting	September 15, 2020
Regular Meeting	September 22, 2020

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

Aquatics Fund	Sara Cremonese
Athletic Fund	Mark Keener
High School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
Middle School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
Tax Collector Monthly Reports (February – June 2020)	Kevin Biber

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Tax Collector Kevin Biber for Board approval of the provided list of Real Estate Refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the provided list of gifts/donations.
5. The Board considered approval of expenditures that were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Kenneth Lockette

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- District earned the Everfi Champion Seal, awarded annually to school districts in North America who have made an exemplary commitment to the whole child within their education format; recognizes our dedication to transformational change of equity and well-being of each child
- Giant Eagle's grand opening of their new WetGo carwash in Bridgeville recognized South Fayette and Chartiers Valley school districts and awarded each district \$7,000 which will be used by the SHOUT program

Dr. Herring added the money will be used to help the SHOUT program facilitate a variety of upcoming events; writing a book with testimonials from Senator Pam Iovino, Dr. Andre Perry from Brookings Institution, and Koby Altman, General Manager of the Cleveland Cavaliers. He added the students met with PDE to explain the program and offered their services to help develop training on diversity and equity, and inclusion for educators; they were asked to be a part of PDE's Equity and Inclusion Taskforce. Thanked Board members Mrs. Burroughs and Mrs. Iriti and High School Assistant Principal Mr. Butts for participating in the Privilege Walk. Dr. Herring concluded by wishing Mrs. Iriti a happy birthday, the same day as his granddaughter.

Business Office

Hannah seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval to purchase 250 armchairs to accommodate for social distancing when the in-person 4-day a week transition model is implemented. The total cost of the furniture is \$13,482.62, and is a PACostars quote. This is an unbudgeted cost.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter an agreement with Hobsons/Naviance Guidance, a college and career readiness platform to be paid in three annual installments of \$8,029.90, for a total cost of \$24,089.70, effective for three years beginning July 8, 2021. The previous annual installment cost was \$7,750.71. The cost will be included in the 2021-2022 budget.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to accept the 2020-2021 IDEA 619 Pass Through Funds in the amount of \$2,142.00 through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit DART Early Intervention Program. These federal funds will support school-age students, age 5, in Kindergarten receiving special education programs and services.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to continue participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Board for 2021-2022 school year.

Personnel

Hannah seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers and support personnel for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Jaqueline Platt, Grades PK-4, pending receipt of required documents
- James Casey, Food Service Transporter at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, Bus Aide at the rate of \$8.65 per hour, pending receipt of required documents
- Joan Fordeley, Clerical at the rate of \$9.65 per hour
- Ronnell Heard, Administrative I Principal PK-12/Private School Teacher Physical Education K-12, pending receipt of required documents
- Jennifer Martin, Elementary K-6/Reading Specialist K-12, pending receipt of required documents
- Justine Yanosik, Grades 4-8 (All subjects 4-6/Math 7-8), pending receipt of required documents

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Alexandra Rhoads as a Permanent Substitute Grade 4 teacher at the Intermediate School at the Bachelor's Step 1 rate of \$48,581, prorated, effective retroactive to August 17, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to hire Tyler Hudak as an intermittent BCIT substitute teacher at the rate of \$250.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year, effective retroactive to October 14, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the rate change for substitute bus drivers to \$20.00 per hour effective October 21, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following support staff requests for a leave of absence based on the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) with effective dates to be determined:

- Christine Madden, Paraeducator, Intermediate School
- Natalie Macek, Paraeducator, Elementary School
- Antoinette Everetts, Bus Driver

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

Education

Burroughs seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to allow the High School Life Skills students to participate in the Horses with Hope program as part of their Community Based Instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost to participate in the program is included in the 2020-2021 budget.

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

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for approval to conduct COVID Compensatory Services for eligible special education students. The program will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for one hour after school, beginning Tuesday, January 19, 2021, through Thursday, March 11, 2021. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate. Salary and benefits will be paid from the Special Education COVID Mitigation Equity Grant.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to conduct the Extended School Year (ESY) program in the summer of 2021. The program will run Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., beginning June 21, 2021, through July 22, 2021. The District will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021, in observance of the July 4 holiday. The cost of the program is included in the 2020-2021 budget.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for approval to offer an ESL Summer Book Club. The program will run from June 28, 2021, through July 30, 2021. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 10 hours of instruction per teacher, a maximum of two teachers. Salary, benefits, and supplies will be paid from Title III funds.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to conduct the Kids of Steel Club in the Elementary School effective for the 2020-2021 school year. The trial period for this club was in the 2019-2020 school year.
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval to conduct the Middle School GSA Club in the Middle School effective for the 2020-2021 school year. The trial period for this club was in the 2019-2020 school year.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell, and High School College & Career Counselor Emily Sharro for Board approval to offer the PSAT test on January 26, 2021, as an optional exam for students during the 2020-2021 school year.
7. The considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to administer the Keystone Exams using three asynchronous days, December 1, 2, and 3, 2020.

Transportation

There were no items discussed.

Athletics

Coaching personnel were discussed in Executive Session.

Construction

There were no 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.

Vezi seconded Ainsworth to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary