



South Fayette Township School District

Regular Meeting

Minutes – Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
7:30 PM

The virtual Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:39 PM using Zoom by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Vezzi 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, 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. Evancho, James Hausman and Michelle Jenkins, High School English teachers presented the process of selecting the novel *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Mr. Hausman explained how they used the Pennsylvania state standards and the Teaching Tolerance standards to select this novel which will replace *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the both honors and regular ninth grade English classes, starting this school year. Ms. Jenkins added this novel will help teach students empathy and how to have difficult conversations. Dr. Evancho concluded the District will continue to use and refine the tool and incorporate black history into the curriculum.

Dr. Herring proudly announced the SHOUT Program received a Certificate of Special Recognition from U.S. Senator Patrick Toomey. The certificate recognizes the programs efforts to promote racial justice, cultural tolerance and service within our community. Dr. Herring then introduced Junior Zachary Betz and Senior Mitchell Howard who presented an overview of the SHOUT (Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment) Program including:

- ◆ Yamini Yepuri a 2020 graduate started the program by recruiting eight members last year
- ◆ Handprints Heal Footprints, very successful first event held
- ◆ Reached out to 38 other school districts
- ◆ Recognized by Harvard lecturer Dr. Greg Norris and State Senator Pam Iovino
- ◆ Writing a book titled *Raise Your Voice*
- ◆ Privilege Walk included Canon Mac and Fox Chapel School Districts, Board members and High School Principal Robert Butts, to name a few

Mr. Howard reflected on the walk as 'eye-opening,' adding 'you don't know what you don't know' when it comes to what some people struggle with on a daily basis. Mr. Betz added he was hurt knowing he had more privileges than other people and to support people with things they need, want, and deserve.

Dr. Herring concluded the following events, which will be open to the public, are being planned:

- ◆ Money Clap
- ◆ November 12 – participate in the PDE Equity & Inclusion Task Force
- ◆ November 19 – working with the Green Building Alliance for a virtual panel discussion with various religious leaders
- ◆ 2021 Summer Institute on diversity, equity and inclusion hosted by South Fayette, student led, national speakers, learn culture and food, includes other SHOUT chapters

Consent Agenda

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

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

And on 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	Kevin Biber
(February – June 2020, July & August 2020)	

And on 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.

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 \$1,233,972.68 beginning with check number 68770 through check number 68979, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$37,324.30 beginning with check number 8111 through check number 8128, and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$193,712.52 beginning with check numbers 011 through 014.

Roll Call – 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 to discuss.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

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

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- Any community members not receiving emails from Dr. Lockette or other central administration personnel please contact me directly; the distribution lists are the same ones used by the buildings; please check your spam folders
- Updated the positive COVID-19 case numbers in the District: past two weeks four positive cases; three in the past week, one each in the MS and HS and one not building related; ACHD determined no connection between these cases; September had one each in the MS and ES and again, no connection; some staff and students have been quarantined due to home transmission;

continue to enforce mask wearing, social distancing whenever possible, hand washing, self-assessments, monitor cases and communicate to the community

- Four day transition plan enrollment forms opened; ES/IS begins 11/10 and MS/HS begins December 1 with Wednesdays as an asynchronous day for all students; reserve the right to shift models if more cases emerge or if cases are determined to be transmitted through the buildings

Mrs. Miles provided information on the South Fayette community numbers increasing from 178 to 193 over a two day period, which the ACHD states is a community problem, and does not warrant any building closures. The four day model may increase the need to quarantine based on the ACHD guidelines. The Board discussed the community numbers.

The principals reported the following results of the enrollment forms for the four day in-person model:

- ES – 32 moving to brick & mortar, 4 moving to cyber, no change to teacher schedules
- IS – 40 moving to brick & mortar, 4 moving to cyber, no change to teacher schedules
- MS – approximately 2% shift both ways, more students moving to brick & mortar, no change to teacher schedules, possible student changes will be communicated to parents prior to 12/1

Mr. Petrillo exited the meeting at 8:51 PM.

- HS - 8 moving to brick & mortar; concerns are lunch numbers, 218 highest lunch count with 300 seats; cannot guarantee social distancing in the classrooms; higher classes sizes will vary between 23-25

The Board discussed touring the buildings to see the setups for the start of the four day in-person model. Dr. Lockette added you are welcome anytime to do it individually or as a group.

Student Representative Report

Mr. Reddy reported the following:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country teams are section champions
- Boys and Girls Soccer teams made it to the playoffs
- Junior Caroline McConnell WPIAL section runner-up
- HS - theme week in preparation for Halloween
- October 24 - Diversity Education Symposium gave students from across the state the opportunity to learn about the lack of diversity in their schools and neighboring districts; areas discussed included mental health, bias, and socio-economic issues occurring in schools; PAEnd, a teen initiative to incorporate actions from students across the state
- HS hybrid/cyber programs going well, thanked all the teachers, staff, administrators, and parents for working together to help continue the students' education during this time of crisis
- Congratulated and thanked President Fornella on his 40 years of service as a Board Member

Business Office

Vezi seconded Ainsworth on 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.

And on 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.

And on 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.

And on 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 enter into an agreement with Respondus 4.0 to provide assessment generating software, effective November 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021. The prorated cost of \$1,470.00 includes a one-time registration fee of \$200 and is included in the 2020-2021 High School budget.

Roll Call – All Yes

Personnel

Burroughs seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to grant a leave of absence request to Laura Nagel, Special Education teacher in the Intermediate School effective on or about November 7, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistants to the Superintendent for Board approval to hire the following as after school tutors at the current contract EPR rate for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Mike Perrott-Middle School PSSA Coordinator
- Kathleen Fischer-Middle School PSSA ELA Tutor
- Melissa Gielata-Middle School PSSA ELA Tutor
- Jeremy Hall-Middle School PSSA Math Tutor
- Sarah Sweet-Intermediate School PSSA Coordinator
- Julie Farneth-Intermediate School PSSA ELA Tutor
- Sarah Cabonor-Intermediate School PSSA ELA Tutor
- Kelly DiGiacomo-Intermediate School PSSA ELA Tutor
- Lori Litwinovich-Intermediate School PSSA Math Tutor
- Shane Coyne-Intermediate School PSSA Math Tutor

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education, and Administrators for Board approval to add the following EPR positions effective for the 2020-2021 school year, due to the split from the Intermediate School:

EPR Title	EPR Rate
Elementary Team Leader – Specials Area	\$2,215.00
Elementary Team Leader – Special Education	\$2,215.00

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for Natalie DiGiorno, a student from Carlow University, to complete her 30 hours of observation with Noelle Gagliardino, Kindergarten teacher in the Elementary School during the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District:

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for the following student teachers to complete their student teaching during the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District:

- Rachel Schwartzmiller, a Duquesne University student with Robin Sciotto, Grade 2 teacher in the Elementary School

- Jonah Philipp, a Duquesne University student with Courtney Rabi, English teacher in the High School
- Mallory Weiss, a Washington & Jefferson College student with Kylee Phillips, Special Education teacher and Emily Bigley, Grade 1 teacher, both in the Elementary School
- Gabriella Guevara, a Point Park University student with Scott Sundgren, Grade 4 teacher in the Intermediate School
- Madison Corcoran, as Point Park University student with Theresa Smyczek, Special Education teacher and Anthony Salvucci, Social Studies teacher, both in the High School

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Facilities Director Steve Timmins, and Custodial Shift Manager Steve Lower for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Shirley Blue as a Custodian in the High School. Her last day worked will be January 4, 2021. Mrs. Blue has been employed in the District since 1990.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Dave Mislán for Board approval of the following as Assistant Boys Basketball Coaches effective for the 2020-2021 season, pending receipt of required documents, contingent on the season commencing:

- Danny Nee
- Anthony Frost

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Baseball Coach Ken Morgan for Board approval of Brett Willner as a Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach effective for the 2020-2021 season, pending receipt of required documents, contingent on the season commencing.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education Stephanie DeLuca, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Kelly Disson, 5th Grade teacher at the Master's Step 1 rate of \$50,403 prorated, effective for the 2020-2021 school year. This is due to a resignation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Linda Twedt, Middle School French/Spanish teacher. Madame Twedt's last day worked will be February 17, 2021. Madame Twedt has been employed by the District since August 1999.

Mrs. Burroughs thanked Mrs. Blue and Madame Twedt for their years of service to the students of South Fayette.

Roll Call – All Yes

Iriti seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to hire Christopher Juzwick as the Assistant Director of Finance, a 12 month position, at the salary rate of \$91,000, prorated for the 2020-2021 school year, with a start date to be determined. The offer is contingent upon the negotiation and execution of a 3-year employment contract with terms and conditions acceptable to both parties.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for Board approval to create an Application Support Specialist position effective November 2, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for Board approval to hire Lee Ann Jubas as the Application Support Specialist at the salary rate of \$51,231, prorated, effective November 2, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for Board approval to eliminate the position of Network Systems Specialist previously held by Lee Ann Jubas, effective November 2, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for Board approval to create a 10-month Technology Assistant position at the rate not to exceed \$35,000, prorated, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens for Board approval to create two Canvas Implementation Coach EPR positions per building, effective for the 2020-2021 school year. The 2020-2021 rate per position is will be \$1,875.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval to hire Justine Yanosik as a substitute Grade 7 Math/Science teacher at the rate of \$250.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year, effective retroactive to October 26, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval to hire Emily Lafferty as a substitute Grade 7 ELA teacher at the rate of \$250.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required documents, with an effective date to be determined.

And 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, pending receipt of required documents:

- Kathleen Coll, Elementary K-6
- Rachel Stock, Phys Ed K-12

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistants to the Superintendent for Board approval to hire the following as after school tutors for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Sarah Pruss, Middle School PSSA Math Tutor

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for Traci Goforth, a student from Thiel College, to complete her 100 nursing certification hours with Kara Miles, Lead Nurse/Elementary School Nurse, during the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education Stephanie DeLuca, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Jennifer Drazick as a substitute Special Education teacher in the Intermediate School at the rate of \$250.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year, pending receipt of required documents and subject to the execution of an appropriate MOU with the Support Union.

Roll Call – All Yes

Iriti seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education Stephanie DeLuca, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Ashley Iagnemma as a substitute Grade 3 teacher in the Intermediate School at the rate of \$250.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year, effective date to be determined.

Roll Call – Ainsworth, Petrillo, Brinsky, Burroughs, Hannah, Iriti, Vezzi, Fornella – All Yes
Iagnemma – Abstained

Iriti seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education Stephanie DeLuca, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Shaheen Sultana as a Student Monitor in the Intermediate School at the probationary rate of \$10.99 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period the rate will be \$13.74 per hour, effective November 10, 2020. This position is due to a resignation.

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

- Maureen Sirc, High School Math teacher
- Nicholas Karafilis, Substitute teacher
- Stacey Byerly, Bus Driver
- Sharon Matrazzo, Bus Driver

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to hire Kayleigh Stultz as a Classroom Paraeducator for the following After-School Extra Curricular Activities at the rate of \$18.41 per hour for the 2020-2021:

- High School Media Club
- High School Fall Showcase

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval of the resignation of Dr. Jeffrey Evancho, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education effective on or around February 11, 2021.

President Fornella wished Dr. Evancho much success.

Mrs. Burroughs thanked Dr. Evancho for everything he has done to support the students, staff, and community and he will be truly missed.

Roll Call – All Yes

Education

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board 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.

And on 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.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board 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.

And on 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.

And on 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.

And on 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.

And on 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.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to enter into an affiliation agreement with Thiel College effective for a five-year period beginning retroactive to October 5, 2020. There will be no cost to the District.

Roll Call – All Yes

Transportation

There were no items discussed.

Athletics

Burroughs seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval for freshman, Evabella Cox, to participate in Individual Gymnastics in the WPIAL and PIAA under South Fayette's name. Her mother, Robin Cox, would be her coach and there will be no cost to the district. Her parents are responsible for all transportation and documentation. This would be in effect for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval for freshman, Katie Kelly, to participate in Individual Gymnastics in the WPIAL and PIAA under South Fayette's name. Her mother, Amy Kelly, would be her coach and there will be no cost to the district. Her parents are responsible for all transportation and documentation. This would be in effect for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

Roll Call – All Yes

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.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Wolfe had nothing specific to report; COVID continues to present new challenges.

Board Comments

There were no comments at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report President Len Fornella

President Fornella had nothing to report.

South Fayette Foundation Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah had nothing to report.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported the virtual Advocacy Day on October 8 went well, reviewing charter reform, liability protection, broadband services, and opening school; sent an alert last week asking for support for charter reform.

Parkway West Alan Vezzi

Vice President Vezzi reported in-person meeting held on October 6; enrollment increased by 5.26% with 49 new students for a total of 961; reviewing moving to four day in-person learning.

SHASDA William Ainsworth

Mr. Ainsworth had nothing to report.

Ainsworth seconded Iriti to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary