



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:33 PM in the Studio, in the High School by President Jen Iriti with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Iriti 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:** Teresa Burroughs, Lena Hannah, Paul Brinsky, Bill Ainsworth, Joe Welch, Prajakta Patankar, Jen Iriti

**Absent:** Len Fornella, Tom Iagnemma

**Others:** Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Chris Juzwick; High School Principal Robert Butts, Teachers Patricia Cortese, Anne Liberatore, Emily Giovannucci, and Melissa Contis; Kevin Henderson, Nathan Henderson, Michelle Henderson, Olivia Henderson, Pamela Shirley, Vidhisha Chahande, Shashikant Chahande, Zoe McCoy, Sandy McCoy, Kaz McCoy, Kira Perna, Heesun Kim, Mark Perna, Sadie Mohnkern, Frank Zamiska, Shaylee Mustakas, Gus Mustakas, Lindsay Loebig, Keli Arison, John Zelczak, Jen Wallis, Heidi Pusateri (Cello), Allyson Graham, Steve Goldstein, Karen Jordan, Julian Jordan, Vanessa Keller, Trisha Self, Josh Keller, Lauren Ghilani, Mandy Novotni, Brook Zapf, Julia D'Angelo, Kimmy Rectenwald, Stan Shivell, Janice Slyder, Kelly Barish, Rebecca Yurchick, Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield; Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary, and attached list of attendees

President Iriti announced the meeting is being streamed into the theatre; being recorded; and per Board policy everyone in person must be wearing a mask covering their nose and chin.

Dr. Miller proudly introduced the following students whose amazing drawings were selected as the District's Holiday Cards, with over 700 mailed to teachers and staff, friends of South Fayette, and local district colleagues. Each student's work was displayed to the public and the students were presented with their card framed.

- ✓ Olivia Henderson
- ✓ Zoe McCoy
- ✓ Sadie Mohnkern
- ✓ Kira Perna

Dr. Miller also thanked Mrs. Contis, HS Art teacher and their parents for supporting the children's passion for the arts.

Mr. Butts proudly recognized sophomore Vidhisha Chahande, who earned the rank of Eagle Scout; a member of Troop 9228, led by Pamela Shirley; which falls under Eagle Valley serving southern Allegheny County, the first female to earn this from Troop 9228 and Eagle Valley District, only the third from the Laural Highlands Council which serves over 10,000 scouts. She reached out to the township for their needs; her Eagle project she designed and painted picnic tables at Fairview Park with board games for checkers and an abstract painting. Mr. Butts added her high school activities include, FBLA State

Champion, competing in TSA State Competition, tutors middle school students; member of Health & Careers Club and does PR for the SHOUT Club. Mr. Butts presented her with a Certificate of Completion. Dr. Miller congratulated Vidhisha, her family and troop; her ceremony will be on March 5.

### AGENDA APPROVAL:

Burroughs seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the February 22, 2022, revised Regular Meeting agenda. New motions, which were received and added today, are listed below:

- The Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal recommend Board approval of an intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for a Paraeducator in the Intermediate School with an effective date to be determined.
- The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of EPRs for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Bus bid motion
- Revise Health & Safety Plan as presented

Dr. Miller presented the following pertinent recommended revisions to the Health & Safety Plan:

- The District will move from requiring universal masking to strongly recommending, but not requiring universal masking as of February 28, 2022.
- The District reserves the right to reinstate universal masking at the classroom-, grade-, building-, or district-level at any time. The District may do this without a vote from the Board of School Directors should circumstances and local health department guidance warrant such actions. This would most likely be triggered by a grade level or building spread of COVID-19. Should the need to extend universal masking extend beyond two weeks, a vote by the Board of School Directors would be necessary.
- ***In accordance with federal regulations, all individuals are required to wear a mask on public transportation which includes school buses.*** This will be continued unless and until federal guidance removes this requirement.
- Masking will be recommended, but not required, for participants and spectators during athletic and extracurricular activities and/or events, effective February 28, 2022.
- Students and staff who are returning to school or work after testing positive for COVID-19 after 5 days, will adhere to wearing a mask on Days 6-10, per the current shortened isolation protocol and will eat lunch in an alternative seating space to maximize social distancing, regardless of vaccination status. This applies to student athletes regardless of vaccination status, as well, however, the District will defer to ACHD guidance for any exemptions to masking during active play during this time period. Any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 and is uncomfortable with the above requirements, may engage in remote learning.
- Should there be multiple known COVID-19 cases in a classroom or building, the District may increase cleaning efforts utilizing additional cleaning products and/or additional staffing. The District will continue with the cleaning and disinfecting mitigation efforts that are currently in place.
- When the District moves to recommended masking, the District will cease to contact trace individual cases, unless required to do so by the ACHD.
- Parents are asked to contact the school nurse if a student tests positive or is presumed positive for COVID-19 by calling the school or using the form on the website under the COVID-19 Updates tab.
- If a student is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, the student may be asked to wear a mask while in the nurse's office during the office assessment and may be sent home due to symptoms.
- The District no longer requires asymptomatic students who are close contacts to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status, but they may do so if desired.
- In accordance with PDE guidance and with consultation with the ACHD, a maximum 14-day suspension of in-person learning may occur if 5% of students and staff in any particular building have confirmed COVID-19 cases in a 14-day window. The District may do this without a vote from

the Board of School Directors should circumstances and local health department guidance warrant such actions.

- The District will revisit the Health and Safety Plan should local or Allegheny County rates substantially increase.

There were no Board comments regarding the recommended revisions to the Health & Safety Plan.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Consent Agenda**

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on approval of Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 25, 2022

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	Rebecca Bruce
Middle School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
Board Summary Reports (November 2021-January 2022)	Chris Juzwick
Tax Collector Report (November 2021)	Kevin Biber

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 to authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$1,025,663.45 beginning with check number 71685 through check number 71872, and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$77,355.85 beginning with check number 8343 through check number 8357.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

President Iriti reminded the public they have 3 minutes for either public comments or email comments, not both and cannot yield your time to another individual.

Josh Keller, Kingsbrook Drive – how effective is a meeting when those at the head of the table refuse to answer questions publicly; same who refuse to give the time of day to concerned parents sending numerous emails, and receive short/no responses at all because the context of the emails do not meet your agenda; as effective as a masking policy with zero credible studies or evidence showing a positive impact on schools or community; quoting Elissa Schechter-Perkins, Director of Medicine & Infectious Disease at Boston Medical Center, *“The world has changed, there are real downsides to masking children for this long, with no known end date, and without any clear upside. I’m not aware of any studies that show conclusively that kids wearing masks in schools has any effect on their own morbidity or mortality or on the hospitalization or death rate in the community around them.”*; facts are facts whether you want to believe them or not; zero studies, zero evidence; put personal agendas aside, stop taking the easy street of silence, ignoring taxpayers; hopefully unmask our kids. Thank you.

Cella Pusateri, Sterling Drive – a sophomore and have never known high school unmasked; parents comment on high school is the greatest time, so amazing; managing to make the best of it, not going to say masks are not a burden; your memories of being a teenager, new school, new teachers, participating in groups, clubs, sports, dances, I've never known any of this without this fabric on my face; now and was difficult to communicate with teachers past two years; no able to bond with teachers and important to me; slowly waiting for regular classroom environment, and has not been achieved; competitive dancer, dancing 17 hours/week wearing a mask, dance studio follows school regulations on masking; can't enjoy sporting events with wear a mask; please consider giving not only me, but the little kids their experiences back; missed parties, field trips, many fun times and shouldn't miss anymore; pieces of useless fabric have stripped many opportunities from students; please vote to end masking in schools. Thank you

Steve Goldstein, Walnut Ridge Circle – the word mandate bothers me; no one here wants to be masked optional saying everyone has to take off masks; other side wants to make everyone wear masks; have a choice; studies last week, conflicting evidence, something different said by everyone; feel comfortable with evidence you're relying on, WHO, CDC, milestones, tests, masks; nobody knows if masks work; affect our policy; ruining kids lives; taking years away from them; can't get time back; have problems, need to repair; talk of kids not respecting teachers, know why, 7+ hours of mask wearing; teach my daughter to respect everyone, after 7 hours can you blame them; not a good environment to learn in; taught a bit, intrinsically rewarding seeing a smile on a kids face when they get it; last time you saw a smile on someone's face; give teachers immunity and ask how they feel, 50% would say get them off, can't do our job like this; you're not looked at very highly right now, people don't think you're up for the job, then resign; one of two ways, get ugly with this, not a physical threat; parents are strong, exhaust every option we have to get this done right; we'll keep going or do things right; mask optional, start healing process; foster an environment for learning; back to 2019 and where SF should be; why we moved here, be a #1 school; sick of being behind, don't like the view; let's get ahead.

Shaylee Mustakas, Christine Court – mother of 3 boys, oldest in Kindergarten; 1 week ago I hid, watching parents push back against universal masking in schools; I respectfully ask for school to become parent choice; believe what is best for your child, more important than opinions of friends, neighbors, and family; last straw was Super Bowl Sunday, 70,000 fans sitting side by side indoors, breathing freely; next morning children social distanced in classrooms, prohibited from breathing freely due to mask mandates; breathing, the process of moving air into and out of the lungs, mostly to flush out carbon dioxide and to bring in oxygen; for days, weeks, months the process restricted for our children; tradition, pride, excellence, how can one take pride when fans are breathing freely, while children do not; excellence, can't expect children to thrive/become excellent when their and teacher faces are covered; son not able to tell names of classmates, "I don't know, they are all twins."; can only see eyes; only 6 and suffers from anxiety and fallen drastically behind academically; nurse called multiple times, son dizzy, nauseated and vomited in class; one story of many; crucial/delicate years and we are failing; school board, when voting, I challenge you to remember my voice, since you can't see my face; ask in good conscience, any students wearing a cloth mask from Old Navy keeping anyone healthy, or you should be making medical decisions for our children; remember my voice; these are not your children, they are our children; again remember my voice, these are not your children, they are our children.....

President Iriti indicated her 3 minutes had expired.

Rebecca Yurchick, Oakridge Road – my first meeting last week, disturbing hearing parents for hours almost in tears telling stories about their children; you listened, then quickly voted, predetermined votes; these are our children, right to have input; listen to us before you make a decision; no room large enough to have everyone at one time, don't know why; have to look at every one of us while deciding and voting; emails not read/responded to; last week re-examining policies, re-examine why you don't answer community questions at meetings, no phones, no office hours, when will it be discussed; generic email responses; when will you represent the mental health of students, anxiety, and health problems; why are parents concerned about child's health, high risk situations, minority parents being accommodated; why not my child for her anxiety; children suffering from masks not being

accommodated; lawsuit concerns from parents with high risk situations; not concerned about lawsuits from us; our children getting worse, documented health care, doctor visits; two sides, listen to community, our children here to learn and grow.....

President Iriti indicated her 3 minutes had expired.

Lauren Ghilani, Marley Way – thank you for hearing our concerns; last week noted math on quarantines; keeping healthy kids home is wrong; close contact/quarantine data from February, most were 10 days, guidance changed to 5 days in December; almost 2,000 weeks of school lost, mostly healthy students; when did we stop using common sense/logic to make decisions, if logic applied to things we do, most things enjoyed would be non-existent; normal life is hard; tired of hearing someone justifying masking, insane justification; use same phrase, know student who committed suicide during pandemic due to remote learning, couldn't see support system of adults at school; students with generalized anxiety disorder/major depressive disorder due to stress related to pandemic; exhausted teachers; quoting Mr. Welch, "teachers are tired and fatigued, working harder than we've ever worked before"; lack of authentic human interaction not sustainable; strained therapists due to sharp increase in student needs; colleagues sending students to school counselors/nurses administering Columbia Suicide Screener; students craving personal interaction; students randomly hug/grab hand to feel connected/loved/something; bright spot of day being with teachers/peers; dread winter/summer breaks, school a happy place; need interaction; virus changed, have to change with it; learning loss due to missed school; students with severe mental health needs, impeding ability to learn; students with social/emotional development delayed due to isolation/lack of social interaction; change for children/community; not saying don't wear mask if comfortable with it; different students have different needs; science no longer supports universal masking; do right by every student. Thank you

Brook Zapf, Walnut Ridge Circle – sad still talking about this, disappointed refusing to allow parents to make their choice for children; for 2 years closed schools, forced hybrid education, masking and social distancing, overwhelmed teachers, students mental health declining; willing to take crumbs, but the kids are in school, accepted for months; now know more, science changing, you're not willing to change; beginning of pandemic, all sacrificed a lot; shift to access own degree of caution; claim to be a beacon in other areas, took path of least resistance, getting the loudest clap of those fearful of COVID; silent majority waited; no longer waiting, science you hid behind has changed, change with it; eroded confidence in you; too slow to adapt from beginning; look at mental health stats, reading readiness scores, teacher burn-out; viewed COVID through small lens; policy far reaching, long term impact on children; angry mamma bears here, at sporting events, local business owners afraid to make statement, and SF employees, just as frustrated; hear all voices; freedom to take mask off my girls; mask restrictions may not bother you, they bother others; disrupt education and social/emotional growth for too long; vote to make masking optional, long overdue. Thank you

Lindsay Loebig, Newbury Highland – thank you for the time; reiterate from last week; childhood development has suffered a setback; continue advocating for well-being of our children; set them up to succeed; get back to state of normalcy; lifting quarantine mandate, a step in right direction; build on that and lift mask mandate; each child is unique, thrive in different learning environments, remote learning and in-person learning; some comfortable wearing masks, others not, those indifferent; health and medical related concerns that span across both sides need considered; to cater to every need, have options; not discrediting other challenges students facing; to unmask my child, doesn't make me wrong/terrible; people choosing to mask their children aren't wrong/terrible; we know our kids best; have our own views/beliefs/opinions; be respectful/supportive of each other; virtual learning day, teacher commented how nice to see smiles/missing teeth; vote to lift mask mandate, our choice, another option; to see those smiling faces again. Thank you

Vanessa Keller, Kingsbrook Drive – husband spoke earlier, 3-time combat war veteran; here for veterans/active military/families and children; the constitution of this country, is to to have free speech, voice your opinion; parents to raise their children how they feel is best; you are school board members;

you did not fight for this country; if you did, thank you for your service; have some insane educational background/impressive resume, don't forget your purpose, to hear our opinions, vote without personal agenda attached; , three sons two, in elementary school, one is immune compromised; GI doctor, Director of Akron Childrens Hospital GI department, # 3 in the nation; continually told us stop masking him; son will not thrive wearing a mask; more harmful collecting bacteria from the mask than covid itself, which he's had; we all have; don't tell me it's protecting the immune compromised; Super Bowl Sunday; 75,000 people gathered in the stadium not wearing masks; people on tv/social media ask us to mask up and there they were maskless; my husband didn't spill his own blood; lose his youth at 17, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan for over 2 years, for you to tell me what's best for my child; that flag flies because men/women like my husband, not board members; children play three sports, thrive not seeing friends faces, coaches approval, but not from teachers; husband honored to have fought in three combat tours, for the American people, your safety on U.S soil; for his children/all children to have freedom/a better life; giving parents option to decide what's best for their children should not be an issue; our right to decide; what my husband fought for, lost his youth for; respect what he did for this country by respecting us as parents; unmask our children. Thank you

Trisha Self, Forest Edge Drive – wasn't coming; children 8 and 6; youngest daughter "you have to go to the meeting, but don't hurt anyone", explained not that kind of fight; 6 year old in K-Express, reading development, wonderful things; 6 year old perspective, "what's hard about the reading program, teachers telling us how to move our lips, we can't see the teacher's lips, we quickly lower mask, learning the 'o' sound, but teacher can't see our lips"; here to support other parents; vote to have masks optional, child cried, not able to show losing a tooth to friends, as a PTA homeroom rep, can tell Kindergartners are smiling, but can't see faces; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade son, cloth and medical masks, rips it off, I gagged when smelled mask, inhaling the smell for 7 hours.....

President Iriti indicated her 3 minutes had expired.

Heidi Pusateri, Sterling Drive – spoke 3 times/3 different messages; last few years have been hard on young/old alike; graduation wearing masks; greedy wanting senior to have normal experiences, prom, graduation without masks; begging to give kids some normalcy; I swear it's going to be ok; pleading for kids; I wear masks everyday, work with health professionals, used to it, sales rep and can't communicate; kids healthy/thriving, let them live their lives, enjoy life, they deserve it; you lived your lives; it's time.

Jennifer Wallis, Ruth Way – have watched when weekly meetings; kids going to school, not go to school; 2 years later still having conversations for kids to have experiences they deserve, expect and now demanding; beg who is voting, yes to make masks optional; can't put it another way, explain better than previous comments; vote to make masks optional. Thank you

Stan Shivell, Christine Court – here to support the kids, will do anything to protect them; what are we protecting them from, what's the emergency; news indicates not our children's pandemic; upended their lives; policies have damaged education of a generation; school closures, ad hoc virtual school, masks, the costs they have paid for years to come; society broken; entrenched in own political divisions; won't consider news from perceived out-group or goes against the orthodoxy of in-group; following passage from paper "Children almost never suffer severe symptoms, whether or not vaccinated. Many students have gone to school without masks during the pandemic, in Britain, parts of Europe and many US states."; quotes "Masks don't work when people are wearing them in one circumstance, but later that day they take them off. The US is an outlier in its devotion for pediatric masks. The World Health Organization does not recommend them for kids under 5, and the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control does not recommend them for children under 12."; NY Times make assessments, realizing masking kids is useless; we can do the same; past month similar articles from other newspapers; message not from one political side; time to unmask our kids; kids lives returning to normal everywhere but school; adults doing the same; fight for my kids, bring lives back to normal; please vote yes for masks optional; science supports unmasking and benefits our children. Thank you

Janice Slyder, Battle Ridge Road – thank brave parents here; confidence to speak up; 8 year old son, loved to come to school; past year, doesn't want to come, can't breathe; calls from the bus, crying; thank you for the teachers, only ones getting him through the year; in tears every morning, not wanting to go/learn; sweating, can't breathe, has anxiety; pediatrician said 8 month wait to see a doctor; how to deal with his anxiety, and just the beginning; other mother's comment, children don't know empathy, joy or sadness; think kids are laughing at them, putting them on a stage; took different water bottle, they will laugh at me; when did laughter become a bad thing; children don't know how to interact; can't see joy on teacher faces; has IEP for speech, not thriving, farther behind; speech teacher with a mask on; can't use basic tools; can't teach r's; he doesn't want to be here; I make masks a day to day thing, he sweats, can't breathe, can't concentrate; fighting to get masks off, he was joyful; need to see joy again; teach empathy; they are young, vulnerable; challenge to board, help children heal, bounce back; more kids in speech, therapy, having social anxiety; now hearing from students; ready to live their lives, let them live it.

Mandi Novotni, First Ave. – see tears and hear the emotional stories, how masking/protocols have negatively affected children/families; not asking to take masks away, masks may be best for some; let parents make the decision; cannot see negative affect on children at home or know what's best for them; set aside personal views/emotional attachments; listen to community; never stop fighting for what's best for our kids. Thank you

Mrs. Geisler read the following public email comments in their entirety, per President Iriti:

Dear SF School Board Members:

I am a parent of 2 children in the district. I want to start by saying that I respect the CHOICE to wear a mask or anyone who wants to wear one. However, I believe its time to get back to normal life without mandatory masking and the time is NOW.

Please use common sense and look at how many times kids touch their mouth and nose with these germ riddled things on their face. They then leave school and take them off and play sports without them or go to events and generally never even get sick. Then we make them put the face decorations back on in school. They take them off and throw them on the ground, come home with them full of snot or food from wearing them all day. Does this sound sanitary or like we are protecting them?

I have experience here as a Respiratory Therapist and understand how viruses are transmitted and have worked with patients with much more virulent diseases and would never put my child in harms way if I felt that sending him to school without a cloth mask was necessary.

Most importantly, there are serious unintended developmental, social and emotional consequences from contact tracing, segregating and masking children and adolescents. For what? For a virus that has 99.9% survival rate. Dr. David Rubin, director at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said masks should not be considered necessary. Dr. Rubin recently suggested that it is finally time to start getting back to normal in the school setting, particularly since cases of COVID-19 omicron variant among children are more on the level of other seasonal viruses. Covid cases are down all over the country and masks are coming off everywhere. We need to learn how to LIVE WITH this virus that is never going away. Wash our hands, keep the sick at home and allow our immune systems to do their jobs. The time is NOW to allow our children to get back to normal before more damage is done!

Please know that I completely respect what anyone wants to do with their body for their safety. Respect ours and our CHOICE for our children. Please vote to remove the mask mandates permanently and allow us as parents to make decisions for the well being of our children as I know all of you would want for your children. We are all friends and neighbors that want the same thing. I want to see my children smile again.... Mask optional works for ALL of us.

Respectfully,  
John Zelczak RRT, CPFT  
Windsor Drive

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Dear School Board members,

I would like to know what parameters for masking our children you are basing your information on now? Will you continue to use the CDC recommendations even after they came out and recommended to NOT use their metrics as they may not be the most accurate.

Will you continue to base your decisions on the Allegheny and PA Department of Health's charts, graphs and recommendations even though they may not be the most accurate for our school district?

Will you hand back the wheel to the parents and let them decide what is best for their children?

Will you have the children's best interest in mind and admit that each child has a parent or guardian that is perfectly capable of making medical decisions for that child?

If you feel a parent is not acting in the best interest of the child there are many ways to assist a child in need vs assigning a blanket masking for all approach. It is time you let parents decide, it is time you let parents who want to mask their child to do so, it is also time for you to allow parents who choose not to mask their children to do so as well. It does not have to be none or all, it never had to be that way.

It is time you stop creating mental health issues with your covid restrictions. It is time you stop inhibiting the children from breathing fresh air at recess. It is time you stop forcing children to run laps in a gym fully clothed while wearing a mask. It is time you stop dividing this district by segregating the children by vaccination status.

Most of this damage has already been done. I suggest you take a look at the uptick in mental health issue among the student body before vs after your two years of hysteria you created in this community. Your covid rules have participated in many mental health issues with students and I am sure teachers and staff as well.

Please let me know when this will stop and we can let our children go back to normal learning.

Thank you,

Danielle Goldstein  
Walnut Ridge Circle  
McDonald NJ 05057

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Hello,

My name is Alicia Poling, my son is in first grade. I first wanted to say thank you to each of you for helping us through this insanity that we have known for the last 2 years. I'm a very lucky parent that my son has worn a mask with no issues, and doesn't complain. I know that is not the situation with other families so I consider us very fortunate. I would like our district to provide a choice to parents and children on masking. That seems to be the new standard for many local districts across the country. The decision to mask was the right one, especially when there was so much we didn't know. But we have so much data now, and I think the time is right to provide everyone the choice. And I think many parents and kids would choose to continue masking. But for some, this has not been an easy road, and for the sake of those families and kids, we need to address that.

Most parents in our community have been very patient and understanding, and I think you're seeing a frustration finally start to boil over. But please don't let the loudest voices on either side sway your decisions. Do what is best for ALL our kids. The choice, in my opinion, is the best option. It provides the comfort to allow kids who want to mask to continue to do so, and for others to maybe choose not. Thank you so much, and I appreciate the time and focus you've all given to such a polarized and challenging topic.

Alicia

Hickory Grade Road

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Good Evening,

I want to start by expressing that I am frustrated that my letter was not read at the last board meeting due to time constraints. While I understand that it was late, it is the duty of the board to hear out what I (and the 46 other tax paying citizens) have to say. Having my thoughts condensed into a 30 second timeslot with the others who took the time to write in was a true representation of your thoughts on our opinions. I hope that tonight you reflect and listen to each and every person who takes time to attend or write in regardless of which "side" they are on.



As in my last email, I did thank all of you for the time and energy put into making this decision and will do so again.

I also want to thank those who have been courageous enough to speak as unfortunately this has been a divisive and unfamiliar territory that many are afraid to express how we feel. Those thoughts are only exasperated when board members fail to recognize, respond, or report on “both sides.” However, tonight, I would like to express my opinion that we should, in fact, please allow parents to make a decision in what is best for our child and remove the mask mandate. The majority of other schools in the country have successfully done so with out a surge in cases or children being hospitalized. There is no better evidence than what those districts have provided us. I ask that you approve Dr. Millers recommendation.

Thank you for your time,  
Sarah Vierra  
Nicole Drive

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Hello

I'm the mother of Lukas Husnaj who is in 2nd grade. I am also a South Fayette graduate and am very disappointed in the district lately to a point where as much as I always wanted to stay in this school district, I officially am completely open to moving. I could write you a long email explaining why and how but I'm not going to. Just please, for everyone's sake, especially the children's, make the masks optional just like it is everywhere around us. It's time.

Thank you  
Petra Husnajova  
Wabash Ave.

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To Whom it May Concern,

I have two children that attend South Fayette schools. I would like it to be known that I am against mask mandates. It is a FACT that cloth masks do not protect against the spread of Covid, therefore they should not be required in school. Please give parents a choice and vote against the mask mandate.

Respectfully,  
Ashley Humer  
Hickory Heights Dr

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Luke Mazurkiewicz  
Preserve Ln

Please vote to remove the mask mandate at the school. It is time to move on and the evidence is out there. Please refer to this very well written article regarding masking at school. The article was written by: Margery Smelkinson is an infectious-disease scientist whose research has focused on influenza and SARS-CoV-2.

Leslie Bienen is a veterinarian and faculty member at the Oregon Health & Science University–Portland State University School of Public Health.

Jeanne Noble is an emergency-medicine doctor at UCSF.

The Case Against Masks at School - Margery Smelkinson, Leslie Bienen, Jeanne Noble

Districts should rethink imposing on millions of children an intervention that provides little discernible benefit.

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Hi,

This is Jency. My kid attends the south fayette intermediate school.

I'm writing because I'm concerned with all social media activities going on around masking in school. I do understand that masking would be optional from Feb 28th.

However I'd like to bring to your notice that not all kids would immediately stop wearing them.

It's not like peeling off a bandaid.

I would be watching the guidelines and my kid's comfort level at going maskless in school. It may take time for her to adjust and I will do all I can to help. Meanwhile watching the posts from parents on social media, I'm concerned that the bullying may reflect within school.

I'd like to know how the school will react if someone bullies the kids who choose to continue to wear a mask to school? I understand it could be both ways but would really appreciate if you could have some guideline around that as you can all agree bullying affects kids' mental health more than a face covering. We did and personally know folks who have lost close friends and family to COVID and talking about the 1% death rate like it's nothing isn't helping.

I thank the South Fayette School Board members for following the guidance and trying your best!

Regards,

Jency Vennila

Sweet Gum Court

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Hello!!

I am in support of masks being optional.

Thank you.

Stephanie Saulle

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I am writing as a parent of school aged children and also a tax paying citizen of South Fayette township. Please vote to remove the mask mandate and allow parents to have the choice on when and where their child wears a mask. Now is the time to make a decision that will benefit our children's well-being, social progress, and learning readiness in the classroom. Lift the mandate on the bus, classroom, after school activities, and athletic events for all. Let's put this behind us and focus on finishing out the school year on a positive note. The students need to have prom, graduation and other social events to show off their beautiful smiles. We all need to move forward in a positive light. The last 2 years have weighed on families in so many ways that we will question for decades to come, it's time to move on.

Thank you

Kirk Wojno

Willow Ridge Drive

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Attention school board members:

Thank you so much for taking into consideration removing the masking mandate. I for one know how hard it has been on our kids. I appreciate you considering this.

Kiley Enas

Sandstone Drive

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Thank you for your response. If you referenced the ACHD you would see that those statistics provided to you by that epidemiologist are inaccurate. I look forward to a correction at tonight's meeting. I do hope that the board strongly considers discontinuing the masking and quarantine requirements per my statement in last week's email :

Please strongly consider discontinuing the mask requirement and the contact tracing. Enough is enough. Masking should be a parental decision. Period. Also, masking kids while playing sports due to contact tracing is unsafe and unacceptable. There is very limited, if any, data to support any of the guidance given to schools from the Allegheny Health Department. It's time to move forward.

Leslie Burns

Sterling Drive

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South Fayette school board, I've sent several emails throughout this school year and have been fighting since the beginning to have this unscientific abuse of leaving children in a mask for nearly 7 hours a day. My grandchildren are 5th generation of my family to attend south Fayette, and I can tell you that this kind of tyranny would have never been tolerated in this township 20 years ago! This week along with everything else that has come to light about the harm that we've been saying all along has been occurring to the children, the CDC has quietly changed the age's for various early childhood development, with speech and word annunciation! Just another consequence of this draconian masking policy. Has anyone actually looked around and seen hundreds of thousands of people at sporting events, protests, or any other public activities sitting and standing elbow to elbow massless, and then look at any footage of school children who are at basically no risk of becoming I'll or spreading Covid, masked up tight as they try to learn in school! Or noticed prominent people in a photo op massless in front of a room full of masked children? What are we doing here? Enough is enough! The masks are just the beginning, and I for one am going to put you all on notice that we're on to the policies being introduced into this school district by outside influences and money, and that many of us concerned parents and grandparents are here to let you all know that change is coming.

Thank you for listening, but now is the time to act!

I would have loved to be able to deliver these remarks in person, but am handicapped to the point at present which makes it impossible for me to attend at present.

Respectfully:

Joseph Lunn jr,  
Sygan road

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Sarah Emanuel  
Firwood Drive

Since I was rudely interrupted numerous times during my speech last week, and thus had my allotted three minutes cut into, I would like to give the rest of my speech this evening. Again, thank you to the school board for making tough decisions during a global pandemic in the interest of keeping our children safe. To parents in this community...if your kid wearing a piece of cloth over the bottom of his or her face is the worst thing that he or she will experience in life, you are very, very blessed. Maybe we are to the point where we can be mask optional. I will support the board in whatever decision is made. And if you are unable to do the same, feel free to run for a position yourself. During this past election, all positions were unopposed and only 7,474 members of the community even bothered to vote. It's easy to be a keyboard warrior and complain, or jump on a bandwagon in support of one, single issue and then fade back into oblivion. It's much more difficult to actually give your time and energy in a volunteer position, trying to do what's best for all the kids in the district, all the while facing backlash from community members who didn't have the guts to be accountable for being the decision maker.

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Good evening,

I was just in attendance at the board meeting and if you do not start listening us to unmask our children you will be sorry. My child cries to me daily because he can't breath in a mask this is child abuse! He's in second grade! You are not keeping them safe! There is not a mandate and you do not have our children's mental wellbeing at the top of the list.

The mental health aspect that you are imposing on our children should keep you up at night!

I want my right to choose for my child.

I beg you to give us the choice.

Thank you for your time, and when will

You ever respond to my emails?!

Erin Schidlmeier  
Sygan Rd

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Listen to your community. It's over due, time to make masks optional.

Sygan Rd  
Mike Schidlmeier

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Dear School Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to continue universal masking of our children. Currently our children are masked for the entire day in school, including bussing to and from, with no breaks. There is a proposal to continue to force everyone to wear a mask. This should not happen! There is ample evidence, including from the Allegheny County Health Department, that masking in school does not prevent the spread of COVID. Additionally, there is very little evidence that COVID is even spread from child to child while in school. Many educators and child psychologists around the country have also come out against masking children due to the detrimental effects it is having in their development, especially at younger ages where facial expressions and lip reading is vital to their education and growth. Finally, South Fayette time and time again this year, has proven that the mask mandates is only for show to appease a vocal contingent of the community. At any indoor sporting event, spectators are unmasked. While they represent the community at large, there are also several staff members at these events that are unmasked (whether they are working at the time or not is irrelevant, if they are employed by the district they should follow and enforce the policy at all times). Throughout the COVID pandemic, you, the South Fayette School Board, have fallen back on the position of "follow the science", "CDC guidelines", and "ACHD guidelines". If you are to be consistent, then you would not force masking, but you would remove the mask mandate and make South Fayette School District mask optional. Many of our students attend school affiliated functions (sporting events, concerts, etc) where masks are optional, and there have not been cases of widespread COVID infecting large swaths of the community. It is time for South Fayette to do what is right for our children and remove the mask mandate.

I request that you make masking be family choice. If a family would like their child masked, they may continue to do so. If staff would like to continue to wear a mask, they may continue to do so. We need to stop thinking that no harm is caused to our children by this continued process. Our children are suffering and we won't know the full extent of the harm for many years.

In June of 2021 the Pennsylvania Mask Mandate was lifted statewide. Many of our neighboring school districts have allowed the school to go to Parent Choice on masks. What is the criteria that South Fayette is using to continue the forced practice of masking? What is the metric we are trying to achieve that will lift the school mandate now that ACHD discontinued use of positivity rate? We need to be realistic that these children are interacting continuously the moment that they leave school and moving about mask free with students outside of the school grounds. It is illogical to continue to force such a practice at school.

Mike Barish  
Gene Dr

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By way of introduction, my name is Allyson Graham and I live at Celebration Circle.

I want to give you some insight into how my family and I decided to live in the South Fayette School District. In the summer of 2019, my husband and I moved to the area with our two young boys. We searched for homes in school districts of North Allegheny, North Hills, Upper St Clair, and Pine-Richland before deciding on the South Fayette School District for our young children. We completed our thorough research and felt this was the best place to foster our boys' education. That was June of 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic occurred in early 2020 before our boys were of school age. Our home in South Fayette was completed in September 2020 and we moved to the area never missing a beat – kids played with new neighbors indoors, watched football games with friends indoors, attended birthday parties indoors, and the list continues. All while unmasked.

Our oldest son entered the South Fayette School District in August 2021 as a Kindergarten student. Masked. He is trying his best to make friends. Masked. He is learning to read. Masked. He is

understanding and learning social cues/expressions. Masked. He has never seen his Kindergarten teacher's smile. Everyone is masked.

I must say, as I write this email in February of 2022, we are regretting that decision we made as a family in June 2019. We failed our young boys and their education. We inserted them into a School District that will not even attempt to overcome this endless pandemic. There has been no survey sent to parents asking their opinions on masking. There have been no trial periods of unmasking at parents' discretion to see the trends. There have been no attempts to give our children normalcy. All at the hands of this Board who were elected to serve at the children's best interest.

I was in attendance during last evening's Board Meeting and have never been so terrified as a parent. TERRIFIED. This is control by you, the Board, on our children. You are not the CDC. You do not have the authority to tell me, a parent, what is in the best interest of my child. You are hypocritical to expect children to wear masks the entire day at school while masks are not required at supermarkets, sporting events, shopping malls, church, etc.

We cannot mask to get to COVID zero. It simply will not work. You are failing this District. YOU ARE FAILING THESE CHILDREN. And ask yourself, when a family completes that same research the Graham family completed in 2019, the conclusion now reached will be much different. The 'Little Lions' that you brainwash with the values of Pride, Tradition, and Excellence will be hesitant to become citizens of this District when they become older. They will not settle their family here. You are setting an example, based on inaccurate facts, that is harming all involved. Survey your teachers. Ask them their thoughts. Because every single one of those teachers I have spoken to .....

President Iriti interrupted Mrs. Geisler, the 3 minutes had expired.

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School Board and Superintendent,

My name is Laura Renk, I live at 4272 Battleridge road, Mcdonald, PA 15057. I am a mother of three children who attend school at South Fayette. I have one child in each of the Middle, Intermediate, and Elementary buildings. We moved out of the City of Pittsburgh and to this district right before my oldest was going to be starting kindergarten. We moved here FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. All we heard and read about were great things coming out of this district. We were very pleased for so long with the district, but as of late, we are in light terms, pissed off and considering moving out of the district. Covid-19 put a huge damper on all of our lives, but that was 2 years ago. We didn't know what was happening. We didn't have answers. But now, 2 years later, we do. When will it end? When will there be enough data and statistics brought to you, to change your mind? It is a never ending cycle. As a parent, which I'm sure everyone can agree with, we want to keep our kids safe. 100%. But is this really how we keep them safe? By masking them for 7-8 hours out of the day.

Life is about choice and risk, and if you don't agree with that then you are just delusional at this point. We make choices daily and sometimes those choices come with great risk, sometimes they come with little risk. There are car accidents, house fires, diseases, kidnappings, child sex trafficking, school shootings, bullying, the list can go on, that occur every day! People are lose their lives to these things everyday. Does that mean we will never drive in a car, that we wont live in our house because god forbid it could catch on fire, does it mean that we shouldn't take our kids to the playground because someone may snatch our kid up. Should we not send kids to school, because someone may bring a gun one day. The answer is NO. We do not stop doing anything else, we do not stop living our lives and trust me those instances are FAR more frightening and REAL than a child contracting and possibly spreading covid-19, which is pretty much at the point where it is like a common cold.

I'm not going to sit here and spew all the statistics about children contracting and spreading the virus. I think you all know the stats on that by this point, and have no leg to stand on with the data. Instead I'm going to share some insight about our fellow districts and counties in Western Pennsylvania.

- Putting aside the 16 districts whose policies are unclear at this time, leaves us with 104 districts.
- Out of those 104 districts, 80 are optional or recommend masking. That is 76% of Western PA!
- **16/104 are requiring masks. That is only 15%. SOUTH FAYETTE IS HERE! WE ARE THE MINORITY**

- There are 47 districts in Allegheny county alone. With 7 districts unclear on their policies, we will use 39. 15/39 districts for masking. **Within the county only 38% are requiring masking! If the 7 unclear are also optional that would drop to 31%. SOUTH FAYETTE IS ALSO HERE WE ARE THE MINORITY!.....**

President Iriti interrupted Mrs. Geisler, the 3 minutes had expired.

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There were no additional 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:

- Brief review of policy making included:
  - ✓ Policymaking is a primary responsibility of a board of school directors; developing and maintaining effective policies that comprise both local specifications and ever-changing state and federal laws and regulations
  - ✓ Foundation of the majority of policies based on Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949; this Act relates to the public school system and provides requirements for school districts at the state level; other state and federal laws are also included in policies
  - ✓ District utilizes PSBA; support of our school solicitor, to assist in creating or revising local policies; local policies are posted on the District's website.
  - ✓ District is embarking on a yearlong revision process to update all local policies; process will involve Administration, the Board, and our school solicitor, along with guidance from PSBA
  - ✓ Policies to be approved by the Board, must appear on the Board agenda for review and/or discussion three consecutive times; on or after the third reading, the Board is able to vote on the Board revision.
  - ✓ Over the next year, multiple revised policies will be on the Board agenda

### **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Stahl reported:

- January 26 – Varsity Quiz Bowl Team won the league tournament, defending their title; Junior Tyler Passyn was the event's high scorer
- January 12 - Senior basketball player Brandon Jakiela scored his 1,000 career point against South Allegheny
- 2022-2023 High School scheduling process has begun; scheduling opens on March 2 and ends on March 10, additional information can be found on the website
- February 23 – High School Parent Scheduling Information Night at 7:00 PM in the Theatre

### **Business Office**

Welch seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Assistant Director of Finance Chris Juzwick for Board approval of the agreement and "Ramp-Up" proposal with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) to move to the web-based Asset Inventory, Fund Accounting, Payroll, Personnel, and Staff Portal, effective July 1, 2022. The agreement is for 6 years and has the following ramp-up costs:

- 2022-2023 - \$18,162
- 2023-2024 - \$20,857
- 2024-2025 - \$23,552
- 2025-2026 - \$26,247
- 2026-2027 - \$28,942
- 2027-2028 - \$31,637

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 adoption of policies, procedures, and use of IDEA-Part B funds by the School District per the agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2022-2023 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the agreement (as reviewed by the Solicitor) with DDI 360 to provide feedback on building and district school leaders, at a cost total of \$9,575, which is part of the 2021-2022 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to award the bids to lease/purchase the following buses. The costs are included in the 2022-2023 budget:

Company	Type	Amount
Myers/Thomas	One – 84 Passenger – Diesel	\$117,275.00
Myers/Thomas	Two – 72 Passenger Buses – Conventional Diesel	\$216,706.00
Myers/Thomas	One – 48 Passenger Bus – Conventional Diesel	\$100,240.00
Blue Bird/Microbird	Two – 24 Passenger Vans - Gasoline	\$154,788.00
Blue Bird/Microbird	One – 24 Passenger Lift Van – w/2 Wheelchair Slots – Gasoline	\$ 83,862.00
Total		\$672,871.00

Voice Vote – All Yes

**Personnel**

Brinsky seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Kristen Johnson, Intermediate School Assistant Principal, effective on or about April 8, 2022, with an expected return date of August 1, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to appoint Dr. Kathy Harrington as an Interim Intermediate School Assistant Principal effective on or about April 8, 2022, through the end of the students’ school year, and as per the terms of the letter dated February 23, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principals for Board approval of the following Middle School EPR positions for the 2021-2022 school year:

Grade 6 Camping Trip Coordinator Trips 1 and 2	Ben Laughton
Grade 6 Camping Trip Nurse Trips 1 and 2	Misty Menarcheck

Grade 6 Camping Trip 1 Chaperones May 25, 2022	Rachel Davis, Jeremy Hall, Darcy Kotts, Sarah Pruss, Bobby Ruffolo, Elizabeth Windisch
Grade 6 Camping Trip 2 Chaperones June 3, 2022	Rachel Davis, Natalie Guiser, Jeremy Hall, Michael Perrott, Sarah Pruss, Bobby Ruffolo

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of Misty Menarcheck as the Certified School Nurse for the Mardi Gras Dance to be held on March 4, 2022. Ms. Menarcheck will be paid the EPR rate of \$42.00 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of Nativa Woerner, a student at Edinboro University, to complete her internship with Dr. Rachel Andler, from May 2022 through August 2022, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Food Services Tricia Wood for Board approval to hire Jessica McElligott as a Food Service employee, pending receipt of required documents, effective February 23, 2022, at the probationary rate of \$11.88 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$14.85 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval to hire Marcia O’Britz as a Substitute Bus Aide, effective February 23, 2022, at the prevailing rate of \$20.10 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Dave Mislán for Board approval of the status change of Brandon Orosz, from a Volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach to a paid Assistant Basketball Coach effective retroactive for the 2021-2022 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Wrestling Coach Rick Chaussard for Board approval of the status change of Joshua Miller, from a paid Assistant Wrestling Coach to a Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach effective retroactive for the 2021-2022 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Track & Field Coach Scott Litwinovich for Board approval of Zach Simpson as a Volunteer Assistant Track & Field Coach effective for the 2021-2022 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and the winter sport season Head Coaches for Board approval of the following compensations for the winter 2021-2022 season:

**Boys Basketball**

Dave Mislán	Head Coach	\$9,965.00
Kevin Joyce	Assistant Coach	\$1,500.00
G.J. Schaeffer	Assistant Coach	\$4,500.00
Josh Patterson	Assistant Coach	\$5,500.00
Jared Knox	Assistant Coach	\$3,500.00
Danny Nee	Assistant Coach	\$2,245.00
Brandon Orosz	Assistant Coach	\$1,000.00
Glenn Gutierrez	Head 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Coach	\$3,500.00
Hunter Barnhart	Head 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Coach	\$3,500.00



**Girls Basketball**

Bryan Bennett	Head Coach	\$9,965.00
Olesia Stasko	Assistant Coach	\$6,500.00
Taylor Cortazzo	Assistant Coach	\$1,000.00
Garrett Del Re	Assistant Coach	\$6,500.00

**Winter Indoor Track**

Scott Litwinovich	Head Coach	\$3,520.00
Joe Winans	Assistant Coach	\$1,795.00
William Finnerty	Assistant Coach	\$1,725.00

**Varsity Swimming**

Todd Clark	Head Coach	\$9,965.00
Melanie Miller	Assistant Coach	\$3,750.00
Gianna Boburka	Assistant Coach	\$2,585.00
Anthony Mannarino	Assistant Coach & Diving	\$5,500.00

**Wrestling**

Rick Chaussard	Head Coach	\$8,380.00
Alex Kramer	Assistant Coach	\$3,460.00
Brett Smith	Assistant Coach	\$3,460.00
Trevor McIntyre	Assistant Coach	\$2,500.00
Chris McNeal	Head Jr. High Coach	\$3,500.00
Jason Santavicca	Assistant Coach	\$1,315.00

Voice Vote – All Yes

Patankar seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hire Kristin Sheleheda as a Building Substitute teacher in the Intermediate School, at the rate of \$150.00 per day, effective retroactive to February 17, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a leave of absence request for Shaheen Sultana, Student Monitor in the Intermediate School, effective retroactive to February 18, 2022 through April 8, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of a leave of absence request for Echfak Kacem, Student Monitor in the Intermediate School, effective March 9, 2022 through March 18, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hire Kimberly Limberiou (current Building Substitute) as a Grade 2 Long Term Substitute teacher in the Elementary School, at the rate of \$160.00 per day, effective on or about March 16, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hire Marian Madden as a Building Substitute teacher in the Elementary School, at the rate of \$150.00 per day, effective on or about March 16, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval of Lena Warner, a student at Point Park University, to complete her student teaching with Kara Pappas, Special Education teacher in the High School, from March 7, 2022 through April 22, 2022, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Robert Beaumont as a Bus Driver effective June 30, 2022. Mr. Beaumont has been employed by the District since May 1998.

President Iriti thanked Mr. Beaumont on his many years of service.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of an intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Jennifer Drazick, Paraeducator in the Intermediate School with an effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of following EPRs for the 2021-2022 school year:

Mentor Teacher for Ashley Iagnemma, Grade 4 Long Term Substitute	Gina Whigham
Mentor Teacher for Kimberly Limberiou, Grade 2 Long Term Substitute	Elizabeth Frambes

Voice Vote – All Yes

**Education**

Brinsky seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the list of 2022 potential graduates, based on fulfilling all requirements for graduation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Innovation, Strategic Partnerships, and Instructional Technology Dr. Matt Callison for Board approval to permit Melissa Unger, K-2 STEAM teacher to attend and present at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from Sunday, June 26, 2022 through Wednesday, June 29, 2022. The cost of the conference includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals, and is included in the 2021-2022 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Intermediate School Assistant Principal Kristen Johnson for Board approval to hold a Summer Strings Camp in the summer of 2022. The camp will be held from Monday, July 25, 2022 through Thursday, July 28, 2022. The morning session will run from 9:30 AM to 11:45 AM and will be open to orchestra students entering grades 4 and 5. The afternoon session will run from 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM and will be open to orchestra students entering grade 6, 7, and 8. The session on Thursday will end at 3:30 PM. The \$30.00 registration fee will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hold Summer STEAM Camps for both Intermediate and Elementary Schools students in the summer of 2022. The camps will be held from Monday, July 11, 2022, through Thursday, July 14, 2022. The morning session will run from 8:45 AM to 12:00 PM and will be open to students entering grades 4, 5, and 6. The afternoon session will run from 12:45 PM to 4:00 PM and will be open to students entering grades 2 and 3. The registration fee of \$100 per child will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent requesting Board approval for the Superintendent to attend the ASU+GSV Summit in San Diego, California, from Monday, April 4, 2022 through Wednesday, April 6, 2022. The Superintendent has received a full scholarship due to the District’s membership in the League of Innovative Schools to attend the conference, which includes complimentary registration (select meals included), lodging, and roundtrip airfare.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Transportation**

There were no additional items discussed.

### **Athletics**

There were no additional items discussed.

### **Construction**

There were no items discussed.

### **Miscellaneous**

Hannah seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the second reading of following revised policies and attachment:

- Board Policy 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
- Board Policy 611 Purchases Budgeted
- Attachment 626 Procurement – Federal Programs

Voice Vote – All Yes

Ainsworth seconded Burroughs on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for the Board to rescind the previous directive passed on February 15, 2022, which reads:

Direct the Superintendent to revise the Health and Safety Plan for consideration at the February 22, 2022, Board of School Directors meeting to include masking optional when the Allegheny County Health Department's 7 day rolling average for COVID transmission is identified to be at the "moderate" or "low" transmission rate, as recommended by the ACHD, and to make any other necessary document changes to be consistent with this directive.

Roll Call – All Yes

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the proposed revision to Health & Safety Plan, which includes but are not limited to:

- a) The District will not require universal masking for students, staff and visitors:
    - 1) when announced by the District (which shall be no later than the date following the issuance of guidance from Allegheny County Health Department, CDC or other appropriate entity recommending that school districts not require universal masking)
- OR
- 2) on February 28, 2022, whichever occurs first

Roll Call – All Yes

Welch seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent to revise Health & Safety Plan as presented at the February 22, 2022 meeting.

Roll Call – All Yes

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

Mrs. Geisler read the following additional email comment:

Shariane Taylor  
Walnut Ridge Circle

SF Board--Much heartfelt appreciation sent your way. Thank you to the School Board for guiding us through this Covid Crisis using your educated judgement and fact based decisions in keeping our children safe during these unprecedented times. I want to express my deep gratitude for the dedicated work you do day after day. Your efforts are recognized by many of us and we support you. I prefer a parent choice policy but defer to your decision.

My kids are more disturbed by the adult actions and fights over masking vs. the Board's decisions about masking. They see all the social media posts between parents fighting. In South Fayette, we may all be different fish, but we should swim together.

Signed,

The mom who survived growing up in the 80s (relatively unscathed) --gluten, peanuts, riding in the back of pick up trucks, no bike helmet, no car seat, second hand smoke.....so, what I am saying is, you got this mask thing. We are going to get through it. Our family supports your judgement.

There were no additional comments at this time.

### Solicitor's Report

Mr. Voltz had nothing to report.

### Board Comments

Vice President Burroughs, heard from parents a lot about anxiety, mental health, reading readiness, and bullying; the Board has work to do, with teachers, students and families.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report

President Jen Iriti

President Iriti reported herself, and Vice President Burroughs and Dr. Miller met to review agenda items for the 2022 year, help to spread out work for the Board.

South Fayette Foundation

Paul Brinsky

Mr. Brinsky had nothing to report.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah provided highlights from Governor Wolf's budget regarding BEF, Special Education funding, the charter reform proposal, increase the minimum salary for teachers to \$45,000, increase the minimum wage to \$12.00, and funding for county mental health

Parkway West

Tom Iagnemma

Mr. Iagnemma was absent.

SHASDA

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah had nothing to report.

Dr. Miller proudly announce the Girls Basketball team defeated Greensburg Salem 63-28!

Burroughs seconded Welch to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary