



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

7:30 PM

The Committee Meeting of the Whole of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:51 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, Bill Ainsworth, Tom Iagnemma, Joe Welch, Prajakta Patankar, Jen Iriti

Present Virtually: Lena Hanna, Len Fornella (exited the meeting at 9:07 PM)

Absent: Paul Brinsky

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; Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Elementary School Associate Principal Tyler Geist; Intermediate School Assistant Principal Kristen Johnson; Middle School Associate Principal Dr. Kevin Maurer; Director of Innovation, Strategic Partnerships, and Instructional Technology Dr. Matt Callison; Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler; Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie; Assistant Director of Transportation & Facilities Tanya Amon; Technology Integration Specialist Tyler Hudak; Application Support Specialist Lee Ann Jubas; Will Davies; Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield; Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary, and attached list of attendees.

President Iriti announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dr. Andler presented the following information regarding social emotional and mental health of the District:

- Student Support Services (SSS) has a three tier pyramid of services;
 - Tier 1 – at the bottom and available to all students
 - Tier 2 – services available for students with greater needs, social skills groups, counseling groups, the Student Assistance Program (SAP), or Child Study
 - Tier 3 – most responsive level and at the individual level, counseling, psychological services, and school-based mental health services
- In 2019 the SSS department hired a social worker, an additional school psychologist, and three additional counselors
- February 2022, counselors, psychologists, and the social worker responded to 714 occasions where services were needed, 505 were unique, non-repeating students; February 2021, 407 occasions with 261 unique, non-repeating students; data does not include physical symptoms relating to mental wellness
- Psychological evaluations increased 25% this school year
- Students struggling with anxiety, executive functioning skills such as impulse control, emotional control, flexible thinking, organization, and showing less ability to bounce back

- Working through grief/suicide ideas more often, weekly and sometime daily
- Number of students need safety plans to attend school, then cannot be alone; other students referred to other schools for therapeutic reasons
- Administration of PASS (screeener for students' attitudes towards self and school in grades 3-12) in November; top three concerns, "I worry about getting my school work right.", "I get really anxious.", "I feel lonely."
- School based mental health and social emotional services designed/intended to be brief and episode based
- Students that have a greater need are referred out for other services, outside counseling services, partial mental wellness programs, and community/county agencies; wait lists can take weeks and/or months
- Our school based mental health provider began suspending new referrals in December; lack of resources and therapists; provider terminating school based mental health program at the end of the school year; currently in the process of obtaining another provider; as a result, our tier 2 services are overwhelmed
- Possibly adding two new resources; partner with AHN's CHILL project and the Rhithm app
- CHILL Project, mindfulness-based exercises to equip students, teachers, and parents with common language/universal skills to identify/discuss/react positively to stress; dedicated professionals, a calming space, and regular instruction to assist the entire community to better handle stress/anxiety; providing all three tiers of service; includes a Chill Room open to HS students anytime throughout the school day.

Dr. Davies presented the following regarding the CHILL Project:

- Program started with two pilot schools; now has 17 schools and a wait list
- Four tiered approach; tier 1 – universal, tier 2 – walk-ins, tier 3 – outpatient program, tier 4 – intensive out-patient program
- AHN will provide two personnel, five days/week
- Interactive space with sensory items focused on emotion regulation; quiet calm rooms for support groups, drop-ins, lessons
- Student involvement creating the space
- Overall data – students kept out of higher levels of care; faculty found skill sets taught appropriate for students, the CHILL Project Professional developments increase their wellbeing, report a positive impact of students utilizing learning skills, and significant impact on students' observable stress responses and emotional reactions

Dr. Deichler presented the following regarding the Rhithm app:

- App the District can customize to its needs; using ClassLink, for staff and/or students to complete a brief self-check of dispositions related to social-emotional healthiness
- Uses a simple emoji assessment of five questions, (less than 3 minutes/check-in); real time data to help strengthen student/educator relationships and provide support needed; results sent to teachers, administrators, and/or school counselors who can be notified of repeated trends
- Micro-videos (less than three minutes) viewed by students, a low level way to self-regulate in response to certain dispositions; accessible by all students, but may also be automatically sent to students based on the response to their check-in
- Each building will determine how often and what time during the school day the app will be used; to what extent any video support can be provided to students; decide if optional text book should be used to communicate with students
- Pilot in grades 5 at the IS and 6 at the MS on Monday/Wednesday/Friday for the remainder on of 2021-2022; no cost to run the pilot
- Pilot helps District determine if the app is appropriate fit to identify/collect information on students' social-emotional needs; how best to implement the app in the future for K-12
- Parents have access to their child's check-in data, using their child's login credentials; if outside assistance is needed, parents will be sent a message

- Rhithm complies with FERPA regulations; District determines what staff have legitimate educational need-to-know and granted access to child's data; teachers directly working with your child will have access; background checks are done on our employees who will have access
- Students are not required to participate, but it is recommended to determine the efficacy and impact of the pilot

The Board inquired if the data can be traced back to a student/staff, how long is the data maintained and how is it destroyed? Dr. Deichler will obtain the information and provide to the Board.

Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Johnson presented the following process/information on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading, a new reading series recommended for the Elementary and Intermediate Schools:

- Subscription for current series expiring and is 10 to 11 year old
- 2021 reviewed eight new resources
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt met the District's expectations
- Piloted in the 2021-2022 school year in one classroom in each grades 1-5
- Diverse series, no negativity or groups left out
- Builds knowledge, not forgotten skills
- Student consumable book; online component
- Works with Canvas
- Begin using in the 2022-2023 school year

The 2022-2023 Budgets for the following departments were presented:

- Student Support Services – Dr. Rachel Andler
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Dr. Chuck Herring
- Technology – Rob Warfield, Tyler Hudak
- Safety & Security – Tyler Geist, Kevin Maurer

Mr. Fornella exited the meeting at 9:07 PM.

- Transportation – Brandon Soubie
- Assistant to the Superintendent/Curriculum – Dr. Kristin Deichler

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Burroughs seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the March 15, 2022, revised Committee Meeting of the Whole agenda. New and revised motions, which were received and added today, are listed below:

- Consider the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the provided list of gifts/donations.
- The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of (call as needed) substitute support personnel for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents. (needs Board action taken on March 15)
- The Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principals recommend Board approval to run a pilot during the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 school year within English 9 courses using the materials proposed to purchase next year from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. There is no cost to the District to run the pilot. (information provided) (needs Board action taken on March 15)
- The Superintendent and High School Principals recommend Board approval to permit Christine Elek and Eryn Carranza to accompany three students to participate in the PMEA All-State Ensemble at the PMEA State Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Poconos, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, April 6, 2022 through Saturday, April 8, 2022 (choir) and Sunday, April 9, 2022 (band). Students would be responsible for making up all school work during their absence.

Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel, lodging, and meals and are included in the 2021-2022 budget. (information provided) (needs Board action taken on March 15)

Consent Agenda

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

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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

1. Athletic Fund	Mark Keener
2. High School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
3. Middle School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
4. Tax Collector Reports (December 2021 – February 2022)	Kevin Biber
5. Board Summary Report (February 2022)	Chris Juzwick

3. Expenditures were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the provided list of gifts/donations.

Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller

Dr. Miller reported:

- Our Little Green Machine will lead a campus parade for students on Thursday, St. Patrick's Day; encouraging our entire campus to wear green/white; students from all buildings will line the campus to cheer on our talented LGM musicians, also congratulate our winter athletes who participated in Indoor Track, Basketball, Hockey, Swimming, and Cheerleading, and had great seasons.
- March 15 - Dr. Hartzell and Mr. Butts hosted Major General David J. Francis, Commanding General of Army Aviation Fort Rucker. He and other Army personnel spoke to a group of students/faculty about engineering careers, military options, and career pathways in the STEM fields.
- Consultation with our school nurses, very few COVID cases over the past two weeks and not aware of any school spread; we will continue to monitor cases and address any concerns as they arise.
- As of Friday, March 11, the District has enrolled 222 Kindergarteners and welcoming our upcoming littlest Lions to visit our elementary school next month.
- Several announcements for various grants over the past few weeks; working to submit these applications in alignment for the goals of the Strategic Plan.
- South Fayette Foundation for Excellence hosting its 9th annual golf outing on Monday, July 18; foursomes are welcome to come out for a great day of golfing, prizes; supporting our Foundation which in turn supports students and teachers.
- Past six months, the Student Services Department preparing for upcoming audit of Special Education program; monitors on site the next month to review our program and provide any areas for improvement; thanked Dr. Andler and her team working to prepare for the audit.
- Pleased to announce Mrs. Cristine Wagner-Deitch has officially joined our leadership team as our new Curriculum Director; will officially welcome her in person at next week's board meeting.

Business Office

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the 2020-2021 School District Audit as prepared by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the proposed 2022-2023 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of \$2,243,173.00. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts' total contribution to the budget is \$1,809,390.00. The South Fayette Township School District contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be \$41,209.00 and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).

Personnel

1. The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute support personnel for the 2021-2022 school year, **pending receipt of required documents: (needs Board action taken on March 15)**
 - Tina Maru, Paraeducator at the rate of \$12.50 per hour, Personal Care Paraeducator at the rate of \$13.50 per hour, Student Monitor at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, and Clerical at the rate of \$11.00 per hour
2. The Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener recommend retroactive Board approval of Daniel Senisi as an Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach effective March 7, 2022, pending receipt of required documents. **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
3. The Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener recommend Board approval of Michael Slencak as a Volunteer Assistant Track and Field Coach, effective for the 2021-2022 season. **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
4. The Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski recommend Board approval of the intermittent personal necessity leave of absence request for Krystle Carlisle, Paraeducator in the Intermediate School effective retroactive to January 24, 2022. **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
5. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval to hire Kristin Fagan as a Permanent Substitute Grade 8 History teacher in the Middle School, at the Master's Step 1 rate of \$50,750 prorated, effective retroactive to December 1, 2021. **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
6. The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell recommend Board approval of the FMLA leave of absence request for Lisa Sweeney, Paraeducator in the High School, effective retroactive to February 28, 2022 through March 16, 2022. **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**

President Iriti announced the above six motions will be approved at the end of the agenda.

7. The Superintendent and Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone recommend Board approval of the following EPRs for the 2021-2022 school year:

Spanish Club	Laura Wagner
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Grade 6 Camping Trip Nurse - Trip 1	Jonene Suskiewicz
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- The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell recommend Board approval of the following EPR for the 2021-2022 school year:

High School Percussion	Camilo Jauregui
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- The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell recommend Board approval of Sarah Posti, a Carlow University student, to complete her principal internship with Dr. Hartzell from June 1, 2022 through August 5, 2022, pending receipt of required documents.
- The Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie recommend Board approval to hire Michelle Dyer as a Substitute Bus Driver, pending receipt of required documents, at the rate of \$20.00 per hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Director of Finance/HR Brian Tony recommend Board approval of revised job description for the Elementary School Principal position, effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance/HR Brian Tony, and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval of the Administrator Recruitment and Selection Reference Manual effective March 24, 2022.

Education

- The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler recommend Board approval to pilot the Rhithm App, a K-12 student and staff wellness check-in tool, effective retroactive to March 21, 2022, in two grade levels, one at the Intermediate School and one at the Middle School. *(information provided)* **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
- The Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principals recommend Board approval to run a pilot during the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, within Algebra 2 courses using the materials proposed to purchase next year from Cengage. The potential cost to run the pilot is \$3,022 (10% of the quote for the purchase of a 6-year subscription), which will be deducted from the total purchase price if the subscription is purchased. The pilot cost will be covered by funds in the 2021-2022 budget. **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
- The Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, and High School Principals recommend Board approval to run a pilot during the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 school year within English 9 courses using the materials proposed to purchase next year from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. There is no cost to the District to run the pilot. *(information provided)* **(needs Board action taken on March 15)**
- The Superintendent and High School Principals recommend Board approval to permit Christine Elek and Eryn Carranza to accompany three students to participate in the PMEA All-State Ensemble at the PMEA State Conference, at the Kalahari Resort in Poconos, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, April 6, 2022 through Saturday, April 8, 2022 (choir) and Sunday, April 9, 2022 (band). Students would be responsible for making up all school work

during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel, lodging, and meals and are included in the 2021-2022 budget. **(information provided) (needs Board action taken on March 15)**

President Iriti announced the above four motions will be approved at the end of the agenda.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to enter into an agreement with EduLink to purchase COMPLY, a compliance software tool, effective July 1, 2022, and to continue for a period of one year, at a cost of \$9,858, which includes a 5% PA-EETEP client discount. The funds to cover the cost will be included in the 2022-2023 budget.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray, and Intermediate School Assistant Principal Kristen Johnson for Board approval to adopt and purchase the new reading series Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading, for the Elementary and Intermediate Schools.
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Kristin Deichler, and Middle Principal Dr. Erin Crimone for Board approval of the changes to the 2022-2023 Middle School Program of Studies.
8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education, and High School Principals for Board approval of the following changes to the 2022-2023 High School Program of Studies:
 - Honors Python III change name to Honors Advanced Python
 - Option 1 - Prerequisite Pathway for Honors Advanced Python
 - Option 2 – Prerequisite Pathway for Honors Advanced Python
9. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to dispose of the attached list of textbooks in the High School as per Board Policy 706.1. The District will attempt to resell the textbooks; if not, they will be donated.
10. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principals for Board approval to permit Brian Garlick, Jeff Sgro, and an additional female chaperone to be determined, to accompany the High School Underwater Robotics Club (approximately 20 students) to participate in the 2022 MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) Mid-Atlantic Regional UROV Competition, at East Tennessee State University, in Johnson City, Tennessee from Friday, May 13, 2022 through Sunday, May 15, 2022. Students would be responsible for making up all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip will be paid for through fundraising efforts.
11. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield, and Director of Innovation, Strategic Partnerships, and Instructional Technology Dr. Matt Callison for Board approval to permit Tyler Hudak, Technology Integration Specialist and AJ Mannarino, Middle School Technology Teacher, to attend 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.

Transportation

There were no items discussed.

Athletics

There were no items discussed.

Construction

There were no items discussed.

Miscellaneous

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the final reading of the following revised policies and attachment:
 - Policy 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation
 - Policy 611 Purchases Budgeted
 - Attachment 626 Procurement – Federal Programs
2. Considered Board approval of the first reading of the revisions to the policies in Section 000 – Local Board Procedures, as reviewed by PSBA, the Superintendent, Solicitor, and Board Members.

Board Comments

There were no comments at this time.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

Welch seconded Burroughs on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute support personnel for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents.

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Voice Vote – All Yes

Iagnemma seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to pilot the Rhithm App, a K-12 student and staff wellness check-in tool, effective retroactive to March 21, 2022, in two grade levels, one at the Intermediate School and one at the Middle School.

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Voice Vote – All Yes

Patankar seconded Iagnemma to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary