



# South Fayette Township School District

## Regular Meeting

### *Minutes*

Tuesday, April 26, 2022  
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:49 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, Tom Iagnemma, Jen Iriti

**Present Virtually:** Paul Brinsky, Len Fornella, Lena Hannah (joined at 8:00 PM), Joe Welch

**Absent:** Bill Ainsworth, Prajakta Patankar

**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; High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell; High School Assistant Principal Robert Butts; Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Crimone; Middle School Associate Principal Dr. Kevin Maurer; Teacher Angela Hoffman; Sarah Posti, Danielle Goldstein, Krista Cooney, 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.

Mr. Tony and Mr. Juzwick provided updates regarding the 2022-2023 Budget/Timeline:

- May 24 – adopt a Proposed Final Budget
- June 8 – make the Proposed Final Budget available for public view
- June 18 – advertise our intention to adopt a Final Budget
- June 28 – adopt a Final Budget
- Reviewed enrollment; running totals for revenues and expenditures
- Reviewed millage options: no increase at 26.7; .5 millage increase to 27.2; to the index of 1.2015 millage increase to 27.8015

Mrs. Hannah entered the meeting.

- Major increases: additional staffing, health/benefits/PSERS/teacher salary step increases; charter tuition, just to name a few
- Debt service – principal and interest

Dr. Deichler, Cristine Wagner-Deitch and the building Principals reviewed/presented the achievement and growth data including:

- Cut scores of advanced, proficient, basic and below basic
- Achievement results already exceeding PDE 2030 targets
- Growth data – exceeding expectations in many areas

- Attendance – exceeding state expectations; lowest student attendance in socioeconomic and special education cohorts
- Elementary – RAC data assessments; action steps to achieve goals; Primary Math Institute( AIU)
- Intermediate – PSSA Classroom Diagnostic Tool; strengths/achievements; areas to grow; action steps to achieve goals
- Middle School – Benchmark data, Edinsight; strengths/achievements; areas to grow; goals to address areas of growth; action steps to achieve goals
- High School – PSSA/SAT/PSAT/AP/NOCTI testing; strengths/achievements; AP summary; SAT cohort class of 2021; PSAT results; Parkway NOCTI results; goals and action steps to address areas of growth
- Conclusion – achieving at high levels and increased achievement; next data analysis will follow normal timeline

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Welch seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Solicitor for Board approval of the revised April 26, 2022, Regular Meeting agenda. New and revised motions, which were received and added today, are listed below:

- The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of the resignation of a Classroom Paraeducator in the High School. The last day worked will be May 6, 2022.
- The Superintendent and Administrators recommend Board approval of (call as needed) substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents.
- The Superintendent and Aquatics Director recommend Board approval to hire Swim Instructors/Lifeguards, pending receipt of required documents, effective April 27, 2022

Voice Vote – All Yes

**Consent Agenda**

Iagnemma seconded Hannah on approval of minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Whole	Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Regular Meeting	Tuesday, March 22, 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 Report (March 2022)	Chris Juzwick

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the provided list of gifts/donations.

Authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of \$668,430.51 beginning with check number 72072 through check number 72254, and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$107,929.58 beginning with check number 8367 through check number 8377.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

There were no comments at this time.

### Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

### New Business

There was no new business discussed.

### Superintendent's Monthly Report – Dr. Michelle Miller

Dr. Miller had nothing to report.

### Student Representative Report

Ms. Stahl reported:

- TSA students competed at the state conference at Seven Springs Resort from April 20-23; numerous students/teams won awards in their respective events
- FBLA students competed at the state conference this month in Hershey
- April 25 started Mini-Thon Spirit Week in the High School; donations surpassed \$85,000 from students and community; more donations to come
- Glow Run registration continues; scheduled for June 4

### Business Office

Iagnemma seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a 63-month agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions for all copiers, monthly maintenance, and copy center services for the District. The agreed to monthly fee will be \$11,244.56 and the following per copy service cost of:

Black & white impressions per month	Unlimited (included in monthly payment)
Color impressions per month	10,000 (included in monthly payment)
Color impressions – overages	Excess of 10,000 per month = \$0.04 each

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the decision on the Application for LERTA Tax Abatement submitted by Beacon 1 Associates LP., on July 20, 2016, for construction or reconstruction of the improvements at Block/Lot 323-G-4, resulting in a LERTA tax abatement:

TAX YEAR	PERCENT EXEMPTION	AMOUNT OF EXEMPTION
1st Tax Year (2018-2019)	100%	\$6,700,00
2nd Tax Year (2019-2020)	80%	\$5,360,00
3rd Tax Year (2020-2021)	60%	\$4,020,00
4th Tax Year (2021-2022)	40%	\$2,680,00
5th Tax Year (2022-2023)	20%	\$1,340,00

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the Behavioral Health Professional Services Agreement, in substantially the form provided subject to approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor, between Allegheny Clinic and the District. The Clinic will provide the Chill Project by AHN to the High School and will also provide school

based behavioral health services to the four school buildings as outlined in the agreement, and as presented to the Board, effective August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education, and Director of Innovation, Strategic Partnerships, and Instructional Technology Dr. Matthew Callison for Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Pennsylvania State University and the South Fayette Township School District, for the District to work in partnership with Penn State College of Education on the implementation of the new Pennsylvania science standards; effective three (3) years from date of the last signature on the MOU. There is no cost to the District.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance/HR Brian Tony for Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the South Fayette Township School District and the South Fayette Education Support Professionals Association (SFESP) to adjust the seniority list preparation date from October 1 to June 1 in 2022. There is a one-time pilot adjustment for June 1, 2022 and per details outlined in the MOU.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Personnel**

Hannah seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Jeanne Ellis, a current Bus Aide and former Food Service employee. Her last day worked will be June 9, 2022. Ms. Ellis has been employed by the District since August 2002.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the resignation of Katie Elliott as a Grade 3 teacher in the Intermediate School effective retroactive to March 29, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the FMLA leave of absence request for Christine Sharrer, Intermediate School Paraeducator effective retroactive from March 28, 2022 through March 30, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Food Services Tricia Wood for Board approval of a personal necessity leave of absence request for Kimberly Albert, Food Service employee and Bus Aide, effective retroactive to April 6, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval for the following students from Duquesne University to complete their student teaching, pending receipt of required documents. There will be no cost to the District.

- Ryleigh Shoff, with Chris Elek, Chorus teacher in the High School from October 24, 2022 through December 9, 2022
- Julia Lawrence, with Charlotte Rudolph, Music teacher in the Intermediate School from January 9, 2023 through February 24, 2023

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following reappointments:

- (a) Dr. Alene D'Alesio, Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, as School District Dentist for the 2022-2023 school year. The services will be provided at no cost to the District.

- (b) Dr. Michael Specca and Preferred Primary Care Physicians, as School District Physician for the 2022-2023 school year at the rate of \$130.00 per hour. This is the same rate for the past 13 years.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of the resignation of Danielle Rudolph as an Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach effective for the 2021-2022 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of Alex Gensler as an Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, pending receipt of required documents, effective for the 2022-2023 season.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, High School Principals, and the head winter season coaches recommend Board approval of the following coaches for the 2022-2023 season:

**Girls Basketball**

Head Coach	Bryan Bennett
Assistant Coach	Garret Del Re
Assistant Coach	Olesia Stasko
7th Grade Head Coach	Olesia Stasko
8th Grade Head Coach	Garrett Del Re
7th Grade Assistant Coach	Rebecca Braithwaite

**Boys Basketball**

Head Coach	Dave Mislán
Assistant Coach	G.J. Schaeffer
Assistant Coach	Josh Patterson
Assistant Coach	Kevin Joyce
Assistant Coach	Jared Knox
Assistant Coach	Danny Nee
Assistant Coach	Brandon Orosz
7th Grade Head Coach	Hunter Barnhart
8th Grade Head Coach	Glenn Gutierrez

**Wrestling**

Head Coach	Rick Chaussard
Assistant Coach	Alex Kramer
Assistant Coach	Brett Smith
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Robert Vettorel
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Josh Miller
Junior High Head Coach	Chris McNeal
Junior High Assistant Coach	Trevor McIntyre
Junior High Assistant Coach	Jason Santavicca

Voice Vote – All Yes

Iagnemma seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Tyler Geist as the Elementary School Principal, effective July 1, 2022, at the salary of \$103,648.00, for the 2022-2023 school year and on the mutually agreed upon terms and conditions of the Act 93 Agreement.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the resignation of Marilyn Werner as a Classroom Paraeducator in the High School. Ms. Werner's last day worked will be May 6, 2022.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year, pending receipt of required documents:

- Alexander Weibel, PK-12 Music
- Angelina Defelice, Art Pk-12/Social Studies 7-12
- Raven Sherbine, Special Education PK-12
- Emily Simms, Early Childhood PK-4/Special Education PK-12
- Aaron Taylor, Music PK-12

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Aquatics Director Lizzy Buckholt for Board approval to hire the following aquatics personnel, pending receipt of required documents, effective April 27, 2022:

- Emma Neve, Swim Instructor/Lifeguard at the rate of \$10.00 per hour
- Gourisree Prasanth, Swim Instructor/Lifeguard at the rate of \$10.00 per hour

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Education**

Hannah seconded Iagnemma on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for the Administration to submit for applicable federal and state grants, such as but not limited to: Title I; Title II; Title III; Title IV; Safe Schools Initiatives; STEAM; and Pennsylvania Ready to Learn Grants for the 2022-2023 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler, and Elementary School Associate Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval of the AIU Transition MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to support best practices in transition to kindergarten in the South Fayette Township School District, effective for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. This MOU also fulfills the Hi5! and state and federal requirements for kindergarten transition under the Every Student Succeeds Act/Title I.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler and Elementary and Intermediate Schools Principals for Board approval to conduct a Summer Recovery Learning program in the summer of 2022 offering reading and math learning opportunities for students enrolled in grades K-5 during the 2021-2022 school year. The program will run Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, beginning June 20, 2022, through July 21, 2022. The District will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2022, in observance of the July 4 holiday. The cost of the program will be covered by some federal grant funds, as well as reallocated funds from the 2021-2022 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to offer a hybrid online Summer Remediation course for Algebra I. The program will run from June 13, 2022 through July 21, 2022. The cost to the parents would be \$285.00 for residents and \$305.00 for non-residents. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 40 hours of instruction. If there are 6 students enrolled, the fees would cover costs; if fewer than 6 students are enrolled, the District would fund the difference.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Kristin Deichler for Board approval to offer a hybrid online Summer Remediation course for Geometry. The program will run from June 13, 2022 through July 21, 2022. The cost to the parents would be \$285.00 for residents and \$305.00 for non-residents. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 40 hours of instruction. If there are 6 students enrolled, the fees would cover costs; if fewer than 6 students are enrolled, the District would fund the difference.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Transportation**

There were no items discussed.

### **Athletics**

Welch seconded Hannah on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Director of Finance Chris Juzwick, and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to purchase two Pro Premier European Match Soccer Goals with wheels from Century Sports. The total amount of \$7,640.00, includes shipping and the funds are available in the 2021-2022 budget.

Voice Vote – All Yes

### **Construction**

There were no additional items discussed.

### **Miscellaneous**

Welch seconded Hannah on Board approval of the final reading of the revisions to the policies in Section 000 – Local Board Procedures, as reviewed by PSBA, the Superintendent, Solicitor, and Board Members.

And on Board approval of the second reading of the revisions to the policies in Section 100 – Programs (revised policies 100 – 116), as reviewed by PSBA, the Superintendent, Solicitor, and Board Members.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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

Krista Cooney, Magnolia Street, sad the education system has gotten to this point; tradition, pride and excellence has no business being the motto; questions go unanswered; emails read aloud to the Board go unacknowledged; make-up own rules, not considering impact on students; fear mongering for the past 2 years and unlawful mask mandates; pushing CRT/SEL in different degrees/grades; 8-12 years of college to become a psychologist; teachers and school directors not qualified/licensed to push social/emotional learning; human brain not fully developed until 25; teen and adult brains function differently; South Fayette teaching in areas, they have no business teaching; some subjects solely a parent's responsibility; social/emotional learning is psychology, teachers not qualified/licensed in psychology; teaching psychological courses when not qualified leads to confusion; confusion leads to depression, which can lead to suicide and other mental issues; what you're doing now can/will affect students for many years, after school when real lives begin; focus on subjects students are intended to learn reading, math, science, STEM; mental crisis a result of what's being pushed thru the Department of Education, via the CDC; CDC has no business in schools; prepare kids for outside K-12; kids more than a statistic/rank in the system. I'm serving each Board member a Letter of Intent to file a claim against the

District's Risk Management Plan, have taken oaths to uphold the law of the constitution, which you have not done. The letter states the multiple violations of state, federal, and international laws; if rectifications are not made within 7 days, I will proceed with filing a claim against your policy. Each of you is personally liable and financially liable for the non-disclosed amount of the deductible of the policy for each claim. This means you are personally liable as a public servant; also violating the Sunshine Act, SB 554, states public meeting agendas must be posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting, ours is like 3 hours prior. Thank you.

Danielle Goldstein, Walnut Ridge Circle, wasn't sure if I was attending tonight's meeting; making dinner hearing 11 year old daughter's science video on clouds; second video comes on, a creepy voice talking about how it's ok to lie and people in the world lie; this isn't right; what is this video doing on a school computer; assumed not the correct link; stopped video and realized this video link was right below and looked like the video link on clouds provided by her science teacher; like an email from Dr. Miller explaining what subject matter teaches kids how to lie and why it's ok, Math, science, language arts, what subject; great educators here, and agree it is never ok to teach an 11 year old to lie; appropriate or show video about lying on a school approved computer; you approve the content that is on the computers; I didn't put it on her computer, you did; why is it there to click on; maybe in high school; why are we talking about teaching any child at any age how to lie; be ok for all of you to lie, deceive the taxpayers with all the rules you makeup along the way, it's no ok in my house; taxpayers agree not ok to teach children it's ok to lie; so angry; been here for 50 years; put two children through school and graduated college; my last child, thank god; so sad inside, first time I don't feel safe sending my child to school;

President Iriti interrupted Mrs. Goldstein informing her the 3 minutes have expired and she can send an email to the Board with the remainder of her comments.

Mrs. Geisler read the following email public comment:

Dina Zimage, seminary ave, oakdale pa  
Please reconsider increasing school taxes. You are hitting families with more expenditures during a time when inflation is at its highest. Prices at the grocery stores are up 50%! Cost of gas at an all time high. Your answer to all of this, increase how much they pay us! We are already one of the highest taxed school districts in the state! With a median house value of 150,000 your looking at alot of middle class families that are already taking a huge hit.  
Thank you,  
Dina Zimage

There were no additional comments at this time.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Voltz will submit a written report via email.

### **Board Comments**

There were no Board comments at this time.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee Report

President Jen Iriti

President Iriti reported her, Vice President Burroughs, and Dr. Miller meet once a month to plan agenda items; working on revisions to the superintendent's evaluation tool; reviewed



the PSBA Board Leadership Self-Assessment tool for possible implementation this summer, and is recommended to be done periodically.

South Fayette Foundation

Paul Brinsky

Mr. Brinsky reminded the Golf Outing on July 18 at Hickory Heights Golf Club.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah thanked the several hundred who attended yesterday's Public Education Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on reducing mandates, better funding regarding mandates on special education funding, charter and pensions; shared sampling of 146 mandates sent to legislators; many more districts deal with.

Parkway West

Tom Iagnemma

Mr. Iagnemma reported Senior Recognition will be May 18, at 6:00 PM in Montour; Free Summer Career Camp on June 21 & 22, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, for students in grades 6/7/8. Parkway students participated in Skills USA District Competition, South Fayette had:

Five First Place Winners: Building & Construction – Gabriel Lacaria; Cabling & Telecom – Benedict Mine; Community Service – Jessica Anderson; Promotional Bulletin Board – Tylee Ambrogie-Mathews; and Welding Sculpture – Abigayle Arthurs; they all went on to compete in the state competitions

Two Second Place Winners: Cyber Security – Carter Charles; Job Skills Demonstration – Leslie Landeverde-Guerrero

Two Third Place Winners: Team Works – Jake Ketter, James Marshall, and Benedict Mine; Welding – Nathan Sgro

SHASDA

Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah attended the Student Breakfast held on April 23, with 22 participating school districts each recognizing two students for their achievements; celebrated SF student Cameron Raubaugh; inspirational speaker Charlie Batch

Hannah seconded Burroughs to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 PM and enter into a brief Executive Session. President Iriti announced there will be no votes taken afterwards.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary