



South Fayette Township School District

Regular Meeting

Minutes – Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2020
7:30 PM

The virtual Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:37 PM using Zoom by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella apologized for the late start as the Board held an Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

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

Others: See attached list of attendees.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded; many people joining on Zoom and will want to make comments; nonresidents on Zoom, please transfer to YouTube so the residents can make comments through Zoom; if you are on Zoom, please send comments via email to schoolboard@southfayette.org and they will be read for the record. Please keep them as brief as possible.

Dr. Lockette reviewed the following regarding opening of school on September 2, 2020:

- Opening in the hybrid/cyber academy model
- Adjustments made to programs during the summer
- Safety plan in place and ready
- Substitutes in place
- Still in moderate level based on state metrics
- Continue to take all precautions

He added there are concerns that were exacerbated by social media posts asking students to not report any symptoms or illness pertaining to the virus. That cannot happen, we need everyone to follow the guidelines and do their part; this is a community effort. We will send communications out reiterating the guidelines of social distancing and state order to wear masks; hoping to remain in the hybrid/cyber academy and to eventually back to full five days in person; includes daily health assessments by students and staff prior to coming to school. Athletics update and working with WPIAL and ACHD agreement to have athletic competitions and to expand the 50 person outdoor limit in different pods.

Mark Keener thanked the Board for their support of the athletes; and coaches, parents, and community for helping to get this far. This is a partnership between the community and the school district; must be honest and have open communication; main goal to protect students, staff, and coaches at all costs; it is a privilege to participate in sports and if safety guidelines are not followed, it will result in suspension from your ability to do so; it will not be tolerated; for those of you who are following the guidelines, please continue to do so; for those of you who are not, will be dealt with in a harsh manner, you will not be allowed to participate, no questions asked.

Mr. Keener reviewed the following, but not limited, to from approved Athletic Plan:

- All athletes and coaches undergo COVID-19 health self-screening prior to any practice, event or team meeting

- Healthy hygiene practices include hand washing for 20 seconds; face coverings must be worn at times by the athletes except when participating in a high intensity aerobic activity; coaches and other personnel must wear face coverings at all times; use of hand sanitizer
- Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities
- Avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, or high fives at any time; limit unnecessary physical contact
- Attendance should be recorded for contact tracing purposes
- Sports-related activities are limited to students, coaches, officials, and staff only. Cheerleaders and band will be permitted; spectators will not be permitted
- Outdoor – teams and/or pods must not exceed the gathering size of 50 people (sidelines, competition area, etc.); the total facility capacity may not exceed the state mandate of 250 people
- Indoor – gatherings are not to exceed 25 people
- Appropriate social distancing must be maintained at all times, including in the field of play, locker rooms, sidelines, dugouts, benches, and workout areas; no congregating during down time
- Athletic facilities should be cleaned prior to and following workouts, team gatherings, with high touch areas cleaned more often; weight room equipment wiped clean after each individual use
- Additional hand sanitizing stations will be provided during defined PIAA season
- Primary point of contact – Kara Miles, Lead Nurse, klmiles@southfayette.org; ext. 333
- Modifications for team transportation to/from events may be necessary per PDE guidelines including, reduce number of students/coaches, use hand sanitizer when boarding bus, social distancing on bus, wear face covering on bus, reduce team size for away games; families have the option to provide their own transportation to and from events
- If you are sick or think you are infected with COVID-19, stay home; notify the district immediately (principal, athletic director, school nurse, athletic trainer, and/or coach); if a positive case is diagnosed, contact tracing will be implemented; students/athletes/coaches/staff shall resume extracurricular activities when CDC/ACHP guidelines for COVID-19 symptom resolution have been met

Mr. Keener continued with the first practice dates; first scrimmage dates; first competition dates and guideline updates that affect cross country, football, golf, girls tennis, girls volleyball, and soccer. Mr. Keener concluded by reiterating if safety guidelines are not followed, they will be dealt with in a harsh manner, no questions asked.

Dr. Lockette reiterated the District will be opening in the hybrid/cyber academy model on September 2, 2020; he thanked the committees, including external participants, administration, Kara Miles and nursing staff, Safety & Security Co-Coordinator Tyler Geist and Kevin Maurer, for all of their hard work in preparing for the start of the school year. He also reiterated this is a partnership between the community and the school district; hoping to remain in the hybrid/cyber academy and to eventually back to full five days in person; this is a school and we do our best in front of children. Important to follow safety guidelines.

President Fornella announced two motions will be added to the agenda, so if anyone ones to make comments, one to reaffirm the opening of school on September 2, 2020 in hybrid/cyber academy model and one to approve obtaining additional substitute teachers and to increase pay rate to make sure we have a sufficient number on hand for the start of the school year. Dr. Lockette added an additional motion is to be added to approve the MOU for streaming and cameras in the classroom.

Consent Agenda

Iriti seconded Brinsky on approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

Athletic Fund
High School Activity Fund
Middle School Activity Fund

Mark Keener
Rebecca Bruce
Rebecca Bruce

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 \$1,385,834.99 beginning with check number 68423 through check number 68594, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of \$7,208.65 beginning with check number 8089 through check number 8097, and the Construction Fund for the amount of \$331,748.78 beginning with check numbers 623 through 627 and check numbers 001 through 006.

Roll Call – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Mrs. Geisler read the following email comments:

Shari Coyne, Sterling Drive, I am concerned about no parents being present at a sporting event where there is a potential for the child to suffer and injury. I have had a child that suffered a severe injury in an athletic event. Any parent would be concerned if this happens to their child and they are not there. Please comment.

Joe and Manda Sanders, Hickory Grade Road, Good evening! Quick follow up question to Mr. Keener's excellent presentation. Will the cheerleaders be able to travel to the away games to cheer (in addition to the home games)? Thank you for all of your collective efforts to help our kids have a great school year, despite the challenges COVID presents.

Mr. Keener did respond the no spectators is not the District's rule; we have excellent trainers and staff; parents will be immediately contacted if there is an injury; injuries can also occur at practice or home games. The rule is band and cheerleaders limited to participate at home events only.

Mandi Kumar, Forest Ridge Drive, Are we able to change to online schooling if we selected hybrid on the form?

President Fornella responded to forward those questions to Dr. Lockette.

Nicole Coddington, Hinsdale Lane, Thank you all! What does a day look like in the hall such as locker use?

President Fornella reiterated to forward those questions to Dr. Lockette.

There were no additional comments at this time

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

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

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- Welcome Back Students communication will go out this week to include training safety videos and canvas training video
- Cameras for classrooms being installed
- Calendar update on the agenda for Board approval; if in the hybrid setting or fully online, two-hour delay days will be discontinued; back to five days, they will be re-instated

Student Representative Report

Mr. Reddy reported the following:

- Orientation links shared with new students
- Link Crew leaders created video for new teachers and scheduled a virtual tour; freshman being offered optional tour dates on August 27, 28, and 31
- August 7 – Four Diamonds Leadership Summit recognized High School students Baylee Carpenter, Emma Fleck, and Lilah Speca talked about their experiences with the MiniThon along with Dr. Yerace and Mr. Flannery, MiniThon advisors
- High School preparing for laptop distribution

Business Office

Ainsworth seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Safety & Security Co-Coordinator Kevin Maurer and Tyler Geist for Board approval to award the bid to Intertech for the amount of \$39,941.85 for the purchase and installation of one - Avigilon Analytic Appliance - Avigilon MODEL VMA-AIA1-CG2-NA and one -Avigilon 64TB NETWORK VIDEO RECORDER – AVIGILON MODEL HD-NVR4-PRM-64TB-NA for the existing camera system for the 2020-2021 school year. There is a programming fee of \$98.00 per hour. The items will be paid for with the PCCD CARES Grant.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Pediatric Therapy Specialists, Inc., to provide in-home therapy services for a medically impacted student effective August 31, 2020, through July 31, 2021.

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 price quote for PASS, BK Interactive LLC, to provide an assessment tool to identify students with social and emotional needs and to connect them with the support needed, effective August 31, 2020. This is a one-time purchase and will be paid for by the PCCD Grant.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Administrators, Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to contract with up to 20 emergency building substitutes at the rate of \$250.00 per day effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to pay the call as needed day to day substitutes \$250.00 per day, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

Personnel

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler, and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval to hire Misty Menarcheck as the Nurse in the Middle School at the Bachelor’s Step 1 rate of \$48,581, prorated, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Facilities Director Steve Timmins, and Custodial Shift Manager Steve Lower for Board approval to hire Linley Stimmel as a Custodian at the probationary rate of \$12.77 per hour, pending receipt of required documents, and contingent on students returning in the hybrid or brick and mortar setting for the 2020-2021 school year. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be \$15.96 per hour. This is due to a retirement.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Facilities Director Steve Timmins, and Custodial Shift Manager Steve Lower for Board approval to hire Deborah Jugovich as a Substitute Custodian at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, pending receipt of required documents, and contingent on students returning in the hybrid or brick and mortar setting for the 2020-2021 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Maria Brewer Aguilar as the Assistant Director of Finance and Board Treasurer. Her last day worked will be March 19, 2021. Mrs. Aguilar has been employed in the District since April 2010.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the resignation of Samantha Holman as a Grade 5 Long Term Substitute teacher and as a Paraeducator effective retroactive to August 24, 2020.

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

- Matt Tucker, Social Studies 7-12
- Rachael Leyk, Math 7-12, pending receipt of required documents
- Daniel Kochman, Social Studies 7-12, pending receipt of required documents

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of following EPRs for the 2020-2021 school year:

Mentor Teacher for Rachael Leyk	Kelley Hallett Rebecca Rudy Shannon Roche
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And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Middle School Football Coach Rick Chaussard for Board approval of Garret Del Re as an Assistant Middle School Football Coach effective August 26, 2020.

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

There were no comments at this time.

President Fornella thanked Mrs. Aguilar on the behalf of the Board for her two terms as a valuable and trusted employee; she will be missed.

Roll Cal – All Yes

Education

Iriti seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first and final reading of revised Board Policy 204 – Attendance.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to dispose of the attached list of textbooks in the High School and Intermediate School as per Board Policy 706.1. The District will attempt to resell the textbooks, if not, they will be donated.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistants to the Superintendent, and Administrators for Board approval of the changes to the Student/Parent Handbooks for the Elementary, Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools effective for the 2020-2021 school year, in addition to the Face Coverings Guidelines that will be added as an appendix to the handbooks.

Roll Call – All Yes

Mrs. Geisler interjected the motion to approve Garret Del Re should read as a Volunteer Assistant Middle School Football Coach.

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Middle School Football Coach Rick Chaussard for Board approval to retain Garret Del Re as a Volunteer Assistant Middle School Football Coach effective August 26, 2020.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Vezzi seconded Burroughs on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistants to the Superintendent, and Administrators to reaffirm the District will be opening school on September 2, 2020, in the hybrid/cyber academy school model.

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

Jody Romanelli, Celebration Circle, Did Mr Fornella just state that the school board is voting on the Hybrid/Cyber model tonight? Why would you be voting again when school starts next week? Thanks

President Fornella responded the Board voted two weeks ago, but wants to reaffirm the District will be opening in the hybrid/cyber academy model, so there is no confusion from the public.

Roll Call – All Yes

Ainsworth seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistants to the Superintendent for Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the SFEA for streaming and cameras in the classroom.

The Board discussed an issue with student voices being protected; guidance sent to parents on camera usage; control settings by teachers; not continuous feed/looping; security camera concept; covered in District's acceptable use policy; devices fees will help support this cost.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

Transportation

The Board inquired if there will be an activity bus; Dr. Lockette responded it was taken out of the budget for this year.

Athletics

There were no additional items discussed.

Construction

The Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Joe Brennan, Project Manager, PJ Dick recommend Board approval of the following change orders for the Middle School Classroom Alterations Project for a total amount of \$4,160.00:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Revise Door Hardware per Owner's Request | \$3,317.00 |
| • Add Filter Box From Outside Air to Duct Heater | \$ 385.00 |
| • Add New Drain in Copy Center | \$ 458.00 |

Roll Call – All Yes

Miscellaneous

Brinsky seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistants to the Superintendent for Board approval of the following revisions to the revised 2020-2021 Calendar. There is no change to the start date of September 2, 2020, or the last day of school as June 11, 2021:

- November 9 – No School for Students, Professional Duty Day
- November 20 – Early Dismissal, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 23 – No School for Students, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- January 18, 2021 – No School for Students, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- May 14, 2021 – Full Day of School for Students
- If the District is in the yellow or red phase, 2-hour delay days will be temporarily suspended.

Roll Call – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Sharon Schwarzmilller, Willowbrook Drive, Hello, I am hearing the South Fayette teachers were offered a 10-week "leave" with full pay. Is that true? If it is true, were there parameters like years of employment, percentage of payment, benefits, etc... Also, if this is true, what percentage of SF faculty accepted that offer? Finally, will those positions be filled by substitute teachers? Thank you.

Amanda Lewis, Cypress Court, Parent and tax payer to the school district here-Your teachers, ancillary staff, coaches, principals, substitutes, janitors, librarians and everyone at the school should be getting crisis/hazard pay!!!!

Donna Meehan, Summit Ridge Road, How do you plan on keeping spectators off the hill side for the football games?? Thanks

Sarah Emanuel, Firwood Drive, Just wanted to make sure I heard this correctly...you are paying day-to-day subs \$250/day for the school year? If so, I truly applaud this move.

Lisa Passyn, Sharalyn Drive, thanked everyone in the District for getting geared up for the unknown; cameras, not sure if they will be used during discussions with students, parents have the opportunity to opt their student out of live conversations; will clubs be running after school, normalcy for students. Thank you

President Fornella commented on behalf of the Board and Administration; everyone wants this to be a very successful year for students, parents, and staff, but safety is the number one priority. A plea and admonition, please don't take offense, for this to be a successful year, both academically and for sports and arts, everyone must cooperate and follow the guidelines; don't want anyone to jeopardize themselves or other individuals; social media rumors regarding sending students to school if they are ill; please don't do that; the Board and Administration will not tolerate that. Please be safe and follow the guidelines, please think of not only yourself, but beyond yourself, students, staff and who they will interact with outside of school. Please be good citizens, be good neighbors, and be good friends. This is the only way we will all get through this in the most successful and efficient way. Good luck to students, staff, and parents for a wonderful year. Thank you.

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

Voice Vote - All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary