



South Fayette Township School District

Special Meeting

Minutes – Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
7:00 PM

The virtual Special Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:03 PM using Zoom by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was properly advertised.

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

Others: See attached list of attendees.

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Dr. Lockette presented the following regarding the proposed four-day in-person transition plan:

- Proposed the transition plan to the teachers' union based on our own resources and facilities
- Preparing for a full in-person model
- Teachers need time to prepare for the shift
- Shift from hybrid/cyber model to four-day in-person and cyber
 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in-person/cyber and Wednesday's as an asynchronous learning day for all students
 - ES/IS start November 10
 - MS/HS start December 1
- Rationale for staggered approach; timeline for implementation,
 - No spread of COVID within school environment, mitigating protocols working well
 - Hybrid model additional stress on students, teachers, parents, and administrators
 - Cyber academy will remain in-place
 - In-person instructional time needed for students, particularly in the K-5 grades
 - Schedules less complicated in lower grades; less movement with classes/groups
 - Accommodate social distancing during lunch; can accommodate social distancing in MS/HS but will take more time to prepare for
- Implications with the change:
 - Parents have to re-enroll students for the second nine-weeks
 - Placement for students will be maintained, but changes may occur
 - Rooms will have to be re-arranged to allow social distancing
 - School will not be able to maintain social distancing in classrooms, buses, at lockers, and other spaces; social distancing will be maintained during lunch in all buildings
 - Purchase extra furniture for secondary buildings to accommodate for social distancing at lunch; items are in stock; needs Board approval
 - More students in buildings, more students in close contact
 - Special Education students will attend four days w/Wednesday as an asynchronous day
- No changes include:
 - Lunches will still be provided for students; limited grab'n go menu; social distancing during lunches

- Face coverings will still be mandated per state order; teachers can implement mask breaks at their discretion when social distancing can be maintained
- Cyber academy will remain in place
- Canvas will still be used for all student learning, in-person and cyber
- Free meals will still be provided to students
- Health & Safety Plan guidelines will remain in place
- Timeline for implementation:
 - Monday, October 19, send out re-enrollment forms; due by October 23
 - ES/IS – reassemble rosters and schedules
 - MS/HS – prepare lunch areas; re-do schedules
 - November 10 – ES/IS begin four-day in-person
 - November 11 – asynchronous day for all students
 - December 1 – MS/HS begin four-day in-person
 - December 18 – re-evaluate how things are going prior to holiday break; prepare for full five-day plan

The Board discussed:

- Wednesday as the asynchronous day, families already have made arrangements since it is a transition day for the hybrid model, fewer long term gaps in learning; teachers have the day to prepare for teaching to multiple audiences; schedule for the asynchronous day
- Possible increase in positive cases due to not maintaining social distancing due to more students in the buildings; family gatherings for the holidays; ways to help mitigate possible classroom transmission, shields, bus cleaning
- Impact on Special Education students going from five days to four days; follow IEPs; COVID compensatory services will provide additional services
- Moving to the five day in-person learning; others districts using outside resources for on-line learning; our teachers doing everything, teaching live while teaching student in-person
- Potential challenges in each building moving to four-day in-person due to enrollment numbers, students will remain with teachers whenever possible, student blocks may have to change; lunches/recess will be staggered
- Canvas provides stronger ability to communicate with teachers; detriment if pull back now; 85% to 90% of teachers are using Canvas
- Staggered start dates provides data to support secondary students to start four-day, secondary students move 6-8 times per day; provides time to prepare the secondary classrooms and lunch areas

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Lisa Passyn, Sharalyn Drive, recognize the hard work of the teachers; plans vary by building, high school teachers doing two jobs, more staff or outsource cyber learning; understand the asynchronous day to help teachers, high school teachers need it now; audit what teachers are required to do, streamline duties; if there is anything I can do to help.

Kelly Weiss Strausburg, Old Oakdale Road, cyber teachers doing a fantastic job, surpassed expectations with their innovations; concerned for the safety of students and staff, asking for transparency and keep the number of students balanced in cyber and in-person learning, don't lose sight of the cyber students need same level of access to teachers as the in-person students; if board meetings going to in-person, notify public.

Matt Pelletier, Hickory Heights Drive, teacher's work is appreciated, consider working parents; other schools outsource online learning, why, we aren't paying any more or less in taxes; impact on students mental health worldwide.

Heather VanScoy, Sandstone Drive, how the teachers are dealing with this; what were the results of the survey, feel safe going to four day in-person; safety of students, staff and community a concern.

Angela Thomas, Windsor Drive, transparency on children currently in hybrid situation and teachers teaching from home, will that continue; important having a teacher in front of them.

There were no additional comments at this time.

Dr. Lockette requested the Board to approve the plan so the timeline can be adhered to.

Education

Ainsworth seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistants to the Superintendent, and Administrators for Board approval of the update to the September 1, 2020, revised Health & Safety Plan with amended model(s) of instruction as presented.

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

Mrs. Hannah added the caveat, saying yes and doing this for the administration and teachers' association based on the recommendations I've heard tonight.

Mrs. Iriti added the caveat, saying yes in support of the administration but concerned with the timing.

President Fornella added the caveat, saying yes but wants the administration to begin looking at returning to five days before December 18 and keep the Board informed.

Mrs. Burroughs wanted the reason for her abstention in the minutes. I need to read the teacher survey that was shared with the Board today, to see if they had any concerns, before I vote.

Brinsky seconded Petrillo to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary