Minutes of the South Fayette Township School District Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
7:00 PM

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Pride Room in the Administration Building by President Bill Newcomer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Teresa Burroughs (arrived at 7:32 PM), Todd Petrillo (arrived at 7:05 PM), Alan Vezzi, Alex Czaplicki (arrived at 7:10 PM), Lena Hannah, Len Fornella, Paul Brinsky, Bill Newcomer

Absent: Jen Iriti

Others: Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead; Director of Finance Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Brewer Aguilar; Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz; Teachers Stephanie Deluca, Raynee Young, Sarah Manly; Cassandra Renninger, Eckles Architecture, Ester and Thomas Fleet; Katie Drozynski, Gwen Rodi, Lisa Malosh, Lindsay Bagwell, Nicholas J. Rodi, Jim Specialetti, Jen Swider, Ryan Eggleston, Anne F. Beck, Margot L. Beck, Joe Brennan, PJ Dick; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Rondinelli reminded the Board the Board Appreciation Dinner will be held on January 26 at 6:00 PM in the High School with the Regular Meeting to be held in the High School Conference Center; the AIU Annual Convention of School Board Directors will be held on March 31, 2016 and the District will be participating in the event; and the Board was provided information pertaining to nominations for School Board Trustee of the Allegheny County Schools Health Consortium.

The Board invited the Township Commissioners to attend the January 26 meeting for discussion at the public meeting. The Commissioners in attendance responded they will discuss with the other Commissioners and get back to the Board by the end of the week if they will be attending the January 26 meeting. President Newcomer also suggested for both the District and Township to add time to each agenda for advertised meetings to discuss issues.

Dr. Rondinelli announced Jen Iriti was not in attendance as she was invited to attend a meeting in Washington DC as part of the White House Committee for her work with Pittsburgh Promise which advocates for children in need to enable them to attend college.

President Newcomer asked to suspend the meeting at 7:05 PM for a few residents and Tax Collector Anne Beck to speak now so they don’t have to sit through the entire meeting.

Mr. Petrillo arrived at 7:05 PM.

Ester Fleet, Oakridge Road, we’ve been residents for 22 years and are so excited we paid our mortgage off in August 2015. At the end of August beginning of September I called Anne Beck to inform her to send the tax bills to our home instead of the mortgage company and I asked when our next tax bill was due. She informed me not until 2016. I wrote down what she told me when we would be receiving the
bills and when they would be due so we have that in our files. I asked her several times and she
reiterated the next bill was due in 2016. In the beginning of December we get a delinquent notice in the
mail saying the taxes were not paid and we had a balance due. I immediately called Anne to question
her about this and she said when I called her on the phone, I only asked her to change our address. It is
her word against mine and I know I did ask when the next tax bill was due. I asked how we can get the
penalty waived and she said I need to come to the Board meeting. I did write a letter to Mr. Tony
explaining the situation and am hear asking to possibly waive the penalty of $307.97. We have never
been delinquent on our tax bills. We were shocked when we received the letter saying our taxes had not
been paid. The mortgage company never forwarded the bill to us so we just assumed the taxes were
paid. That is the reason I am here today. President Newcomer said this would be discussed in Executive
Session. The Board asked when the mortgage was paid off and if they received a check from the
mortgage company. Mrs. Fleet answered they did receive a check but the mortgage company said it was
the balance of their escrow account, never saying the taxes were not paid.

Cassandra Renninger, Eckles Architecture announced Joe Brennan, PJ Dick is on his way. She
continued the pre-construction meeting was held and went well with a large turnout. Half of the contracts
have been received from the contractors and signed by Dr. Rondinelli this evening, so Eckles can
authorize the contractors to proceed. Ms. Renninger explained RFPs were sent to the following
companies for the Special Inspection and Construction Testing for the High School Additions and
Alterations Project. She added they will be a third party hired to test soils and construction materials,
which a portion is required by the Special Inspections Code.

- Construction Engineering Consultants (little CEC)
- Professional Services Industry (PSI)
- Civil and Environment Consultants (big CEC)

The proposals were due on January 18 and received two from little CEC and PSI and in a phone call to
Ms. Renninger on January 18 big CEC indicated they would not be able to meet the timeline. Ms.
Renninger continued big CEC did submit something today, and despite their submission and after Mr.
Brennan’s comparison of all three proposals, PSI is the recommended consultant for the Special
Inspections and Construction Testing. Ms. Renninger added none of the contractors can start until the
contracts have been signed.

Mr. Czaplicki arrived at 7:10 PM.

Mr. Brennan arrived and passed out the summary of the three proposals and recommend PSI be
awarded the project. He added there is $175,000 being held in the soft costs for the construction testing.
He concluded the Allegheny County Conservation District permit and the building permit are in hand and
just waiting for the contracts to be signed.

Aaron Skrbin, High School Principal added the new parking procedures that were implemented on
January 19 for the students and staff at the High School went very well.

Minutes

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

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<tr>
<th>Committee Meeting</th>
<th>November 17, 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Meeting</td>
<td>November 24, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reorganization and Regular Meeting</td>
<td>December 1, 2015</td>
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</tbody>
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Financial Reports

The Financial Reports were provided to the Board for review and will be included on the
Agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting.
Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli

Dr. Rondinelli announced the following upcoming events:
January 28 – ES/IS PTA sponsored Family Fitness Night from 6:00 to 8:00 PM
February 6 – ES/IS PTA sponsored Father/Daughter or special family member dance
February 10 - AP Curriculum Night
February 15 - President’s day no school, but designated possible snow make-up and may not be needed
February 1 – Kindergarten Parent meeting
March 4, 5, and 6 – High School Musical Anything Goes
March 17, 18, and 19 – Middle School Musical Bye Bye Birdie
February 5 – Circle of Friends Marci Gras Dance
February 27 – SFFE Oldies Concert
She concluded the Little Green Machine and Football banquets were held on January 17. Also a reminder to support the shopping on Amazon through the District website and the monies collected will support technology. Mr. Czaplicki added that sales have totaled $25,000 and the District will receive $1,597.00.

Business Office

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide telephone voice interpretation for non-English speaking parents and families for the period effective February 10, 2016 through February 10, 2017. The cost is a one-time annual fee of $120 with payment of actual usage costs at a rate not to exceed $1.25 per minute.

The Board agreed to vote on the above motion at the end of the public comments.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Donna Harshman for Board approval to authorize the administration to advertise for bids for 1-84 passenger/transit style, 3-72 passenger, 1-24 to 30 passenger school buses/vans, conventional diesel for the 2016-2017 school year.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for the Board to authorize participation of the South Fayette Township School District in the Western Pennsylvania Electricity Consortium Extension for the purchase of electricity from Direct Energy only if the price is at or below our current price. The extended agreement will begin after the final meter read date in January 2018 under our current agreement for a period of 12 months and the price will include all costs except distribution, sales taxes, and other local utility charges as contained in the original agreement.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Tax Collector Anne Beck for Board approval of the provided list of Real Estate Refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to accept Grade 6 English teacher Bridget Amato’s request for her twin daughters to attend South Fayette Township School District as kindergarten tuition students for the 2016-2017 school year. The tuition rate of $4,695.88 will be paid for each child.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead for Board approval for Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray to attend the International Reading Association 2016 Conference in Boston, Massachusetts from Friday, July 8, 2016 through Monday, July 11, 2016. The cost which includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals will be paid from the Federal Programs Title I funds.

7. The Board considered approval for the team of Superintendent Dr. Bille Rondinelli, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead, and Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens to attend the Digital Promise – League of Innovative Schools Spring Cohort meeting in San Diego, California from Monday, April 18, 2016 through Wednesday, April 20, 2016. The cost will include registration, travel, lodging, and meals, with a portion of those costs to be reimbursed to the District.

**Personnel**

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Interim Principal Tom Kaminski, and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hold the Little Lions Academy for two weeks during the summer of 2016. Classes would be scheduled the week of Monday, June 27 through Thursday, June 30, 2016 and the week of Monday, July 11 through Thursday, July 14, 2016. Instructors will be paid $300.00 per week per class and students will be charged $50.00 tuition per class plus any applicable lab fees.

**Transportation**

There were no additional items discussed.

**Athletics**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Middle School Wrestling Coach Stefan Chaussard for Board approval to permit the Middle School Wrestling team to stay overnight (if necessary) at the Southwest Regional Tournament (Norwin, PA) on Friday, February 12, 2016. Students will be responsible for all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The district will not be responsible for the cost of the overnight accommodations.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Indoor Track Coach Scott Litwinovich for Board approval to permit the Winter Indoor Track team to participate at the Invitational at Youngstown State University on Saturday, February 13, 2016. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The district will supply the transportation to and from the meet. This meet will replace the prior approved Penn State University meet on January 23, 2016.
Construction

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to award the professional services contract for Special Inspections and Construction Testing to PSI as indicated in their proposal number 821-169936 dated January 18, 2016.

Miscellaneous

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval of the first reading of Board Policy 216 Student Records.

Expenditures

Expenditures were submitted for Board review and will be placed on the agenda for approval at the Regular Board Meeting.

Board Comments

There were no Board comments at this time.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no additional comments at this time.

Hannah seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide telephone voice interpretation for non-English speaking parents and families for the period effective February 10, 2016 through February 10, 2017. The cost is a one-time annual fee of $120 with payment of actual usage costs at a rate not to exceed $1.25 per minute.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Fornella to suspend the meeting at 7:30 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

President Newcomer announced votes will be taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Vice President Burroughs arrived at 7:32 PM.

Executive Session convened at 7:40 PM.

Vezzi seconded Petrillo to exit Executive Session at 8:29 PM and return to the committee meeting.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Vezzi seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Lori Gonda as a Substitute Personal Care/Classroom Paraeducator in the Elementary effective January 20, 2016 at the rate of $9.65 per hour.
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the unpaid personal necessity leave of absence request for Tami Totin, Bus Driver effective retroactive to January 8, 2016.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Food Service Director Tricia Wood for Board approval of Ben Obusek, a CCAC Dietetic Program student to complete his internship with Tricia Wood during the 2nd semester of the 2015-2016 school year. There will be no cost to the district.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for Tiffany Wiechelt, a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, to complete her student teaching with Dan Bal, High School English teacher during the second semester of the 2015-2016. There will be no cost to the district.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following substitute (call-as-needed) teachers and support personnel:

- Laken Corese, Grades PK-4
- Beth Yedlowski, Student Monitor at the prevailing rate of $10.97 per hour
- Michelle Soubie, Bus Aide at the rate of $8.65 per hour
- Christine Landon, Math 7-12

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Custodial Supervisor Steve Timmins for Board approval to hire the following as Substitute Custodians at the rate of $10.00 per hour, effective date pending receipt of required documentation.

- Dominic Mannella
- Gary Jancart

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Courtney Mowod as a full time Bus Driver at the prevailing rate of $24.15 per hour effective January 20, 2016. Mr. Harshman is requesting the probationary period be waived as Ms. Mowod has been a substitute since October 2013.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Vezzi seconded Petrillo to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary