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. President Newcomer announced the Public Comment section will be taken immediately following the High School Construction Update.

Present:  Paul Brinsky (arrived at 8:12 PM), Len Fornella, Lena Hannah, Alex Czaplicki, Alan Vezzi, Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti (arrived at 7:12 PM), Bill Newcomer

Absent:  Todd Petrillo

Others:  Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead; Student Representative Paige Franjione; Director of Finance Brian Tony; High School Principal Aaron Skrbin; Middle School Principal Dave Deramo; Middle School Assistant Principal Kristin Deichler; Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Facilities Director Gene Manzini; Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz; Athletic Director Mark Keener; Tara Kohowski, Katie Kenawell, Jeremy Beatty, Eckles Architecture; David Esposito, Eckles Architecture; Jim Spezialetti, Gwen Rodi, Joy Willner, Andrea Toth, Lindsey Bagwell, Abby Phillips, Karen O'Donnell Marshall, Lisa Malosh, Robyn Weis, Connie Hickey, Tom Hickey, Nicholas J. Rodi, Jane Damico, Joe Brennan, PJ Dick; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent’s Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Rondinelli recognized Student Representative Paige Franjione by presenting her with a small token of appreciation and thanks for her dedication and commitment attending the School Board meetings for the past year. Ms. Franjione thanked the Board and said it was an awesome experience and learned a lot about the process of how a school district is run. Vice President Burroughs thanked Paige and presented her with a small token of appreciation from the Board. Dr. Rondinelli continued by introducing Katie Kenawell as the new Student Representative for the 2016-2017, adding she will start her tenure at the June meetings.

Dr. Rondinelli proudly announced South Fayette as being named the #1 District in the region as ranked by the Pittsburgh Business Times for the second consecutive year. She added all grades in the Middle School and grades 3 and 4 in the Intermediate School were ranked #1. She congratulated and presented David Deramo, Middle School Principal; Kristin Deichler, Middle School Assistant Principal; Tom Kaminski, Intermediate School Principal; and Tyler Geist, Elementary/Intermediate School Assistant Principal (who was not in attendance) with an Academic Achievement Recognition award in recognition of academic achievement and service to the students of the Middle and Intermediate Schools. Mr. Deramo and Mr. Kaminski first thanked Laurie Gray, Elementary School Principal for her literacy work with the younger children; and their staff on their commitment to enhance the student learning at the Middle and Intermediate Schools. Dr. Rondinelli thanked Dr. Loughead for his dedicated years of service the last 5 years, as he is moving on to the Superintendent position at Hampton. She added he did a great job in following in the footsteps of Dr. Mary Ravita.
Mrs. Iriti arrived at 7:12 PM.

Joe Brennan, PJ Dick provided the Board with a detailed update on the High School Additions and Alterations Project. Areas reviewed included:
- Project is currently on schedule and budget
- Change orders to date totaling $61,539.50, two that need Board approved which will reduce that amount
- Invoices billed to date totaling $2,223,904.00
- Monthly payment amount due $1,032,766.65
- Summary of awarded contracts
- Cash flow cumulative projected and cumulative actual
- Contractor Change Order log, pending Board approval of two owner requested change orders which are credits: for Yarborough Development to delete the new mats in the wrestling room and reuse the existing mats to fit that space, a credit of $9,409.00; for ProGrass to delete the synthetic turf maintenance machine, a credit of $30,860.00. Mr. Manzini explained the District is doing such excellent job in cleaning the turf in addition to the yearly cleaning ProGrass provides, the machine is not necessary.
- General contractor – demolition continues on exterior of Areas A, F, and H; excavation and asphalt paving at the bus parking area; concrete heavy duty paving at the bus parking area completed; caisson caps in Area G started and will continue in May. Masonry continues in Areas A, F, and H; installation of Air Barrier continues in Area A; demolition of the wrestling room continues.
- Electrical contractor – wire mold for new data installations continues; transfer/relocation of electric panels at wrestling room completed; pathway to old duct bank for fiber relocation completed
- Plumbing contractor – through-wall sleeves installed in Areas A, F, and H; installation of under slab piping in Areas A, F, and H continues
- Technology/Communication contractor – majority of wire pulls in classrooms complete; final wire terminations will be complete after wire hold and electric boxes are installed in existing classrooms; removal and relocation of existing fiber through new conduit to data closet completed ahead of schedule

Pictures of the construction site were reviewed.
The Board again discussed the possible noise issue for the students; Paige Franjione added there have not been any further issues. Mr. Skrbin added the issue during PSSA testing was addressed.

Dave Esposito, Eckles Architecture, reviewed the options for striping in the north parking lot of the Middle School. The Board decided to stay with the straight in parking, but with wider aisles which will eliminate 30 parking spots. Mr. Esposito added the decision to swap out the tech ed equipment needs to be made, but there is still time. Mr. Esposito continued by reviewing the Furnishings Proposal, which will include inventorying existing furniture to reuse or repurpose and purchasing new furniture as needed. Jeremy Beatty, Eckles Architecture reviewed the interior finishes for the project. The interior ceiling tiles, some of the extra types have been eliminated; to be consistent through the building the new stairs in the new end wings will be red; toilet partitions will be black, the same as throughout the building; the selection of the vinyl wall coverings will involve staff and students.

**Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli**

Dr. Rondinelli made the following announcements:
- Congratulated the High School students and staff of the Mini-Thon which raised $65,310.68, Paige added she worked in the Marketing and Management class making sales calls, her team was the top fundraising team, she thanked everyone that attended. Paige concluded the goal was to raise $50,000. Mr. Skrbin also added the first year they raised $5,000 and after four years it is now it is best Mini-Thon events in the state of Pennsylvania
• Congratulated the High School and Middle School BusBudE team, who developed an app which was entered into an app developing contest and won a $10,000 grant from Infosys, the money will be used to create a maker space in the new High School
• May 16 - Middle School Schools To Watch dedication was held which formally recognized the students by the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Schools To Watch organization, Audrey Logan sang beautifully, thanked Mr. Deramo, Ms. Deichler, and the band and chorus; attending the event were County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Township Commission Gwen Rodi who also coordinated Representative Ortitay to present a petition along with a representative to Senator Murphy’s office, and other distinguished guests
• Congratulated the Middle School and High School music and arts departments for the outstanding spring chorus and band concerts
• Intermediate School performing arts program had great performances Parts I and II and the strings program
• Thanked the Elementary School PTA for supporting the Artist in Residence program
• Elementary PTA family bingo night
• PTA Volunteer luncheon on May 12
• Intermediate School Premiere Night, did an outstanding job
• Intermediate School Dodgeball Fundraiser, May 13
• Remake Learning Rally, PNC Park May 13, represented by Melissa Unger and Aileen Owens
• Congratulations to all athletes for post season play
• May 20 – Senior Waffle Breakfast, 8:00 AM, HS Commons, Board is welcome to attend
• May 20 – MS Grade 8 Awards & Recognition, 7:00 PM, MS Auditorium, Jonathan Hayes, former alumni will present the High School with a Golden Football from the NFL for his playing in one of the Super Bowls and in honor of the NFL’s 50th Year.
• Thank you card from Franklin Regional for providing a tour of the campus
• Live Well Allegheny, a program that involves sharing student BMI data with the county
• May 23 – Early Learning Academy Graduation, 6:30 PM, HS Theatre
• May 24 – Grade 8 Move-up Day
• May 25 – Girls Night Out, 2:30 PM
• May 26 – No school, Kennywood Picnic Day
• May 27 – No school, promenade 4:30 PM/prom 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM, Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe
• May 30 – No school, Memorial Day
• May 31 – Baccalaureate, 7:00 PM, HS Theatre
• June 1 – Senior Banquet, 7:00 PM, Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe
• June 3 – 88th Commencement, 7:00 PM, HS Theatre
• June 4 – Glow Run event
• June 7 – Early dismissal/last day for students
• June 7/8 – Operational Planning Meeting
• June 15 – Report cards mailed
• July 11 – SFEE Golf Outing, which is still in need of sponsors and golfers

Dr. Rondinelli thanked Mrs. Karen O’Donnell Marshall and Mrs. Hestad for their conversations regarding their and other community members’ ideas and concerns regarding the commencement ceremony. Dr. Rondinelli addressed the following areas of concern if commencement were held outside:
• Commencement is a privilege to attend, students cannot be denied receiving their diploma, but can be denied to participate in commencement; people chose to participate in or attend athletic programs
• Seniors who have asthma or history of asthma, allergies or environmental allergies, severe bee allergy/anaphylactic shock and sting allergies (which involves swelling), in addition to other
students who will be part of the ceremony, alternative placement students, show choir and student volunteers

- A child educated outside the District who has the right and wants to participate that is in a motorized wheelchair
- Attendees with the same allergy issues, walkers and wheelchairs; medications who cannot be in the sun
- Evacuation of the stadium in case of rain/lightening could be difficult, disrupting the entire ceremony
- More comfortable in the theatre
- Photos will be limited to be taken from their seats, the audience would not be permitted to go up and down the steps to take photos
- Resources, the portable sound system for the field is not conducive for speaking, it reverberates, the students would have to speak from the media room
- Increased security and ambulances on duty
- Tradition and pride of having the ceremony in the theatre, the last opportunity for any students to perform on stage, more formal

Dr. Rondinelli continued by encouraging parents to take advantage of the open door policy the District has and to not talk on social media to voice their concerns regarding any issues. She added the following ideas were discussed with the parents:

- Simulcast the ceremony in the Middle School auditorium, but this will not be any better than it being simulcast in the High School gymnasium and less seating at the Middle School
- Issues at the High School: small children running around the gym, a glare viewing the simulcast, and didn’t feel personal viewing it live

Dr. Rondinelli added the following new ideas were discussed:

- The procession would start by walking through the gymnasium first to classical music
- The procession would continue through the hall to the theatre
- Moving the ceremony to Robert Morris to an indoor facility, which is not available on June 3

Dr. Rondinelli concluded for future classes; give the District the opportunity to keep it in the theatre and gym, or to rent an off-sight facility if the theatre and gym can no longer accommodate the ceremony.

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

Joy Willner, North Ridge Drive, I have allergies and severe asthma and am having a hard time in here this evening with the crowd and the heat. If we are in the auditorium it will bother me; my father who is 86 has to sit in the gym on the hard bleachers and watch my son from a screen. I wanted my whole family to attend and can’t understand why it can’t be outside. A lot of schools have it outside. When I graduated from college it was outside. I can’t invite my whole family because we get 4 tickets. As the district gets bigger and bigger, we are going to have to move it to Robert Morris or somewhere where they can accommodate. I don’t have anything against the auditorium, it is very nice, but I just don’t think getting 4 tickets and watching from a screen, you might as well video tape it and show it later.

Andrea Toth, Golden Rod Court, I observed at the Middle School chorus concert, sitting in the second row and the heat, each grade performed about 20 minutes and the kids were sweating. I can only imagine packing 200 kids on the stage, under those lights for 2 hours, how hot and unbearable it would be. I’m looking for alternatives, parents brought this up at the beginning of the year and nobody did anything. Now we are down to the wire and we really need to find a solution to this. Thank you for your time.

Dr. Rondinelli asked Mr. Stewart if the air conditioning in the theatre can be adjusted any further. Mr. Stewart confirmed it can be reduced.
Robyn Weis, Forest Ridge Drive, I was going to suggest Robert Morris, we have friends who’s kids had their ceremony at Robert Morris because they don’t have room and I do think it is a good idea. We don’t have any other alternative. I was going to suggest the gym, but I didn’t know the capacity, but if both sides of the bleachers are brought down, it has to be more than the auditorium. I grew up in a small town, State College, PA and went to Penn State and we didn’t graduate in our gym or outside. We had to go to Penn State, so I graduated from high school and college in the same gymnasium at Penn State. It was in a gym and the students were on the floor. What about the students being in chairs on the gym floor with parents, would that hold more or not?

Dr. Rondinelli added the students being on the floor would take seating away for the guests. With the students on the stage in the theatre, that would leave all of the seating for the audience.

Mrs. Weis continued the procession is a good idea and a start towards change. I do want to address, my son has seasonal allergies, he is not graduating this year, but I want to be proactive. He takes two oral medications and two inhalers a day and he plays two outdoor sports and handles it fine. I know for a fact that one of the seniors graduating has asthma and plays soccer and he’s going to play soccer in college. That is an outdoor sport and he is fine. A lot of people who are allergic to bees carry Epi Pens. I’m a nurse for 20 years and I have substituted as a school nurse in the district for 4 or 5 years. There was a day when I saw over 60 kids in the office because of their seasonal allergies. They all had recess, if you can let kids go to recess? I know it will a little longer, maybe another hour outside. I know the kids that don’t play sports, a lot of them are in marching band.

Dr. Rondinelli asked everyone in the room who wants to take that responsibility if that one child gets stung and dies. She added she will not put anyone’s child at risk for that to happen. For those parents who have children who can handle allergies, that is their choice for them to play and a physician signs off on it. If we hold an event somewhere where it is not the student’s choice to participate, we are denying the student as a District. Dr. Rondinelli continued the District may be non-compliant with a Special Education IEP by doing something like that; she is responsible for that one child that something might happen to and you are asking the District and herself to take on that responsibility if a child gets stung and dies.

Mrs. Weis added the two alternatives are a start.

Dr. Rondinelli thanked Mrs. Weis and concluded the community has a misconception the District has not thought this through, when in fact the District has. If something happens the District has to take on that liability and responsibility.

Nicholas Rodi, Willowbrook Drive, I have a daughter who graduated and goes to W and J. It is a suggestion; they have a tent, simulcast and held outside, it’s beautiful. I know it’s short notice, but something in the future. I know when my daughter graduated from here, it gets a little jammed. They come down the middle, it’s nice, a big tent and the whole family can attend; something to consider.

Karen O’Donnell Marshall, Old Oakdale Road, I started the petition, which received 350 responses within 24 hours. I understand Dr. Rondinelli’s concerns, and I want to say the people who commented on the petition, who I emailed to everybody, they are just concerned. This is their child, possible the only graduation, no other children in the family, grandparents might not be alive when they graduate from college. And not all kids are going to college; some are going into the military and other avenues after graduation. Everyone is looking for the ceremony to be as nice as possible. We understand there are different concerns; we are just looking for every possibility to be considered; if there is more space at the Middle School gym or the Intermediate gym. Please consider all possibilities. This is not related, my son was in the sports and entertainment marketing class and he said there might be some agreement with Point Park University with Stage AE. That won’t work for this year, it is booked that day. I don’t know if the school district gets a discount, because of the association with the marketing class.
Dr. Rondinelli responded that class is a dual enrollment academic agreement with Point Park and also with Robert Morris and the University of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Marshall responded if there was some sort of agreement, it might help in the future, just because at some point it won’t be able to be held here.

President Newcomer added to consider putting something in the budget for next year.

On behalf of everyone who signed the petition, Mrs. Marshall thanked everyone for considering all the options.

The Board discussed the ‘right’ number of tickets per family to attend a live ceremony, to include the core members, including blended families; and holding it at a larger venue. They also discussed the needs of the families; holding it inside, parents are asked to monitor their small children; the capacity of the gym and the equipment required to hold it there.

Mr. Brinsky arrived at 8:12 PM.

The Board thanked the parents for their voice and the great ideas. They also discussed streaming the ceremony on the township TV channel, the additional seating in the theatre, and seating for future classes.

There were no additional comments.

Brinsky seconded Vezzi to suspend the meeting at 8:30 PM to enter into a short Executive Session to discuss personnel issues that could affect the 2016-2017 budget.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Hannah seconded Burroughs to exit Executive Session at 8:50 PM and return to the Committee Meeting.

Brian Tony reviewed the following for the 2016-2017 proposed budget:

- Timeline, with the Board approving a Proposed Final Budget at the May 24 meeting, with the final budget approved at the June 28 meeting
- Currently up to index of 3.2%
- Proposed final budget scenarios of no millage increase, increase by .5000 mill, or the increase of .8357 mills (to the index of 3.2%) and the impact on the fund balance
- Major increases and expenditures which includes the leases for the 1 to 1 initiative and new busses and PSERs
- Assessed value of homes in South Fayette
- Value of millage comparison year to year
- Student and revenue growth

Dr. Rondinelli reviewed the enrollment figures and the out placed students.

Mr. Tony continued to review the following:

- Expenditures – proposed new staffing

Vice President Burroughs stepped out of the meeting at 9:14 PM.

Vice President Burroughs returned to the meeting at 9:16 PM.
• Decisions to be made, which included smaller cost items, which the Board agreed they should not make the decision on, smaller items are for the departments or Business Office to determine

The Board discussed the following:
• Concrete replacement at the Elementary School
• Projected revenues – increased assessed value of homes
• Refinishing of the High School and Middle School gym floors
• Facilities rental fees
• Trainer Cell phone reimbursement request
• Amazon revenues
• One to One Rollout including: K-12 software, printed materials, online library books

Minutes

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

Regular Meeting  Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Financial Reports

The Board Summary reports for July 2015 through December 2015 were enclosed for Board review and will be included on the Agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting.

The Financial Reports were provided to the Board for review and will be included on the agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting.

Business Office

Due to the Act 1 timeline which requires the 2016-2017 Proposed Final Budget be approved 30 days prior to the approval of the 2016-2017 Final Budget, the Board is required to approve the 2016-2017 Proposed Final Budget at the May 24, 2016 meeting. The Board will retain the authority to increase or decrease the expenditure amounts and final tax millage amount prior to approval of the 2016-2017 Final Budget at the June 28, 2016 meeting.

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the School District Solicitor, the Superintendent, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt Resolution 16-03, 2016 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion, for the District to reduce property taxes, for qualified homestead/farmstead properties by $666,024.92. In accordance with the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) the District must reduce property taxes beginning July 1, 2016.

2. The Board considered the recommendation the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for the Board to authorize participation of the South Fayette Township School District in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Western Pennsylvania Natural Gas Consortium Committee for the purchase of natural gas from UGI Energy Services, LLC. The renewal agreement will commence on September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017 at the agreed upon rate of NYMEX-Minus ($0.43)/Dth. This rate should result in an estimated annual savings of approximately $8,400.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the renewal agreement with the County of Allegheny for placement of an Air Monitoring Station on the District’s property for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 at no cost to the District. Per the life of the agreement the District will be paid for rentals fees up to a maximum of $9,000.00.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Jordan Tax 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 authorize budget transfers resulting from local independent audit reclassifications made subsequent to June 30, 2016, or other closing date. If any transfers are necessary after the fiscal year end, appropriate detail will be supplied to the Board for ratification.

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to appoint the School Depository for the 2016-17 school year as follows:

- PNC Bank (Main Depository)
- Pennsylvania Treasurer’s INVEST Program (Investment Account)
- Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund (Check Writing Account)
- Citizens Bank (Construction Fund Account)
- PLGIT

7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz for Board approval to enter into an agreement with The Children’s Institute Day School to provide Extended School Year Services to three students for the summer of 2016.

8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a 3-year agreement with Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP to audit the financial statements of the South Fayette Township School District as follows:

- Year end June 2016, $17,500
- Year end June 2017, $18,000
- Year end June 2018, $18,600

**Personnel**

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Band Director Eryn Carranza for Board approval for the South Fayette Township School District to host auditions for the PMEA District 1 Honors Band on Monday, October 3, 2016. There will be no cost to the district.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens for Board approval to permit Ms. Owens, Melissa Unger, Stephanie DeLuca, and A.J. Mannarino to attend the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Conference in Denver, Colorado from Saturday, June 25 through Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at a cost not to exceed $10,000 (which includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals). The cost of the conference is part of the 2015-2016 budget.
**Transportation**

There were no additional items discussed.

**Athletics**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Cheerleading Coach Maggie Conoscuito for Board approval to purchase cheerleading uniforms from Varsity Spirit for the 2016-2017 school year. The total cost for both varsity and middle school uniforms (40) would be $8,106.00. This is the rotation year for the purchase of cheerleading uniforms.

**Construction**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the proposal for Movable Furniture Consulting Services from Eckles Architecture. The proposal fee is based on the anticipated hourly breakdown, is included in the construction (soft costs) budget and is not to exceed $39,000.

**Miscellaneous**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the provided list of gifts/donations.

**Expenditures**

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

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

There were no additional comments at this time.

Vezzi seconded Brinsky to suspend the meeting at 10:00 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters.

President Newcomer announced there may be votes taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Executive Session convened at 10:12 PM.

Burroughs seconded Brinsky to exit Executive Session at 11:34 PM and return to the committee meeting.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Burroughs seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Patrick Oney, 2nd Grade Elementary teacher for the vacant 7th Grade English Language Arts position due to a retirement, effective for the 2016-2017 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following substitute (call-as-needed) teachers and support personnel:
• Kelly Reed, English, pending receipt of required documents
• Marissa Luxemburger, Early Childhood Prek-4, pending receipt of required documents
• Charlotte Register, Student Monitor at the rate of $10.00 per hour, Paraeducator at the rate of $9.65/$10.65 per hour, Clerical at the rate of $9.65 per hour, pending receipt of required documents

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Vezzi to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary