Minutes

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
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 of the Administration Building by President Alan Vezzi with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jen Iriti, Bill Newcomer, Alex Czaplicki, Len Fornella, Paul Brinsky, Alan Vezzi

Absent: Teresa Burroughs, Todd Petrillo, Lena Hannah

Others: Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead; Student Representative Ryan McGowan; Director of Finance Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Brewer Aguilar; High School Principal Scott Milburn; High School Associate Principal Aaron Skrbin; Middle School Principal Dave Deramo; Interim Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Intermediate School Principal Greg Wensell; Facilities Director Gene Manzini; Teachers Pat Roseto, Dana Diulus, and Jodi August; Lisa Wensell, Kathy Macurak, Yvonne Cook, President of the Highmark Foundation; Cassandra Renninger, Eckles Architecture; David Esposito, Eckles Architecture; John Taormina, PJ Dick; Alex Felser, David Singer, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent’s Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Rondinelli recognized Student Representative Ryan McGowan by presenting him with a small token of appreciation and thanks for his dedication and commitment attending the School Board meetings for the past two years. Mr. McGowan thanked the Board for being treated as an equal and having the opportunity to represent the student body. Mr. Fornella thanked Ryan for not being hesitant in providing the perspective of a student when the Board debated on issues concerning the building and course work. Dr. Rondinelli added Paige Franjione, the new Student Representative for the 2015-2016 school year will be recognized at the May 26 meeting.

Dr. Rondinelli introduced Yvonne Cook, President of the Highmark Foundation who presented Kathy Macurak with the 2015 Excellence in School Nursing Award. Ms. Cook explained the process to recognize and honor school nurses who care for children 5 days a week, 7 to 8 hours a day. Mrs. Macurak will receive a $1,500 check which can be used for professional development or donated back to the district. Mrs. Macurak also received a metal sculpture of a nurse with a child. Mrs. Macurak thanked all who nominated her and is donating the money back to the district. Dr. Rondinelli, Aaron Skrbin High School Associate Principal and Ryan McGowan, Student Representative thanked Mrs. Macurak for her dedicated care and concern for the health and well being of not only the students but also the staff.

Dr. Rondinelli proudly announced South Fayette as being named the #1 District in the region as ranked by the Pittsburgh Business Times. She congratulated and presented Gregory Wensell, Intermediate School Principal; David Deramo, Middle School Principal, and Thomas Kaminski, Interim Intermediate School Principal with an Academic Achievement Recognition Award in recognition of academic achievement and service to the students of the Middle and Intermediate Schools. She complimented Mr.
Deramo, Mr. Kaminski and their staff on their commitment to enhance the learning of the students at the Middle School.

At 7:33 PM President Vezzi announced a short break to have cake and coffee.

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 PM.

Cassandra Renninger, Eckles Architecture informed the Board of the following changes to the comprehensive floor plans:

- Fire walls and doors based on code analysis
- Relocate existing stairways
- More uniform classrooms
- Innovation/creativity hub – prototyping room focus on 3D with printer and scanner, with a second room for 2D work with large format printer, vinyl cutter/printer and paper storage
- Media Room – have step 1 and step 2 instruction/learning areas
- Studio – reconfigurable to serve a variety of needs

The Board discussed if there will be enough classroom space.

The Board discussed scheduling the ACT 34 Hearing on either July 16 or July 20, and the closing audit date being scheduled in July in which at least one Board member is required to be in attendance.

Ms. Renninger continued the existing masonry sills in the High School are discolored due to damage and/or deterioration and need repaired. This is a budgeted item in the project scope. Ms. Renninger added section of the brick sill will need to be removed to investigate what the problem is. She concluded there is a Board action that needs to be taken tonight regarding the geotechnical work; sanitary scoping work for next week’s meeting; and in June approve the max costs used in the ACT 34 booklet for the ACT 34 hearing. The Board discussed the tentative date for the ACT 34 hearing will be on July 20 in the High School Theatre at 7:00 PM.

Brian Tony, Director of Finance presented the Board with updated information regarding the bus purchases in the 2015-2016 Proposed Final budget. He added the buses will replace some that will be going to auction, some will be part of the normal rotation and some will be used as spares, which will increase the spare fleet by 2. Mr. Tony concluded some field trips have been denied due to no busses available. He continued on with the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget update reminding the Board a proposed final budget needs approved this evening. Maria Aguilar reviewed a pie chart of the proposed expenditures. Mr. Tony reviewed the millage options of; no millage increase, a flat .5 mill increase, .6063 mill increase to the index, or .9042 mill increase to the index plus the exception. He added reductions have been made since the April meeting which included:

- purchasing a less expensive snow blower
- eliminate the High School parking lot from having the asphalt sealed

The Board asked if the diving board was purchased, Mr. Tony confirmed it was purchased and funds from the 2014-2015 budget were used. The Board discussed the 2014-2015 contingency money. Mr. Tony recommended the Board approve the .9042 mill increase to the index plus the exception, and reminded the Board that they will continue to make reductions to the budget.

**Minutes**

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

- Committee Meeting of the Board Tuesday, April 21, 2015
- Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2015
**Financial Reports**

The Board Summary report for March 2015 were enclosed for Board review and will be included on the agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting.

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

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

Dr. Rondinelli made the following announcements:
- SFEA recognized the Elementary School PTA with an award for their support of the District
- Congratulated the Middle and High Schools on the Spring Band and Choral concerts, and the Intermediate School for the Arts Extravaganza
- Thanked the board members who attended the Early Childhood Development graduation
- Artist in Residence in the Elementary and Intermediate Schools have ended
- Elementary School Discovery garden is complete, which will be an outdoor learning lab
- Thanked the teachers and students who participated Institute of Politics at Pitt
- Board invited to the STEM/BotsIQ Appreciation Luncheon on June 1
- Edna and Bob McClure thanked the Board members who attended the funeral and the District’s acknowledgement of the passing of former Board member Ed McClure
- SFFE Golf Outing still needs golfers and sponsors

**Business Office**

Brinsky seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to adopt the Proposed Final Budget for the 2015-16 school year. The proposed final budget revenue of $48,315,111.00 and expenses of $49,182,413.00 balances with a millage rate of 26.1168, and borrowing from the Fund Balance in the amount of $867,302.00. This will leave a total estimated fund balance of $13,094,020.00. We will continue to look at the budget numbers throughout the next month, making recommendations to further reduce the 2015-16 budgetary expenses. (We are required by law to adopt the 2015-2016 final budget by June 30, 2015.)

**SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE ITEM**

There were no comments at this time.

Mrs. Hannah was contacted via phone for the vote.

Roll Call – Brinsky, Fornella, Czaplicki, Iriti, Hannah, Vezzi – All Yes
Newcomer – No

Mrs. Hannah disconnected from the 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 15-05, 2015 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion, for the District to reduce property taxes, for qualified homestead/farmstead properties by $665,586.39. 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, 2015.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Associate Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to re-enter into a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Evacuation Cooperation between the South Fayette Township School District and the following school district:

- Carlynton

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

4. 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, 2015, or other closing date. If any transfers are necessary after the fiscal year end, appropriate detail will be supplied to the Board for ratification.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to appoint the School Depository for the 2015-16 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

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead, Network Systems Administrator Gene Manzini, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the District to enter into a 3-year Microsoft School Agreement with Microsoft Corporation to provide licensing for Microsoft Office Professional Plus to be installed on every school owned device. The annual cost will be $6,475.00, effective June 1, 2015 and is included in the 2014-2015 budget.

7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead, Network Facilities Administrator Gene Manzini, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a 3-year agreement with Communications Consulting, Inc. (CCI) to provide firewall services, email filter, internet filter and antivirus to accommodate the one to one initiative. The annual cost will be $17,953.00, effective July 1, 2015 and is included in the 2015-2016 budget.

**Personnel**

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Scott Milburn for Board approval to permit Mrs. Mary Quirk and Mr. John Good, Peters Township High School teacher to accompany five (5) students to Chicago, Illinois, from Saturday, June 27, 2015 through Friday, July 3, 2015 for the 2015 Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel,
lodging, meals, and the conference registration fees. The District has a shared chaperone agreement with Peters Township for Mr. Good to chaperone the trip.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Scott Milburn for Board approval to start a World Language Travel Club in the High School for a trial period beginning May 2015.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Nanci Sullivan for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Services to provide training and consultation services as part of the Co-Teaching Academy being held at South Fayette School District from July 28 through July 30, 2015. The funding for this is part of the proposed 2015-2016 Pupil Personnel budget.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead and High School Principal Scott Milburn for Board approval of the list of textbooks below for the corresponding curriculum at the high school. They will be on display for 30 days in the Administration Building.

   **French:**
   - Title: La France contemporaine, 5th Edition
     Publisher: Cengage Learning
     Copyright: 2016

**Transportation**

There were no items discussed.

**Athletics**

There were no items discussed.

**Construction**

1. The Board considered approval to authorize Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) to conduct Geotechnical Services associated with the High School Additions & Alterations project as indicated in their proposal dated May 5, 2015 to include the requested basic services in the amount of $28,613 plus their proposed additional service to prepare a PASER drawing in the amount of $1,000.

2. Consider Board approval to authorize ______________________ to conduct Sanitary Services associated with the High School Additions & Alterations project as indicated in their proposal dated ______________________ to include the requested basic services in the amount of $ ______________.

**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 comments at this time.

Burroughs seconded Petrillo to suspend the meeting at 8:22 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Newcomer to exit Executive Session at 9:28 PM and return to the committee meeting.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Newcomer to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary