Minutes – Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, August 18, 2015
7:00 PM
South Fayette High School Conference Center

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:03 PM in the South Fayette High School Conference Center by President Alan Vezzi with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti, Todd Petrillo, Len Fornella, Alex Czaplicki, Lena Hannah, Paul Brinsky, Alan Vezzi

Absent: Bill Newcomer

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; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Brewer Aguilar; Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz; High School Principal Aaron Skrbin; Middle School Principal Dave Deramo, Interim Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Elementary Principal Laurie Gray; Middle School Assistant Principal Kristin Deichler; Intermediate/Elementary Assistant Principal Tyler Geist; Facilities Director Gene Manzini; Athletic Director Mark Keener; Teacher Mary Quirk; Ron Posteraro, Chris Purdy, Cassandra Renninger, Eckles Architecture; David Esposito, Eckles Architecture; Aaron Lavage, CEC; Joe Brennan, PJ Dick; Joseph Kenawell, Adam Kenawell, Katie Drozynski, Lindsay Bagwell, Lisa Carney, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent’s Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Rondinelli announced the newly hired staff were recognized prior to the Board meeting. She thanked the Administrators for a great opening day for staff which included a session on Dignity and Respect presented by Candi Castleberry from UPMC.

Cassandra Renninger, Eckles Architecture updated the Board on the High School Additions and Alterations Project. Areas included:

- Reviewed pictures of building tour of Industrial Scientific on July 22
- Reviewed Draft PlanCon Parts D & E documents, the next step in the approval process
- Joe Brennan, PJ Dick reviewed Construction Logistics/phasing update and the effects of the project on the campus which included: bus staging, the construction area, and emergency traffic
- Explained the Owner Controlled Insurance Program (OCIP)
- Aaron Lavage, Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC), reviewed the Paving Evaluation Overview and potential paving alternates, with their recommendation to rebuild approximately 50% of the driveways and parking lots on campus and resurfacing the remaining 50%
- Aaron Lavage, CEC reviewed the Geotechnical Study Overview
- Reviewed Land Survey Updates – awaiting final survey
- Traffic Study – study updates will be required to be submitted for Final Land Development approval in October
- Reviewed upcoming Board approvals which included; Trans Associates to conduct/update the Traffic Study, Authorize CEC to conduct sanitary sewer as-built survey, Board Resolution PlanCon Parts D & E
- Reviewed upcoming municipal meetings
Minutes

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

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<tr>
<th>Committee Meeting</th>
<th>July 21, 2015</th>
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<td>Regular Meeting</td>
<td>July 28, 2015</td>
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Financial Reports

The Board Summary reports for April 2015 and May 2015 were provided to the Board for review and will be included on the Agenda for approval at the Regular Meeting.

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

Dr. Rondinelli reviewed the current and projected enrollment figures. As of August 18 enrollment is 2,991 and with the enrollment packets still out, the projected enrollment will be 3,017 by the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Rondinelli announced the following upcoming events:

- August 20 – Meet the teacher, K-2 at 1:00 PM and Grades 3-5 at 2:30 PM
- August 20 – Laptop Launch Parent meetings
- August 24 – First day of school
- September 7 – Labor Day, no school
- September 8/9 – First day of Early Learning Academy
- September 18 – Senior/Senior Night
- September 26 – Festival of Bands, 7:00 PM, Stadium

Dr. Rondinelli shared a note from Ashley Williams, a teacher at a private school in West Hollywood, California; who visited the District and was very impressed with the facilities and in particular our educational programs.

President Vezzi announced there are items under the Business Office and a few other items on the agenda that will be voted on following the public comment section at the end of the meeting.

Business Office

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the tuition rates for the Pittsburgh Pioneer School for the 2015-2016 school year. The program provides services for students with exceptionalities.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the tuition rates for the ACLD Tillotson School for the 2015-2016 school year. The school provides services for special needs students.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with The Watson Institute to provide services for students for the 2015-2016 school year.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Services to provide services for students for the 2015-2016 school year.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Interim Healthcare Services to provide Skilled Nursing services from August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide Itinerant Speech and Language Support Services to a student attending Wesley Spectrum K-9 Program for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a Contract of Service with the Pennsylvania Educators’ Clearinghouse, PA-Educator.net. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and at a cost of $1,950.00. This is the same cost as the 2014-2015 school year.

9. The Board considered approval for Superintendent Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli to attend the AASA Conference at a cost to include registration, lodging, travel, and meals. The conference is in Phoenix, Arizona in February 2016. Dr. Rondinelli’s attendance at the conference is part of her approved contract with the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors.

**Personnel**

President Vezzi announced a few personnel items from Executive Session will be voted on after the meeting.

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead for Board approval to adopt and purchase the following textbooks and resources as listed. The textbooks were on display for one month in the Administration offices as required.
   
   - Title: Working With Young Children
   - Publisher: Goodheart-Willcox
   - Copyright Date: 2016

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to conduct a trial Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club in the High School for the 2015-2016 school year.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead, and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to run 3-hour delay days in the High School for the administration of the Keystone Exams during the January and May 2016 testing windows. Only the students being tested will report to school at the regular start time and the remainder of the high school students would report on a 3-hour delay schedule starting at 10:20 AM. This was previously approved for the December 2015 testing window. We will only be testing in January and May 2016.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead, and Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens for Board approval to enter into a one year License Agreement with Inventionland Institute to offer instruction in innovation and design at a cost of $7,000 for a one year license. The cost of the license will be funded through the AIU STEAM Grant awarded to the Middle School.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval for Mr. Felix Yerace and approved chaperones to accompany students to Washington, DC for the annual 11th grade trip from Friday, May 20, 2016 through Sunday, May 22, 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. There would be no cost to the District.

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval to permit Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens and STEAM teacher Melissa Unger to present at and attend the World Maker Faire 2015 in New York City from Thursday, September 24 through Saturday, September 26, 2015 at a cost not to exceed $3,500 (which includes travel, lodging, and meals). Ms. Owens and Ms. Unger submitted a proposal and were selected as presenters.

7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Interim Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the 4th and 5th Grade Strings EPR retroactive for the 2014-2015 school year.

8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Property Services/Facilities Director Gene Manzini for Board approval to accept the bid for the sealing of roadways and parking lots on campus from Hilltop Paving for areas A, B and D for a total amount of $41,394.24.

9. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Property Services/Facilities Director Gene Manzini for Board approval to accept the bid for the tar and chip of the transportation parking lots from A. R. Oliastro, Inc. for a total amount of $24,990.00.

**Transportation**

There were no items discussed.

Dr. Rondinelli announced all parent letters regarding bus stops were sent.

**Athletics**

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.
**Construction**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for the Board to authorize Civil & Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC) to conduct an 'as-built' survey (and video-scoping) of the Sanitary Sewer line that was installed as part of the Intermediate School as indicated in their proposal dated August 5, 2015 in the amount of $4,000 ($12,500 total for both the survey and video-scoping). This amount will be deducted from the retainage amount being held for Macson Corporation.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for Trans Associates (TA) to conduct a traffic study associated with the High School expansion project, scope as determined by the South Fayette Township requirements. The Board asked for the cost of the study to be provided at the August 25 meeting.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Eckles Architecture for Board approval of the PlanCon Part D & E documentation for submission to the PA Department of Education for the High School Additions and Alterations Project.

**Miscellaneous**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first and final reading of PSBA Policy 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response.

   Dr. Rondinelli added the policy has been reviewed by Solicitor Mr. Wolfe who made a few modifications.

**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**

Ron Posteraro, Terrace View Drive, I am a resident of South Fayette Township and have a son in the Middle School. On Wednesday, August 12 at the request of the Superintendent, I had the pleasure to meet with her, the Assistant Superintendent, the Athletic Director, the Varsity Soccer Coach, Finance Director and the Middle School Principal. We met in the Pride Room to discuss my concern related to the disconnect between the District emails, website, print rhetoric, and actions. We discussed the academic, athletic, and artistic programs to clarify and qualify student participation in art, band, chorus, orchestra and music. All programs accept any and all students who sign-up and only select sports programs turn students away. My goal is to petition the Board to approve the utilization of the South Fayette Administrative Team or any other appropriate resource to develop a plan to ensure 100% participation of any and all students who sign-up for district sponsored co-curricular activities. This group would provide a clear goal and quantify the tasks required to meet the goal. I understand dramatic change in the District’s current policy cannot be defined and implemented overnight. This policy change can take years. The Superintendent has agreed to champion this topic. I request that I be invited to a meeting or be able to review documents to support the Superintendent with this proposal and provide any clarity required to launch this effort. Thank you.

Chris Purdy, Battle Ridge Road, on July 27, 2015, I submitted this letter to the attention of the School Board, Mr. Tony, Dr. Rondinelli, Mrs. Anne Beck, and Chris Bell from Jordan Tax Services with some enclosures. This is in regards to 2008 interim bill for school property taxes. It was first brought to our attention in May 2014. We got a letter from the tax services reflecting fees and penalties. Did some leg
work, worked with Jordan, worked with Anne had to go back to Wells Fargo, had to go back to Fifth Third Bank and finally got some piece of the puzzle put together when we actually got the tax bill that Mr. Biber sent out in February 2011. Did more leg work and discovered that the refinance I did in 2010, I left Wells Fargo and went to Fifth Third Bank; and Mr. Biber was aware of that, since I had received 2010 and 2011 bills. There was a mistake made on this interim bill we sent to my old bank which by then after 13 months purged all records, they never forwarded it to me, did not forward to Fifth Third Bank or let Mr. Biber know that it didn’t get paid. So the first I’ve ever seen this was about a year ago. My request is that we really didn’t do anything wrong. We are aware of section 7 of the local tax board; that we would like to try and get relief of any of these fees and penalties that have occurred since the time Mr. Biber sent the bill erroneously to the wrong bank and we were finally notified by Jordan. With the help of Mrs. Beck, we got Jordan Tax Services to wait until August 31 or to hear from the Board to see what the next steps are. Fifth Third has no problem paying a revised bill. I’m just hoping we can get rid of the extra penalties and fees and pay the original amount that should have been paid. I don’t know why it took three years for him to get the information and send it out. I still feel that as I stated earlier that it is not any fault of ours. He already knew the correct place to mail our bills, just got sent to the wrong bank. Thank you for your attention to this.

There were no additional comments.

Petrillo seconded Burroughs to suspend the meeting at 8:01 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

President Vezzi announced votes will be taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Executive Session convened at 8:09 PM.

Petrillo seconded Fornella to exit Executive Session at 9:29 PM and return to the committee meeting.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Fornella seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the tuition rates for the Pittsburgh Pioneer School for the 2015-2016 school year. The program provides services for students with exceptionalities.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the tuition rates for the ACLD Tillotson School for the 2015-2016 school year. The school provides services for special needs students.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with The Watson Institute to provide services for students for the 2015-2016 school year.

And on the recommendation of Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Wesley Spectrum Services to provide services for students for the 2015-2016 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Interim Healthcare Services to provide Skilled Nursing services from August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Skerbetz, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into an agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide Itinerant Speech and Language Support Services to a student attending Wesley Spectrum K-9 Program for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead for Board approval to adopt and purchase the following textbooks and resources as listed. The textbooks were on display for one month in the Administration offices as required.

  - Title: Working With Young Children
  - Publisher: Goodheart-Willcox
  - Copyright Date: 2016

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Hannah seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent for the Board to authorize Civil & Engineering Consultants, Inc. (CEC) to conduct an ‘as-built’ survey (and video-scoping) of the Sanitary Sewer line that was installed as part of the Intermediate School as indicated in their proposal dated August 5, 2015 in the amount of $4,000 ($12,500 total for both the survey and video-scoping). This amount will be deducted from the retainage amount being held for Macson Corporation.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for Robert Ruffolo, 2nd Grade teacher to fill the 6th Grade Math teacher vacancy at the Middle School for the 2015-2016 school year. This vacancy is due to the hire of Kristin Deichler as the Assistant Middle School Principal.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Caroline Campanella as a 2nd Grade teacher in the Elementary School at the Bachelor’s Step 1 rate of $46,550 for the 2015-2016 school year. This is pending approval of Robert Ruffolo as the 6th Grade Math teacher.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Danelle Matz as an English teacher in the High School at the Master’s Step 2 rate of $50,150 for the 2015-2016 school year. This position availability is due to a resignation.
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the provided list of substitutes for the 2015-2016 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Football Coach Joe Rossi for Board approval of Josh Patterson as a Volunteer Assistant 7th/8th Grade Assistant Football Coach for the Fall 2015-2016 season.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Interim Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of Jeanne Tupper for the 4th and 5th Grade Strings ERP retroactive for the 2014-2015 school year at the EPR rate of $34.07 per hour.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire a Food Service Truck Driver at a temporary rate up to $12.00/hour. This will be until the position is filled on a full time basis.

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

Voice Vote – All Yes

Petrillo seconded Brinsky to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary