Minutes

Regular Meeting

South Fayette Township School District

Tuesday, August 25, 2015
7:00 PM

The Regular 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 Vezzi with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Len Fornella, Lena Hannah, Bill Newcomer, Jen Iriti, Teresa Burroughs (arrived at 7:02 PM), Alan Vezzi

Absent: Paul Brinsky, Alex Czaplicki, 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; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Brewer Aguilar; Teacher Melissa Unger; Ron Postera, Garrett Hemann, Kate Drozynski, Lindsay Bagwell, Deb Whitewood, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent’s Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Rondinelli briefly reviewed the BoardDocs information adding that some Board members inquired about going to paperless meetings. Dr. Rondinelli added the information will be further reviewed at the September meeting.

Mrs. Burroughs arrived at 7:02 PM.

Melissa Unger, Elementary STEAM teacher presented information regarding Project Playground (PPG), an assessment tool APP she developed to be piloted in the Elementary School. The app will send questions to students at the end of each lesson asking what they did in class; not what they learned but what ideas they shared and how they interacted with other students. She continued teachers will assess that date and be able to adjust their lessons and group assignments to make sure each student is in an optimum learning environment. The Board asked for the following portions of the agreement to be clarified prior to approval:

- Number 3B, PPG’s right to cancel, identify the goals of the project
- Number 4, Renewal – conflicts with 3B
- Number 5 – name competitors
- Number 3 – identify specific beginning and end dates of the project

Brian Tony, Director of Finance presented information regarding the Charter Homes proposed development on the Mayview Property which would include a total of 620 residential units broken down as follows:

- 169 single family units
- 70 apartment units – efficiency/studio
- 73 apartment units – one bedroom
- 80 apartment units – two bedroom
- 70 apartment units – three bedroom
- 112 townhouse units
- 46 mixed use residential units
Mr. Tony projected an increase of 1.04 students per new home, excluding efficiency and one-bedroom units; over 5 years which would total approximately 496 new students to the District. Mr. Tony calculated the number of new students would leave the District with a yearly shortfall of approximately $4,619,385, in addition to additional transportation needs totaling approximately $733,824. Mr. Tony added he made attempts to contact Anthony Faranda-Deidrich of Charter Homes on four separate occasions to clarify information on the number of each type of unit, with no response. The Board discussed its concerns for the arts, sports and extracurricular programs that may have to be cut if the proposed housing plan is approved by the South Fayette Township Board of Commissioners. They also discussed the possibility of increased class sizes. The Board asked Dr. Rondinelli and Mr. Tony to send this information along with a narrative and financial information to Ryan Eggleston, South Fayette Township Manager and the Board of Commissioners and to request a meeting to discuss the negative impact on the District. The Board also discussed Dr. Shelby Stewman’s enrollment projections used for the High School Additions and Alterations project did not include the Mayview Property which is currently zoned as business/industrial. Dr. Rondinelli informed the Board that as of August 25 enrollment is at 2,992 with a total of 26 enrollment packets not yet returned.

Minutes

Burroughs seconded Newcomer on approval of Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Meeting</th>
<th>July 21, 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Meeting</td>
<td>July 28, 2015</td>
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Voice Vote – All Yes

Financial Reports

Fornella seconded Newcomer on the following Financial Reports:

1. Board Reports – April and May 2015  Maria Brewer Aguilar
2. Athletic Fund  Mark Keener
3. High School Activity Fund  Harriet Dausch
4. Middle School Activity Fund  Harriet Dausch
5. Tax Collector Revised Reports  Anne Beck
   July 2014 – December 2014

Voice Vote – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

Lindsay Bagwell, Wheatland Circle, my concern is regarding the vote for the trial run of Gay Straight Alliance club and I would ask that you vote against that. I believe this matter is of sexuality activism and doesn’t belong in our schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Deb Whitewood, Greenwood Drive, my kids have been going here forever, I have one that just graduated, one is a senior and a 4 year old coming up. We need a Gay Straight Alliance in this school district. We have children that have been meeting outside the protection of the school environment because they haven’t been supported starting an alliance here. I’ve seen friendships grow and blossom with these kids; I’ve seen strength come out of them. I’ve seen difficult situations be mitigated with these youth. They have been trying for 3 years to start it and it’s time. So I am going to ask you to vote for the Gay Straight club to be brought completely under the umbrella of the school district. Thank you.
Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli

Dr. Rondinelli announced the following upcoming events:
- September 18 – Senior/Senior Night in the High School Commons
- September 26 – Festival of Bands

Dr. Rondinelli updated the Board on the Laptop Launch currently at the Intermediate and Middle Schools and thanked Dr. Loughead, the Technology Department, teachers and parents for a smooth launch. The Board briefly discussed the bandwidth capacity and capability and the AIU as a provider.

Business Office

Iriti seconded Newcomer on 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.

And on 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.

And for 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.

   Voice Vote – All Yes

Hannah seconded Fornella on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Elementary Principal Laurie Gray, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a pilot with Project Playground, LLC effective September 2015 through April 2016 at no cost to the District. Per the Board, this approval is contingent upon the finalization of language revisions to the agreement requested by the Board.

   Voice Vote – All Yes

Personnel

Newcomer seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the resignation of Kenneth Morgan, Paraeducator in the High School effective retroactive to July 30, 2015.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the resignation of Barbara Arndt, Foodservice employee in the High School effective retroactive to July 1, 2015.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to grant a leave of absence request to Megan Hackworth, High School Social Studies teacher effective October 19, 2015.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of a homebound tutor for the 2015-2016 school year. The tutor will be a current employee or a substitute teacher previously approved by the Board.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Donna Harshman for Board approval of the provided list of substitute bus drivers and substitute bus aides for the 2015-2016 school year.
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Donna Harshman for the Board to approve the full-time bus drivers as substitute bus aides for the 2015-2016 school year.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for Rebecca Haber, a student at Duquesne University, to complete her practicum experience with Gretchen Tucci, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel during 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 of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers and support staff for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Daniella Plumb, PK-4
- Dana Populo, Elementary K-6
- Hayley Hall, PK-4
- Sheryl Chachula, Clerical at the rate of $8.65 per hour
- Auro Persichetti, Student Monitor at the rate of $10.97 per hour
- Hayley Bate, PK-4
- Elizabeth Grodin, Elementary K-6, Special Education N-12, pending receipt of required documentation, retroactive to August 24, 2015
- Amanda Ocando, Special Education PK-8, Grades PK-4
- Jamie Chappel, Bus-Aide, at the rate of $10.97 per hour
- Kristi Markanich, Grades 4-6 All Subjects, English Language Arts and Reading 7-8
- Lisa Henderson, Food Service at the rate of $8.50 per hour, pending receipt of required documentation

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Fitness Center Director Vic Iagnemma for Board approval of the resignation of Steve Salas as a Fitness Center Assistant effective retroactive to July 1, 2015.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Fitness Center Director Vic Iagnemma for Board approval to hire Jeannie Scott and John Bursich as Fitness Center Assistants at the rate of $7.25 per hour effective August 26, 2015.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Burroughs seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Football Coach Joe Rossi for Board approval of a status change for Ken Morgan from a paid Varsity Assistant Football Coach to a Volunteer Varsity Assistant and Volunteer 7th/8th Grade Assistant Football Coach for the Fall 2015-2016 season.

Mr. Newcomer commented for the record I was not here last week to voice my opinion on this. I have a problem with a head coach being an assistant on another sport. That didn’t work well last year as far as I’m concerned. Being an assistant on multiple sports is one thing, but a head coach should be more dedicated to the sport that we are paying him to be a head coach on. I did voice my opinion prior to this, but I didn’t get a chance last week.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Fornella seconded Newcomer on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Varsity Soccer Coach Wayne Capra for Board approval of Chelsea Behling as a Volunteer Girls Varsity Assistant Soccer Coach and Volunteer Girls 7th/8th Grade Soccer Coach for the Fall 2015-2016 season, pending receipt of required documentation.

Voice Vote – All Yes
New personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

Hannah seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to conduct a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club in the High School for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Newcomer commented for the record as I wasn’t here last week to be part of the discussion, as a Board member and not necessarily as a personal opinion, I believe it is up to the persons’ family and church to mold the moral values as a child and not the state. The same thing I don’t think it’s the state’s responsibility to put a person’s religious belief onto someone.

Roll Call - Fornella, Hannah, Iriti, Burroughs, Vezzi –
All Yes
Newcomer – No

Hannah seconded Newcomer on 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.

And on 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.

Dr. Rondinelli added there will be updates to the travel forms for all travel, to include if chaperones are a parent or guardian of the child they are required to have the appropriate clearances are required or it should also be a current district employee.

And on 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.

And on 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.

Mr. Tony clarified the pay for this EPR was approved at the August 18, 2015 meeting.

And on 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

And on 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.

Voice Vote – All Yes
Transportation

There were no items to discuss.

Athletics

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

Construction

Newcomer seconded Burroughs on 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, at a total cost not to exceed $8,195.00, ($4,995.00 for the proposal dated April 8, 2014 and $3,200 for the supplemental proposal dated August 21, 2015.)

And on 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.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Miscellaneous

Iriti seconded Hannah on 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 was reviewed by our Solicitor, Mr. Wolfe.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to accept the provided list of gifts/donations.

Dr. Rondinelli announced the donation is from Kathy Macurak, who received $1,500 for the Highmark Excellence in School Nursing Award which she is donating back to school district.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Wolfe reported busy with items relating to municipal approvals and various contract items relating to the High School Expansion Construction Project.

Expenditures

Iriti seconded Newcomer to authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of $787,672.87 beginning with check number 53215 through check number 53378 and the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of $6,718.57 beginning with check number 6710 through check number 6723.

Voice Vote – All Yes

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report
President Alan Vezzi

President Vezzi had nothing to report.

South Fayette Foundation
Len Fornella
Mr. Fornella announced the 2015 Golf Outing raised almost $11,000, the next SFFE Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, and the tentative date for the 2016 outing is Monday, July 11.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report  Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah has an item for Executive Session.

Parkway West  Alan Vezzi

President Vezzi announced the first meeting was held in early August and the food service renovation is continuing with the finished touches being done.

SHASDA  Alex Czaplicki

Dr. Rondinelli announced the first meeting is September 24 at Upper St. Clair School District and the Board is invited to attend.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Fornella seconded Newcomer to suspend the meeting at 8:26 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters.

President Vezzi announced there will be votes taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Executive Session convened at 8:33 PM.

Newcomer seconded Fornella to exit Executive Session at 8:53 PM and return to the regular meeting.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Newcomer seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for Allison McCobin, a student at Duquesne University, to complete her practicum experience with Conchetta Bell, School Psychologist during 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 to hire Myriam Fowler as a General Food Service worker effective August 26, 2015 at the rate of $8.56 per hour. After completion of a successful 30 day probationary period the rate will be $10.71 per hour and Ms. Fowler will resign her Student Monitor position at the Intermediate School.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire Kelly Cochran-DiGiacomo as a Classroom Paraeducator in the High School effective pending receipt of required documentation at a probationary rate of $12.71 per hour. After completion of a successful 60 day probationary period the rate will be $15.88 per hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of Jodi Holley and Susan Vasalani as substitute student monitors in the High School for the 2015-2016 school year.
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the FMLA request for Emily Masa, Art teacher in the Elementary and Intermediate Schools effective when a suitable substitute is found.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to compensate James Rigos as an Assistant Varsity Softball Coach in the amount of $919.60 for 22 days worked out of the 67 day 2014-2015 regular season.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Newcomer seconded Fornella to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler