The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:47 PM in the Pride Room of the Administration Building by President Jen Iriti with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Iriti apologized for the late start as the Board held an Executive Session prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

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

Absent: Lena Hannah (contacted via phone at 7:45 PM)

Others: Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette, Superintendent; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Aguilar; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho; Director of Student Support Services Dr. Mandi Skerbetz; High School Principal Aaron Skrbin, High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell; Facilities Director Steve Timmins; Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie; Teachers and Support Staff: Amy Minnetti, Beth Kress, Gary Smith, Leslie Willetts; Rob Gancas, Brad Hundt, Tom Iagnemma, xxxx xxxxxx, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Lockette introduced Roberto Rego, Vice President of Sales, BusPatrol who along with Brandon Soubie provided the Board an overview of the BusPatrol Stop Arm Pilot Program. The pilot program will install artificial intelligence software that automatically detects violators and takes pictures of the vehicle on two or three of the Districts buses at no cost to the District. The pilot program will last 30-45 days and gathering data for the purpose of changing legislation.

Brian Tony reported the 2020-2021 PDE Budget index for South Fayette is 3.4%, which when applied to our current 26.7 mills, would be a maximum .9078 millage increase or a millage of 27.6078. He added if the Board decides to pass a resolution to not exceed the index, it should in December 2019.

Dr. Lockette provided the Board with information to assist the Board putting in place a process for hiring administrators and teachers. The Board determined the following for hiring administrators:

- Bring at least two candidates to be interviewed by the Board, along with their application packets
- Provide application packets of final candidates to the Board
- Board members have the opportunity to review all application packets once the final candidates have been determined
- Provide a Hiring Memo to the Board detailing the process, i.e. why the position exists, total number of applicants, how many interviewed, etc.

Gary Smith, Senior Class Sponsor, Aaron Skrbin and Dr. Hartzell reviewed how the Class of 2020 selected a trip to Cedar Point versus the traditional banquet/video and picnic:

- Current location not large enough to accommodate numbers
- Student survey results:
  - 167 selected the Cedar Point trip
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- 36 selected keeping the tradition of the banquet and picnic (no video offered)
- 47 did not complete the survey
- 7 did not want to participate in either option

Mr. Smith continued the students were asked for ideas for the survey and the Cedar Point trip was the only idea submitted. He continued there would be at least 14-15 chaperones in addition to a nurse; leaving at approximately 6:30 AM and returning the same evening around 11:00 PM. Additional items briefly discussed was the liability exposure and if there is an emergency with one of the students. The Board agreed to have a motion added to the October 22 agenda.

Consent Agenda

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

   Committee Meeting September 17, 2019
   Regular Meeting September 24, 2019

2. The Board considered approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

   Aquatics Fund Sara Cremonese
   Athletic Fund Mark Keener
   High School Activity Fund Harriet Dausch
   Middle School Activity Fund Harriet Dausch
   Tax Collector Monthly Reports (January thru June 2019) Kevin Biber

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

4. The Board considered to approve the expenditures that were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Kenneth Lockette

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- District hosted a conference themed “Creating a Culture of Thinking,” with keynote speaker Harvard Professor Ron Richhart; breakout sessions taught by presenters from outside the District including CMU’S Entertainment Technology Center; and many led by our staff including Dr. Evancho, Ms. Deichler, and myself. Dr. Evancho elaborated there were 30 breakout sessions to give teachers choices on the types of instructional practices; opened to the region with eight states and 40 educational organizations represented and thanked all of the staff presenters.

- Myself, Dr. Evancho, and Tom Kaminski travel to Washington DC on Wednesday for the League of Innovative Schools Fall Convening; conference consists of visits to League schools and working groups/research projects about CS/Computational Thinking, Maker Education, and Real-World Learning

- Hayes Design Group presented the results and recommendations from the feasibility study at a meeting with the Board on October 8; an executive summary of the study, highlighting the building/renovation recommendations, grade configurations, and the timeline of the phasing of the project will be presented to the Board at the October 22 meeting; tentative date for the public meeting is Monday, November 18.
Business Office

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval of the $4,000 quote from Evolution Labs for the Suite360 program to provide a digital social and emotional learning program for students, restorative justice and intervention programs, and service/support, effective January 2020 through July 2020. The costs are included in the 2019-2020 budget.

Dr. Skerbetz explained there are four programs, Suite360 Student is preventative and piloting this program this year with second and fourth grades and will be teacher directed; one seventh grade mini team and one civics class will be more self-directed with the teacher facilitating; Suite360 Intervention piloting for seven months with all Middle and High School students. Piloting this year will determine if we move forward with it next year. The other two programs are a parent and professional development which the District is not currently purchasing.

Personnel

1. The Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Mandi Skerbetz recommend Board approval to hire the following for the 2019-2020 school year:

   - Dotty Jones, as the Classroom Paraeducator for Circle of Friends After-School Extra Curricular Activities at the probationary rate of $13.88 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be $17.35 per hour.
   - Dotty Jones, District-wide Classroom Paraeducator at the probationary rate of $13.88 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be $17.35 per hour. This position is due to a retirement.
   - Haley Wauthier, as a Classroom Paraeducator in the High School at the probationary rate of $13.88 per hour, pending receipt of required documents. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be $17.35 per hour. This position is due to a resignation.
   - Kathryn Persun, as a Classroom Paraeducator in the High School at the probationary rate of $13.88 per hour, pending receipt of required documents. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be $17.35 per hour. This position is due to a resignation.

President Iriti announced the above motion was discussed in Executive Session and will be approved at the end of the agenda.

The remaining personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

Education

1. The Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell recommend Board approval to permit Yenny Chaves, High School Spanish teacher to attend the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2019 Convention and World Expo from Friday, November 22, 2019, through Sunday, November 24, 2019, in Washington DC. The costs for registration, travel, lodging, and meals are part of the 2019-2020 budget. The costs to the District will be for one substitute teacher for one day.

President Iriti announced the above motion will be approved at the end of the agenda.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to run “Cookies for a Cause” as a trial club in the High School for the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Hartzell explained this club is the student’s Girl Scouts Gold Award project and will be dissolved after the 2019-2020 trial year. The Board discussed the issue of donating the cookies to senior citizen facilities and liability if students get injured.

Transportation

The Bus Cams discussion was moved to the October 22 meeting when Mr. Soubie hopes to have the quotes.

Athletics

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Girls Varsity Softball Coach Olesia Stasko for Board approval to permit the Girls Varsity Softball team to travel to Tampa, Florida, to participate in a softball tournament. The team would depart South Fayette tentatively on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, and tentatively return on Sunday, March 22, 2020. 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 is no cost to the District.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval for freshman Neveah Long to participate in Individual Gymnastics in the WPIAL and PIAA under South Fayette’s name. Her mother, Kendra Johnson would be her coach and there will be no cost to the district. Her parents are responsible for all transportation and documentation. This would be in effect for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval for freshman Rishika Panda to participate in Individual Gymnastics in the WPIAL and PIAA under South Fayette’s name. Her father, Muralidhar Panda would be her coach and there will be no cost to the district. Her parents are responsible for all transportation and documentation. This would be in effect for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to purchase 60 new softball uniforms (30 home and 30 away) from Century Sports. The total cost for the 60 uniforms before shipping will be $7,059.90 and is included in the 2019-2020 budget.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to purchase 60 new baseball uniforms (30 home and 30 away) from Century Sports. The total cost for the 60 uniforms before shipping will be $8,454.00 and is included in the 2019-2020 budget.

Coaching personnel were discussed in Executive Session.

Construction

There were no additional items discussed.
**Miscellaneous**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for the first reading of new Board Policy on Diversity and Equity.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for the first reading of revised Board Policy 248 – Unlawful Harassment.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for the first reading of revised Board Policy 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying.

Dr. Lockette explained how these policies relate to each other and added the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbooks will also need updated. The Board agreed to have the second and final reading of the policies in November along with the updates to the Codes of Conduct for each Student Handbook.

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

Robert Gancas, 206 Hickory Heights Drive, with 14 people here the Board discussed things about the hiring process which Dr. Lockette should be handling, make him responsible for it, the Board mentioned that being their fiduciary duty; the Board discussed bus cameras for 40 minutes, the hiring process for 30 minutes, the senior trip for 10 and another 10 minutes discussing Cookies for a Cause, but only spent one minute discussing another tax increase, that’s fiduciary duty. If taxes are raised .9 mills it will raise $1 million, we are already $4 million under water. Last meeting I asked the Board what plans are being considered for the next tax year and you spent only one minute tonight discussing a tax increase. When I vote I’m not going to worry about what Board member is concerned the seniors have a fun trip, don’t micromanage it. This is a $60 million organization.

There were no additional comments.

Czaplicki seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Mandi Skerbetz for Board approval to hire the following for the 2019-2020 school year:

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- Dotty Jones, District-wide Classroom Paraeducator at the probationary rate of $13.88 per hour. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be $17.35 per hour. This position is due to a retirement.
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- Kathryn Persun, as a Classroom Paraeducator in the High School at the probationary rate of $13.88 per hour, pending receipt of required documents. After completion of a successful probationary period, the rate will be $17.35 per hour. This position is due to a resignation.

**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
Quam seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to permit Yenny Chaves, High School Spanish teacher to attend the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2019 Convention and World Expo from Friday, November 22, 2019, through Sunday, November 24, 2019, in Washington DC. The costs for registration, travel, lodging, and meals are part of the 2019-2020 budget. The costs to the District will be for one substitute teacher for one day.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Petrillo to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary