Minutes

South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, February 18, 2020
7:30 PM

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:41 P.M. in the Pride Room of the Administration Building by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella 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: Lena Hannah, William Ainsworth, Paul Brinsky, Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti, Alan Vezzi, Tom Iagnemma, Len Fornella

Absent: Todd Petrillo

Others: Chris Voltz, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette, Superintendent; Student Representative Alexandra Bennett; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Aguilar; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho; Interim Director of Student Support Services Dr. Conchetta Bell; High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell; Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler; Middle School Assistant Principal Kevin Maurer; Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski; Intermediate School Assistant Principal Kristen Johnson; Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Elementary School Associate Principal Tyler Geist; Facilities Director Steve Timmins; Maintenance Manager Reggie Hale; Custodial Shift Manager Steve Lower; Director of Technology and Innovation Aileen Owens; Teachers Alex Hobbs, Kristy Skerbetz, Emily Giovannucci, Corrine Harkins, Ryan Shad Wachtler, Brittney Lunn, Amy Krappweis, Eryn Carranza; Arielle Evans; Ryan Coon; Sarah Emanuel; Brad Hundt; and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent’s Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Lockette announced the Annual Festival of Bands will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Brian Tony reviewed the 2020-2021 Budget timeline for the newly elected Board member.

The following 2020-2021 budgets were presented:

- Elementary School – Laurie Gray
- Intermediate School – Tom Kaminski
- Middle School – Kristin Deichler
- Grounds – Steve Timmins
- Maintenance – Reggie Hale
- Custodial – Steve Lower

Dr. Lockette reviewed the bid results for the RFPs for Geotechnical Services and Surveying Services and the recommendation by Hayes Design Group to award the Geotechnical Services bid to Construction Engineering Consultants and the Surveying Services bid to Civil Engineering Consultants (CEC). The Board agreed to have the motions added to the February 25 agenda for approval.

Dr. Lockette and Ryan Cook and Arielle Evans presented the work being done on the District Communications Plan; one of the Strategic Goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The presentation included the following:
- New website, a demonstration will be presented at the February 25 meeting
- Four infrastructure areas and what each one entails: Communications Framework, Messaging Materials, Tools & Templates, and Strategy Activations
- Social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter will go live in March

Dr. Lockette discussed the language for the diversity/equity signs to be made and posted around the campus. He referred to Solicitor Voltz on the two choices of wording. The Board agreed to have the wording be more inclusive to include sexual orientation or gender identity and disability; and to include the District Policy 256 and the PA statute that prohibits ethnic intimidation. The Board wants the signs installed by the end of March 2020. The Board also discussed no smoking signs for the campus.

Dr. Lockette requested the Board to approve posting for anticipated positions for 2020-2021. The Board agreed to add a motion for the February 25 meeting for approval.

Mrs. Hannah reviewed the Resolution Calling for Charter School Funding Reform that was shared with the Board. The Board agreed to add a motion to the February 25 meeting for approval.

**Consent Agenda**

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

   - Committee Meeting of the Board Tuesday, January 21, 2020
   - Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2020

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

   1. Aquatics Fund Sara Cremonese
   2. Athletic Fund Mark Keener
   3. High School Activity Fund Rebecca Bruce
   4. Middle School Activity Fund Rebecca Bruce

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 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:

- Senator Pam Iovino toured the District on February 11 and was blown away by what she saw;
- Dr. Lockette referred to Ms. Owens who reported the District acquired a new partnership with Astrobotics on a project to accept some of our students as interns on helping to create the first space museum in Pittsburg; Senator Iovino wants to find funding to support our project of partnering with rural/underserved schools.

**Business Office**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the 2018-2019 School District Audit as prepared by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP. *(information and presentation provided February 25)*
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Seneca Valley School District to provide on-line instructional programs for the high school effective for the 2020-2021 through 2024-2025 school years.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Facilities Director Steve Timmins for Board approval of the three year renewal of the Siemens Digital Control (DDC) Agreement for all four school buildings, Stadium/Administrative Offices, Softball Stadium, and Transportation, pending Solicitor final approval of the agreement.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Interim Director of Student Support Services Dr. Conchetta Bell for Board approval to enter into an agreement with Holy Family Institute to provide effective treatment to clients with mental health needs effective March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**Personnel**

For Minute purposes, the Superintendent proudly announced that tenure had been earned by the following teachers who have fulfilled all requirements as set forth in Pennsylvania School Code, Title 24, PS 11-1108.

- Chelsea Martini, Intermediate School teacher
- Dana Populo, Elementary School teacher
- Shane Coyne, Elementary School teacher

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the list of 2020 potential graduates, based on fulfilling all requirements for graduation.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of course changes/updates in the 2020-2021 High School Program of Studies.

Dr. Evancho added these course changes/updates will not affect staffing and the courses will be finalized after student scheduling and enrollment updates are complete. Dr. Harzell reviewed in detail the course changes/updates.

3. The Board consider the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to permit James Hausman and Maureen Pedzwater to accompany 44 students to participate in the 2020 Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (TSA) State Competition being held at Seven Springs Ski Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, April 15, 2020, through Saturday, April 18, 2020. Students would be responsible for making up all school work during their absence. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel, lodging, and meals, and is estimated to cost the District $17,420. The conference registration fee is $2,760. All costs are included in the 2019-2020 budget.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to permit Brian Garlick, Lisa Passyn, and an additional chaperone to be determined, to accompany the High School Underwater Robotics Team (10 students) to participate in the 2020 MATE-PA Northeast Regional UROV Competition, (Marine Advanced Technology Education), at Villanova University in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania from Friday, May 8, 2020, through Saturday, May 9, 2020. Students would be responsible for making up all school work during their absence. 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 and is estimated to cost the District $1,880. All costs are included in the 2019-2020 budget.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval to run 3-hour delay days during the Keystone Exams testing window in May 2020. 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.

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval to hold a Summer Strings Camp in the summer of 2020. The camp will be held from Monday, July 27, 2020, through Thursday, July 30, 2020. The morning session will run from 9:30 AM to 11:45 AM and will be open to orchestra students entering grades 4 and 5. The afternoon session will run from 12:30 PM to 2:45 PM and will be open to orchestra students entering grade 6, 7, and 8. The $30.00 registration fee will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hold Summer STEAM Camps for both Intermediate and Elementary Schools students in the summer of 2020. The camps will be held from Monday, July 13, 2020, through Thursday, July 16, 2020. The morning session will run from 8:45 AM to 12:00 PM and will be open to students entering grades 4, 5, and 6. The afternoon session will run from 12:45 PM to 4:00 PM and will be open to students entering grades 2 and 3. The registration fee of $100 per child will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray, and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval for Janelle Reck, Colleen Walsh, Karalee Nelson, Dana Diulus, Katie Elliott, and Elizabeth Poluszek to attend the Responsive Classroom Conference in Gahanna, Ohio from Tuesday, June 9, 2020, through Friday, June 12, 2020. The cost of the trip includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals. The estimated cost is $10,000 and will be paid with Title IV grant money.

9. 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, Victoria Lojek, and AJ Mannarino to attend and present at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Conference in Anaheim, California from Friday, June 26, 2020, through Wednesday, July 1, 2020. The cost includes registration, travel, lodging, and meals and is estimated to cost the District $6,566. The cost of the conference is included in the 2019-2020 budget. Ms. Owens travel and lodging is provided for through the NSF Grant for her presentation on Computing in Rural America.
Transportation

There were no items discussed.

Athletics

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to purchase new football uniforms. A total of 150 uniforms (75 kelly green and 75 white) will be purchased through Century Sports. The total cost of the uniforms is $20,498.70 and will be included in the 2020-2021 budget and is part of the uniform rotation program.

The Board agreed to approve the above motion at the end of the agenda.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval for Head Football Coach Joe Rossi to attend the University of Minnesota from Thursday, April 2, 2020, through Saturday, April 4, 2020, to learn new trends in football. The District cost is for one substitute teacher for two days and $800.00 towards travel expenses. The remaining costs will be paid for by the Football Boosters.

Construction

There were no additional items discussed.

Miscellaneous

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the second reading of revised Board Policy 233 Suspension and Expulsion.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the second reading of revised Board Policy 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation.

The Board reviewed the following two motions in the Executive Session held prior to the meeting.

Brinsky seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval to hire the following substitute (call-as-needed) teachers and support personnel for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Mary Patterson, PK-12 Spanish
- Cynthia Drewen, Grades PK-4
- Kelsey Kalp, Paraeducator at the rate of $9.65 per hour, Personal Care Paraeducator at the rate of $10.65 per hour
- Shaheen Sultana, Bus Aide at the rate of $8.65 per hour
- Melissa McCreary, Paraeducator at the rate of $9.65 per hour, Personal Care Paraeducator at the rate of $10.65 per hour, pending receipt of required documents
- Beth Kurta, Nurse, pending receipt of required documents

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of Penny Miller as the Certified School Nurse for the Mardi Gras Dance to be held on February 21, 2020. Ms. Miller will be paid the EPR rate of $39.50 per hour.
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 Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval to purchase new football uniforms. A total of 150 uniforms (75 kelly green and 75 white) will be purchased through Century Sports. The total cost of the uniforms is $20,498.70 and will be included in the 2020-2021 budget and is part of the uniform rotation program.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Voice Vote – Hannah, Brinsky, Burroughs, Iriti, Vezzi, Iagnamma, Fornella – All Yes
Ainsworth - No

Board Comments

Mrs. Hannah commented the Mardi Gras dance is being held Friday, February 21 and everyone is invited to attend the wonderful event.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time.

Ainsworth seconded Burroughs to suspend the meeting at 10:03 P.M. and enter into another Executive Session to discuss legal and/or personnel matters.

President Fornella announced there will not be any votes taken after Executive Session.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Brinsky seconded Ainsworth to exit Executive Session at 11:15 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary