South Fayette Township School District

Regular Meeting

Minutes – Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, March 30, 2020
7:30 PM

The virtual Regular Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:33 P.M. using Zoom 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: Todd Petrillo, Lena Hannah, William Ainsworth, Paul Brinsky, Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti, Alan Vezzi, Tom Iagnemma, Len Fornella

Others: See attached list of attendees.

President Fornella announce the meeting is being recorded and thanked those community members attending during these difficult times. He also announced two test sessions were held on Saturday, March 28, 2020, and Monday, March 30, 2020, to make sure the virtual meeting would work; nothing on the agenda was discussed in either of the two test sessions.

President Fornella shared his and the Board’s condolences to Laurie Gray on the passing of her father. President Fornella also shared his and the Board’s condolences to David Taylor on the passing of his father.

Kevin Hayes, Principal and Rob Rensi, Project Manager, Hayes Design Group presented updates on the following construction projects:

✓ Middle School Classroom Alterations Project consisting of:
  o Relocating and reconfiguring existing spaces to create seven new large classrooms; requires existing ELL, Speech, Music Tech, and 6th grade ELA/SS classrooms to be relocated to other existing support spaces
  o New and relocated classrooms will align with the future addition and alterations project
  o All completed work will integrate with the future layout and reduce the cost of the future project.

✓ Proposed Intermediate School Classroom Additions and Alterations Project consisting of:
  o 3-story classroom addition with 12 standard-sized classrooms; large and small group instruction rooms, and a Family and Consumer Science room
  o Alterations include creating a Reading Specialist room, converting the Tech Lit. classroom into a new Life Skills room and renovations to the Admin Suite for a second Guidance office
  o In-depth programing generated converting existing rooftop garden area into additional instructional space; realign the 3-story classroom addition for future additional classrooms without disruption to the current parking lot; combining the 3-story addition with the main building requiring a need for minor associated corridor space

✓ New Elementary School Project consisting of:
  o Increase proposed size by approximately 12,000 gross square feet, for a new building size of approximately 135,000 gross square feet versus the 124,000 gross square feet
proposed in the Feasibility Study; the additional space allows for full-time staff who currently share a classroom on an alternate basis, to have their own assigned space

✓ High School Shingle Roof Replacement consisting of:
  o Replacing existing shingle roof sooner than the original slated time to occur of 2022 at the earliest due to the frequency of leaks
  o Two replacement options: Option 1 – Metal Roof or Option 2 – Shingle Roof; both options include complete removal of the existing asphalt shingles, install an ice and water shield waterproofing membrane to be installed over the existing decking

The following was discussed:
✓ Costs associated with the updated projects
✓ Utilization of the spaces of the updated projects
✓ Enrollment projections due to the COID-19 Pandemic, contact Dr. Shelby Stewman
✓ Replacing the High School shingle roof sooner than originally scheduled versus building the new Student Support Services building

The following 2020-2021 Budgets were presented to the Board:
✓ Transportation
✓ Athletics
✓ Assistants to the Superintendent

Tom Kaminski presented the following information regarding the request for one full-time and two half-time Special Area teachers for ES and IS for the 2020-2021 school year:
✓ ES and IS currently share four teachers
✓ Due to the enrollment increases, specials will have to go to a eight to ten day rotation
✓ New positions could be utilized as subs on their non-teaching days

The Board discussed the possible locations that were presented by Steve Timmins for the new Hate Free Zone Road signed to be installed.

Solicitor Fred Wolfe explained the motion below was recommended by PSBA to be approved.

Iriti seconded Ainsworth for the South Fayette Township School Board to make the motion, that due to the current extenuating circumstances, it waives the requirement of Board Policy 006 - Meetings, for any South Fayette Township School Board Member to be physically present at any Committee Meeting of the Whole or Regular Meeting currently scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year, per School Code 24 P. S. Section 4-407.

Roll Call – All Yes

Consent Agenda

Iriti seconded Vezzi on approval of Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Committee Meeting of the Board	Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 25, 2020

And on 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
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Tax Collector Kevin Biber for Board approval of the provided list of Real Estate Refunds due to reduction in assessment and/or overpayment.

And to authorize payment of monthly invoices from the General Fund for the amount of $590,928.19 beginning with check number 67609 through check number 67821, the Cafeteria Fund for the amount of $73,220.05 beginning with check number 7990 through check number 8003, and the Construction Fund for the amount of $49,587.26 for check number 0611.

Roll Call – All Yes

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

The Board reviewed the following question submitted by the public attendees of the virtual meeting:

- How long will the changes serve the Middle School?
  It is a small part of the entire scope of the Middle School Project and is part of the Feasibility Study.

There were no additional comments or questions reviewed.

Old Business

There was no new business discussed.

New Business

There was no old business discussed.

Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette

Dr. Lockette reported the following:

- March 30 – first day on online learning for students; principals emailed parents at 8:00 AM; teachers began posting instructions, assignments, videos, and other resources at 9:00 AM
- Online/digital learning plan created in conjunction with the teachers’ union
- Paraprofessionals assigned to specific students to provide online support and conduct check-ins
- K-2 teachers communicating with parents via email sharing assignments/instructions
- Grades 3-12, all instructions/assignments run through Google Classroom
- Hotline for those who do not have internet access at home; families either taking advantage of Comcast internet program for 2 months free internet then a reduced rate, or school work will be mailed to the students with self-addressed stamped envelope once a week; completed work will be scanned and distributed to the teachers
- Free/reduced meal curbside program continues
- Continue frequent communications with families; summary will be sent to the Board after the first week on online learning

Student Representative Report

Ms. Bennett reported the following:
✓ Online learning very streamlined
✓ Seniors hoping this ends soon

**Business Office**

Vezzi seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the proposed 2020-2021 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services Budget in the amount of $2,209,973.00. The Allegheny County (AIU3) school districts’ total contribution to the budget is $1,811,545.00. The South Fayette Township School District’s contribution to the Program of Services Budget is estimated to be $38,622.72 and will be determined by PDE according to District Aid Ratio and Weighted Average Daily Membership (WADM).

Roll Call – All Yes

**Personnel**

Hannah seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Chris Lane, Guidance Counselor in the High School effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Lane has been employed by the District since August 2002.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Elizabeth Windisch, Grade 6 teacher, effective on or about May 4, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Brittainy Hambelton, Grade 4 teacher, effective on or about May 24, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Food Service Director Tricia Wood for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Cynthia O’Korn, Food Service employee. Her last day worked will be June 5, 2020. Ms. O’Korn has been employed by the District since September 2004.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following EPR position for the 2019-2020 school year:

| Kindergarten – Team Leader (prorated) | Janelle Reck |

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval for the following Duquesne University students to complete their student teaching with Charlotte Rudolph, Music teacher in the Elementary and Intermediate Schools for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Spencer Kun, October 26, 2020 through December 11, 2020
- Jakob McCormick, March 1, 2021 through April 23, 2021

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, and Head Varsity Football Coach Joe Rossi for Board approval of Chris McNeal as an Assistant Varsity Football Coach effective for the 2020-2021 season, pending receipt of required documents.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Athletic Director Mark Keener for Board approval of the status change of Scott Sundgren from a Volunteer Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach to a paid Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach effective retroactive to March 2, 2020.
And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho for Board approval for the following High School English teachers to pick-up a sixth class load for a teacher on an approved leave of absence effective on or about April 29, 2020, during the online learning period only. Per the teacher’s contract the teachers will receive $300 per section.

- Gary Smith teaching one section of AP English 12
- Tawyna Shrewsbury teaching one section of Honors English 10
- Courtney Rabi teaching two sections of English 10
- James Hausman teaching one section of English 9

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Facilities Director Steve Timmins, and Custodial Shift Manager Steve Lower for Board approval of the personal necessity leave of absence request for James Thomas, Custodian, effective retroactive to February 24, 2020.

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

There were no comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

**Education**

Iriti seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho, and Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler for Board approval of the changes to the 2020-2021 Middle School Program of Studies.

Roll Call – All Yes

**Transportation**

There were no additional items discussed.

**Athletics**

There were no additional items discussed.

**Construction**

Vezzi seconded Petrillo on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Solicitor, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a contract with Civil and Environmental Consultants (CEC) for land surveying services in connection with the District’s constructions projects consisting of the Additions & Alterations to the Intermediate School and the New Elementary School.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Solicitor, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a contract with GAI Consultants for geotechnical services in connection with the District’s construction projects consisting of the Additions & Alterations to the Intermediate School and the New Elementary School.

Solicitor Wolfe added he and Matt Hoffman reviewed the above standard AIA agreements with the terms being favorable for the District.

Roll Call – All Yes
The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval for the District to authorize Hayes Design Group to move into the Construction Document Phase of professional services based on the Design Phase scope and budget provided for the Middle School Classroom Alterations Project.

The Board asked for the motion to be amended to add the cost of the professional services and to read:

Brinsky seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the District to authorize Hayes Design Group to move into the Construction Document Phase of professional services based on the Design Phase scope and budget provided for the Middle School Classroom Alterations Project at a cost of $761,635.

Roll Call – All Yes

Following a lengthy discussion the Board requested the following four motions be tabled at this time until additional information can be obtained, and to add them to the April agenda.

1. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval for the District to authorize to proceed to the Design Development Phase for the Intermediate School Additions & Alterations Project, based on the Schematic Design drawings and scope, including the increased size of additions.

2. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval for the District to authorize to proceed to the Design Development Phase for the Intermediate School Additions & Alterations Project, based on the Schematic Design drawings and scope, excluding the increased size of additions.

3. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval to increase the size of the New Elementary School building to 135,000 gross square feet.

4. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval for the District to provide direction for the New Elementary School on which of the added spaces in the revised Program shall be eliminated from the Building Program to reduce the size of the building.

Brinsky seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to select Option 1 – Metal Roof for the High School Roof Replacement Project.

Roll Call – Petrillo, Ainsworth, Brinsky, Vezzi, Iagnemma, Fornella – All Yes
Hannah, Burroughs, Iriti – All No

The following motion was tabled.

5. The Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony recommend Board approval to select Option 2 – Shingle Roof for the High School Roof Replacement Project.

Brinsky seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval for the District to authorize Hayes Design Group to perform the Construction Document Phase services and prepare the project to be bid, based on the selected scope and Option for the High School Roof Replacement Project.
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Roll Call – Petrillo, Ainsworth, Brinsky, Vezzi, Iagnemma, Fornella – All Yes
Hannah, Burroughs, Iriti – All No

**Miscellaneous**

Vezzi seconded Ainsworth on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the final reading of revised Board Policy 233 Suspension and Expulsion.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the final reading of revised Board Policy 610 Purchases Subject to Bid/Quotation.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 251 Homeless Students.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 137 Home Education Programs.

Roll Call – All Yes

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

There were no additional comments at this time.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Mr. Wolfe reported Tucker Law is monitoring daily law publications due to the many changes because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Board Comments**

There were no comments at this time.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee Report
President Len Fornella

President Fornella had nothing to report.

South Fayette Foundation
Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah had nothing to report.

PSBA/Legislative Committee Report
Lena Hannah

Mrs. Hannah reported SB751 passed revising the teacher rating system for the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit PSBA.org with information regarding COVID-19.

Parkway West
Alan Vezzi

Mr. Vezzi had nothing to report.

SHASDA
William Ainsworth
Mr. Ainsworth reported the Student Forum was interesting with student presentations based on conservation, personal finance, and our own students’ presentation on diversity; May 2 Student Conference may be cancelled. Mrs. Hannah added our students’ presentation creates a better school climate for students.

President Fornella thanked the Administration, teachers, and parents for a great first day of online learning, the Board for the meeting to run smoothly, and a special thanks to Rob Warfield for putting the virtual meeting together.

Brinsky seconded Vezzi to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary