South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2017
7:00 PM

The Committee Meeting of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Pride Room of the Administration Building by Acting President Bill Newcomer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Alex Czaplicki (arrived at 7:52 PM), Lena Hannah, Teresa Burroughs, Jen Iriti, Paul Brinsky, Todd Petrillo, Len Fornella (arrived at 7:43), Bill Newcomer

Absent: Alan Vezzi

Others: Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Bille P. Rondinelli, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent David Deramo; Student Representative Katie Kenawell; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant Director of Finance Maria Brewer Aguilar; High School Principal Aaron Skrbin; Assistant High School Principal Laura Hartzell; Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray; Curriculum, Technology and Innovation Coordinator Stephanie DeLuca; Teachers Michael Perrott, Miguel Hernandez, James Hausman, and Nicole Bobrzynski; Construction Liaison Gene Manzini; Tricia Monaco, Eckles Architecture; Jeanette Lutton, Eckles Architecture; Joe Brennan, PJ Dick; David Esposito, Eckles Architecture; John Taormina, PJ Dick, Victoria Adams, Benefits Coordinator; Lindsay Bagwell, Dave Allen, and Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent’s Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Rondinelli recognized Benefits Coordinator Victoria Adams for her commitment to encourage employees enroll in the Champions of Wellness Challenge through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium. At the AIU Convention the District received check in the amount of $3,000 to be used for employee wellness. Mrs. Adams added the District received additional grant money in the amount of $1,600 from the Consortium.

Stephanie DeLuca, Curriculum, Technology and Innovation Coordinator provided the Board with an update of her trip to the ASCD Conference in March. She briefly described the following sessions she attended:

- Leadership
- Culture
- Encouraging teacher lead innovation
- Authentic learning experiences
- Documenting student learning
- Student ownership and growth of their childhood experience

Joe Brennan, PJ Dick provided the Board with an update of the High School Construction Project. Areas reviewed included:

- Financials, including the total value of current contracts to date, remaining contingency amount, current payment amount due, and the following change orders pending Board approval totaling $26,254.88:
  - Library Maker Space Option #2 with 3 contractors for a total of $22,182.88

The Board discussed the use/function of the Maker Space. Dr. Rondinelli added $5,000 from the Infosys grant in the amount of $10,000 will help cover supply costs for the Maker Space.
President Fornella arrived at 7:43 PM.

Mr. Brennan introduced Dave Allen, Project Superintendent, PJ Dick to continue with the Progress report which included:
- Area A, F, and H – contract work complete
- Area B/C – structural work complete; finish work began; device trim work ongoing; concrete finished in east and west courtyard, landscaping to begin; B/E connection corridor progressing; new and existing building tie-in work to be completed over Easter break
- Area G – on schedule and nearing completion; casework installation 90% complete; 2nd level classroom flooring complete, lower level started; finishes being completed; fire separation door installed and masonry work surrounding the door being completed; roof dome installation within the next week; metal panel contractor will start exterior panels in the coming weeks
- Area E – inside work moving forward; masonry work continues; majority of window installation complete; duct work installation ongoing; new and existing building tie-ins at theatre will begin over Easter break
- Site – sanitary sewer piping started from Area E along athletic field; site prep around areas E, F, G, and H started.

Mr. Czaplicki arrived at 7:52 PM.

David Deramo summarized his attendance at the Carnegie Foundation Summit in March. He explained the summit had sessions on the following areas:
- Improvement Science basics and education
- Solutions for school improvement
- Using data for research/ improvement
- Keynote speaker Peter Senge
- Golden Age of History, children always valued

Tricia Monaco, Eckles Architecture, provided lower pricing and warranty information for furniture for the High School Additions and Alterations Project. The new total is approximately $5,000 lower than the originally anticipated cost. She added the total cost also includes furniture for the Middle School Library and the Maker Space in the High School.

Brian Tony provided a 2017-2018 Budget update including:
- Recent changes to running total due to reductions to building and department budgets
- Two millage options – #1 - no increase, millage remains at 26.7; #2 - millage increase to the index of .8544 for a millage of 27.5544

He concluded more thorough presentations will be presented at the April 25 meeting.

Minutes

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

Committee Meeting of the Whole Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Financial Reports

The Board Summary reports for June 2016 through October 2016 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 proudly announced Jim Hausman and two groups of students, who will be formally recognized at the April 25 Board meeting, won the National Digital Promise filmmaker Challenge. She added one group will be attending the Maker Faire in San Mateo, California in May and the other group to New York City in September also to the Maker Faire, with the costs of the trips being covered by Digital Promise. Dr. Rondinelli announced the following:

- April 24 – HS Awards Night
- April 27 – Early Dismissal, Celebration of Excellence
- April 28 – No school for students
- April 29 – Track Invitational
- May 5 – ES/IS Family Bingo Night
- Spring MS and HS Band and Chorus concerts
- May 19 – Senior Waffle Breakfast

**Business Office**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Maintenance and Grounds Dean Stewart, and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of a 1-year extension to the lawn maintenance contract with Shamrock Lawn Maintenance, as per the bid specifications from the original contract, effective date June 1, 2017. The cost is included in the proposed 2017-2018 budget.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to enter into a 1-year Extended Services Plan with Daktronics for the electronic scoreboard effective retroactive to March 24, 2017 through March 23, 2018. This is part of the 2016-2017 budget.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz for Board approval of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 2017-2018 Services (Special Education) Agreement and addendum to the 2016-2017 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Services (Special Education) Agreement.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz for Board approval of the adoption of policies, procedures, and use of IDEA-Part B funds by the School District per the agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Personnel**

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Education**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel Dr. Mandi Davis Skerbetz for Board approval to conduct the Special Olympics Track and Field Club effective retroactive to April 2, 2017. The trial year ran from April 2016 through March 2017.
2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval for the Administration to submit for applicable federal and state grants, such as but not limited to: Title I; Title II; Title III; Safe Schools Initiatives; Drug Free Schools; Dual Enrollment; STEAM; and Pennsylvania Ready to Learn Grants for the 2017-2018 school year.

3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent David Deramo for Board approval to enter into an affiliation agreement with Duquesne University for a period of 5 years beginning July 1, 2017 through July 1, 2022. There is no cost to the District.

4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Intermediate/Elementary Assistant Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval to hold an Intermediate Summer STEAM Camp in the summer of 2017. The camp will be held from Monday, July 10, 2017 through Thursday, July 13, 2017 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM and will be open to students entering grades 4, 5, and 6. The registration fee of $100 per child will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Intermediate/Elementary Assistant Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval to hold a Summer Strings Camp in the summer of 2017. The camp will be held from Monday, July 31, 2017 through Thursday, August 3, 2017. 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. The $30.00 registration fee will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski, and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hold an Elementary Summer STEAM Camp in the summer of 2017. The camp will be held from Monday, July 10, 2017 through Thursday, July 13, 2017 between the hours of 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM and will be open to students entering grades 2 and 3. The Elementary STEAM Camp will supplant the second week of the Little Lions Academy, which was previously Board approved to be held June 26 through 29, 2017. The registration fee of $100 per child will cover the cost of all staffing and programming.

7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent David Deramo for Board approval to offer a hybrid online Summer Remediation course for Geometry. The program will run from June 19, 2017, through August 3, 2017. The cost to parents would be $240.00 for residents and $260.00 for non-residents. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 40 hours of instruction. If there are 6 students enrolled, the fees would cover the costs; if fewer than 6 students are enrolled, the District would fund the difference.

8. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent David Deramo for Board approval to offer a hybrid online Summer Remediation course for Algebra I. The program will run from June 19, 2017 through August 3, 2017. The cost to parents would be $240.00 for residents and $260.00 for non-residents. Salary would be at the current contract EPR rate for 40 hours of instruction. If there are 6 students enrolled, the fees would cover the costs; if fewer than 6 students are enrolled, the District would fund the difference.
9. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray, and Elementary Assistant Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval for the following staff to attend the International Literacy Conference in Orlando, Florida from Saturday, July 15, 2017 through Monday, July 17, 2017: Jacqueline Yakish, Norene Sarnowski, Jen Sander, Karalee Nelson, and Tyler Geist. The estimated cost per staff member would be $1,500.00. This will be paid with Title I funds.

10. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray, and Intermediate/Elementary Assistant Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval to conduct tutoring for 24 Title I reading students during the summer of 2017. The tutoring will run from June 19, 2017 through July 20, 2017, not including July 4, 2017. The first session will run from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM and the second session will run from 10:40 AM to 12:10 PM. The costs for the reading specialists will be covered with Title I funds.

11. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray, and Intermediate/Elementary Assistant Principal Tyler Geist for Board approval for the District to use Title I Parental Involvement funds to pay for one elementary school Title I parent to attend the PDE State Parent Conference at Seven Springs Resort from Monday, July 10 through Wednesday, July 12, 2017. The cost will be approximately $414.00 and paid with Title I funds.

12. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent, Middle School Principal Kristin Deichler, and Middle School Assistant Principal Kevin Maurer for Board approval to conduct a trial Screen Printing Club in the Middle School, under the direction of Frank Kruth, STEAM teacher, effective retroactive to October 5, 2016.

13. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to permit Jim Hausman and Maureen Pedzwater to accompany five students to participate in the 2017 Governor’s STEM Team State Competition being held at the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from Thursday, May 18, 2017 through Friday, May 19, 2017. 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 lodging, transportation, meals, and conference registration fees and is included in the 2016-2017 budget.

14. The Board considered the recommendation of Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to permit Jim Hausman and Melissa Unger to accompany four students to San Francisco, California from Friday, May 19, 2017 through Monday, May 22, 2017 to attend the MakerFaire. The students will be formally recognized at the MakerFaire for winning first place in the Digital Promise Filmmakers Video competition. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel, lodging, and meals and will be covered by Digital Promise. The cost to the District will be for two substitute teachers for two days.

Acting President Newcomer announced the two above motions will be voted on prior to Executive Session.

Transportation

There were no items discussed.


**Athletics**

Personnel items were discussed in Executive Session.

**Construction**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval to purchase furniture for the High School Additions and Alterations Project, Middle School Library and the High School Maker Space at a total cost of $680,634.59. The breakdown is:
   - Middle School Library - $29,761.09
   - High School Maker Space - $44,608.32
   - High School Additions and Alterations - $606,265.18

**Miscellaneous**

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying in accordance with PSBA.

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

**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**

There were no comments at this time.

Hannah seconded Brinsky on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to permit Jim Hausman and Maureen Pedzwater to accompany five students to participate in the 2017 Governor's STEM Team State Competition being held at the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from Thursday, May 18, 2017 through Friday, May 19, 2017. 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 lodging, transportation, meals, and conference registration fees and is included in the 2016-2017 budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Aaron Skrbin for Board approval to permit Jim Hausman and Melissa Unger to accompany four students to San Francisco, California from Friday, May 19, 2017 through Monday, May 22, 2017 to attend the MakerFaire. The students will be formally recognized at the MakerFaire for winning first place in the Digital Promise Filmmakers Video competition. Appropriate adult to student ratios for supervision will be assured by the administration. The cost of the trip includes travel, lodging, and meals and will be covered by Digital Promise. The cost to the District will be for two substitute teachers for two days.

**Voice Vote – All Yes**
Burroughs seconded Iriti to suspend the meeting at 9:05 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Executive Session convened at 9:11 PM.

Brinsky seconded Fornella to exit Executive Session at 10:38 PM and return to the committee meeting.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Burroughs seconded Brinsky to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

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Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary