

CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

In 2004-2005 South Fayette continued the construction cycle that included an addition and renovation of the Middle School, new athletic fields and field houses, as well as a renovation of the Elementary Building. As has been the case throughout construction in our District, the entire administration and teaching staff worked hard to ensure that, while we improved the buildings and facilities, we did not compromise the education of our students in the process.

The construction and renovation plans allow the District to accommodate our steadily increasing student population. Since 1990, the District has seen a more than 40 percent increase in students. As with the High School construction project, plans have been designed to address our present needs, as well as growth in years to come. Twenty-seven new classrooms were added to the Middle School building in 2004-2005. Changes also included a new food court, a new main entrance and a new bus drop-off in the rear of the building, a renovated gymnasium and auditorium, and new locker rooms in the updated pool area.

The Middle School project also included changes to the grounds that surround the building. The road behind the school was altered to accommodate the new addition and bus drop-off area in the rear of the building and the athletic fields have been transformed into a regulation softball field, a regulation football/soccer field and a stadium that includes a football/soccer field with artificial turf and an eight-lane track.

The addition of the turf will allow more flexible use of the stadium facilities for physical education classes and community groups as well as our athletes.

Work on the Elementary building included a new front entrance that incorporates a permanent reception area where all visitors must register and receive a pass. New lighting was incorporated throughout and a new paint scheme marks hallways by color for ease in directions. The multi-purpose room was also updated with new lights, a new sound system and new flooring. The divider walls were replaced and bleachers were added to provide seating for sporting and school events.



DISTRICT BUDGET

The District's budget for the 2004-2005 school year was \$24,255,544. In keeping with the Board of School Director's pledge not to raise taxes, the millage rate remained 20.29 for the year - a rate that ranks South Fayette 24th among the 42 school districts in Allegheny County. This budget increase over the past year allows the District to accommodate the additional costs associated with the growth of the District. The additional funds were necessary largely due to growing student enrollment which requires additional staff, health care costs, as well as an increase in retirement costs.

The South Fayette School District is an important resource for our community. Our District continues to attract families to our community. Together we can provide the best academic environment, athletic challenges and opportunities for artistic expressions for the youth in our area.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION

South Fayette's Transportation Department is responsible for the transportation of all the students that live in the District – in 2004-2005 approximately 1,920 public school students and 210 private and parochial students. District busses transported students to 28 different schools within a ten mile limit of the township border, as required under Pennsylvania State School Code.

The District employed 30 bus drivers in 2004-2005 to do all of our day-to-day bus runs, in addition to 2 full time mechanics. We had six substitute bus drivers and four custodians that maintain a license so they are available when the District is in need. In addition, three aides assist with special needs students who are on the bus. 2004-2005 also marked the end of an era as Director of Transportation Bill Scott retired after over 30 years of service to South Fayette.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Every day, South Fayette's **Food Service Department** serves healthy lunches to students in our District. Middle and High School students are treated to a food court with options that include a salad and soup bar, a sandwich station, fresh pizza made on site as well as a traditional hot lunch. Breakfast and after-school meal programs are also available for the students. Over 268,000 lunches were served to South Fayette students and staff in 2004-2005.

During 2004-2005 the Food Service team, led by Mrs. Tricia Wood, earned 10-Diamond awards from the Allegheny County Health Department for its exceptional efforts and training that exceeds the normal requirements and expectations. The entire Food Service team is dedicated to providing the highest quality nourishment for our students.

South Fayette's **Pupil Personnel/Special Education Department**, under the direction of Dr. Nanci Sullivan, oversees 230 special education students in our District including those with special needs as well as gifted students. The Department also has the responsibility of overseeing 22 students who are homeschooled, 11 English-as-a-Second Language students, 29 boys at Hickory Lodge Boys' Group Home and 22 students in approved private schools, private schools and/or cross-district placements.

The special education staff has been trained and has been implementing Annual Progress Monitoring in reading and writing fluency. The staff collects data twice each week in reading and writing fluency and then completes an on-going chart that monitors individual student progress in these areas throughout the school year. The Department has also been creating the new special education alternative curriculum that is aligned with the PA Academic Standards/Eligible Content.

South Fayette's Wellness Initiative also got underway in 2004-2005 with Dr. Sullivan and Mrs. Deborah Heal serving as the co-chairs of the committee. We began the school year with a day of wellness, and events throughout the year included a nutrition class, the 10,000 Step Program, Weight Watchers Program and free preventative screenings for blood pressure and blood glucose/cholesterol levels. This initiative is aimed at reducing health care costs.

In March, the Board of School Directors voted to ratify the professional agreement between the District and the South Fayette Education Association (SFEA). The new agreement, which extends until 2010, stipulates a health care contribution by the teachers, which will result in significant savings to the District. The new agreement includes 5 additional work days, as well as an increase in the amount of staff development time for teachers.

Members of the South Fayette Education Support Professionals Association (paraeducators, custodians, transportation and food service personnel) also voted to accept the extension of their contract for wages only and the contract will now extend to 2010.