

**SOUTH MIDDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**4 Academy Street, Boiling Springs, PA 17007**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 18, 2020**

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on February 18, 2020, in the Board Room. The President, Mrs. Knouse, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The Secretary called the roll with all members present except as designated:

**School Directors**

Mr. John Greenbaum

Mr. William Hartman

Mrs. Stacey Knavel - Absent

Mrs. Elizabeth Knouse

Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz - Absent

Mrs. Denise MacIvor

Mrs. Edith Rob

Mrs. Bethanne Sellers

Mr. Jonathan Still

**Administrative Staff**

Dr. Matthew Strine, Superintendent

Melanie Shaver-Durham – Director of Curriculum/Instruction

**Student Representatives**

Gibran Varahrami - Absent

Eric Gessaman

**Visitors**

Tony Verenna

Joshua Gutacker

**Board Secretary**

Nicole Weber

**Solicitor**

Gareth Pahowka - Absent

**INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION - None**

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Dabrowski of Carlisle, PA addressed the Board concerning an incident that occurred at Iron Forge Elementary School with her son. She reported that it could be described as hazing and bullying, with racial slurs. She commented that an investigation was conducted, but it seemed to be uncaring. She feels her son was a victim of bullying and hazing. Mrs. Knouse, President, requested that an appointment be scheduled with Mrs. Dabrowski and Dr. Strine.

Mr. Gene Yanity of Boiling Springs commented about the message received from Boiling Springs High School about a lock down drill. He expressed concerns about the locking of doors and hoped that the Board would discuss these procedures at the next safety committee meeting.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: Planning/Regular Board Meeting – 2/3/20. The motion was amended, with Mr. Greenbaum make a motion, with a second by Mrs. MacIvor, to approve the revised minutes. The minutes will be revised to include the following:

2020-2021 Calendar:

Mrs. Robb inquired of Dr. Strine whether the proposed calendar with changes was compliant with Act 80. Yes, the calendar is compliant with PDE requirements for Act 80 days. The compensatory day will be moved on the calendar to May 7<sup>th</sup>. The June 7<sup>th</sup> day will be an exchange day for spring conferences.

Curriculum Director Discussion

Mrs. Shaver-Durham was asked why didn't they consider conducting curriculum mapping by the teachers during the summer as it would have been less disruptive and perhaps cheaper whereby Mrs. Shaver-Durham answered that it would have been more expensive. Mrs. Knouse requested a cost analysis, as this is a matter of policy and resources and need this information.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**January 2020**

**Financial Reports**

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills represented by checks 59540 to 59667 in the amount of \$696,164.80

The Board approved payment of Activity Fund bills represented by checks 16265 to 16266 in the amount of \$328.68 as represented in the attached summary.

The Board approved payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by checks 21993 to 22016 in the amount of \$10,416.08 as represented in the attached summary.

The Board approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills represented by checks 7169 to 7170 in the amount of \$84,156.56 as represented in the attached summary.

No checks disbursed from Capital Reserve (PSDLAF) Fund during this time period.

No checks disbursed from Trust Fund bills during this time period.

The Board approved payment of Visa represented by transaction #Visa9264 to #Visa9381 in the amount of \$29791.85 as represented in the attached summary.

The board approved the Treasurer's Report for January 2020.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Comments: Mr. Greenbaum inquired why there were so many individual checks in the athletic fund: The checks were for referees.

Mr. Hartman inquired if the amount included in the cafeteria checks was to pay down any of the cafeteria debt? These amounts do not include payment of cafeteria debt.

Mrs. MacIvor requested an update on collection of unpaid debt by building, each month.

**REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS/OPERATIONS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Eric Gessaman, Student Representative, reported on upcoming events, including the Sadie Hawkins Dance and the Mini-Mini Thon at IFES. State police are in the Boiling Springs area as more student drivers are out and about in the spring. Swimming team is having a successful year and looking forward to participating in the post season. The last bocce competition is on Thursday. The first day of spring sports is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Eric inquired about student participation in committees at the BSHS. Mrs. Knouse will follow-up with Mr. Hain. Dr. Strine reported on the meetings he has scheduled with students from each grade level to obtain their input and to work together on topics of mutual concern/interest. Bathrooms in the upstairs are now open for certain blocks.

Dr. Strine, Superintendent, reported on the voluntary transfer survey that went to all staff, about whether they were interested in moving to other positions or serving in coaching/co-curricular activities, if the positions were available. He also attended a meeting at the Township after the Community Relations Committee where information was shared about the weights of buses on roads and changes to Children's Lake. A meeting was also held with the CAIU to review/discuss a new telephone system. As part of the PLC development, administrative team leaders are observing each other's meetings to gain a better understanding and develop best practices for holding their own meetings. Dr. Strine also reported on meeting with Dr. Bateman of Shippensburg University to develop more co-teaching strategies/resources for special education and regular education teachers.

Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum/Instruction, reported that Mrs. Hale was in the district today for curriculum mapping, another math textbook meeting was held to review books, and she is working with Dr. White on a middle school scheduling committee to review the schedule and develop ways to configure support for all of our students. Soon, a meeting at Mechanicsburg High School has been scheduled to review how they use the software to schedule students and hoping to gain knowledge of placing a greater focus on academics during resource time. Comment: Mr. Hartman inquired about the use/cost of substitutes for curriculum mapping – Mrs. Sellers will provide information through the Curriculum Committee.

Nicole Weber, Director of Business/Operations, reported on the 1:1 coaching session she has with the business staff to communicate and review work, report any concerns and receive feedback on what support is needed. Meetings have been scheduled or held with key administrators to review their budgets for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Training continues with the new business software. Last week was human resources and payroll training and future trainings are scheduled for accounts payable/receivable. Mrs. Weber met with Kathy Harlow of Boyer and Ritter, to review best accounting practices and procedures. This was a good session. Overall, our practices and procedures are good, but this meeting provided guidance and feedback areas to tweak/improve. Mrs. MacIvor asked about the timeline for the business software. There are training sessions scheduled through the remainder of the school year and scheduled to “go live” July 1, 2020.

### **NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS – Jessica White, Supervisor of Special Education**

Mrs. Spisak introduced Mrs. White and provided information about a Resilience film scheduled at the Carlisle Teacher.

Mrs. Jessica White, Supervisor of Special Education, made a presentation to the Board. (see attached) Note: Mr. Hurley’s presentation has been changed to 3/17/20.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

#### **Community Relations Committee – Mr. Hartman**

Mr. Hartman gave an update on the committee meeting that was held on 2/5/20. Next meeting is in March. See attached minutes.

#### **Safety and Security Committee – Mr. Still**

The Safety and Security Committee met on 2/10/20, and an update on the status of the 2020 safety grants was provided. Grant applied for and approved in the fall – it is expected that funds will be received shortly. Funds will go toward a variety of items, including additional radios, and safe crisis management. Additional grant, if approved, will go to offset costs towards a new telephone system. Budgetary items to include/review in the 2020-2021 budget: camera system at Rice, possibility of a social worker. Sporting event security was discussed with the transition from a third-party provider to in-house security staffing. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2020 but may need to meet ahead of that time. Mrs. Rob inquired whether drills were driven by the administration. Mr. Still reported that the State requires fire drills but has not required any other type of security drill (such as lock downs, etc.). However, SMSD has had lock down drills for several years. Mrs. Rob inquired whether we have go-bags – Yes, the bags are ready to go, if needed, with flip charts to quick responses. Mr. Hartman inquired whether substitutes were aware of procedures? – Substitutes are asked to review lesson plans and safety plans. Mr. Still reminded everyone that the job of the Board is to create policies and provide resources.

#### **Athletics and Student Activities – Mr. Greenbaum**

Mr. Greenbaum gave an update on the committee meeting that was held on 2/10/20. He highlighted the list of budget items for athletics, and items for capital improvements. Mid Penn officials’ contract is due this year, and it is anticipated that there will an increase. Discussion at the committee revolved around the cost of scrimmages and tournaments, and ways to juggle those costs. Three policies were review and possibly bring to a vote in May. Mr. Yinger, band director, also attended the meeting and provided updated information about the growth of band and chorus, including the possible need for additional uniforms. Mr. Weary is interested in growing/developing our theater programs. See attached minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the agenda of February 18, 2020, with all corrections as indicated. Mr. Greenbaum noted that agenda item 11.f (short-term professional substitute: Katrina Scavone) – held for Executive Session.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Cumberland-Perry Area Vocational Technical School Budget for 2020-2021**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. MacIvor, that the Board approves the budget for the Cumberland-Perry Vocational Technical School in the amount of \$9,761,884 for the fiscal year 2020-2021 and agrees to its share of \$434,620 as set forth in the Articles of Agreement. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Textbook Purchases - World Language**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Still, that the Board authorizes the Administration to proceed with the purchase of textbooks for French 2 and French 3. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Policy #204 - Attendance - Second Reading**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that Board approves the second reading of Policy #204 - Attendance. Note: This revised policy is effective 7/1/2020. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Track and Turf Project**

Mrs. MacIvor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Still, that the Board approves the scope of work as outlined by Turf, Track and Court. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Personnel - Employment - Short-Term Professional Substitute**

That the Board approves the following short-term professional substitute:

Name: Katrine Scavone

Certification: Emergency Certified

Position: Third Grade Teacher - IFES - Replacing Tammy Snyder

Salary: Bachelor's, Step 1 - \$49,220 (pro-rated)

Starting Date: 2/24/20 for approximately 6 weeks

**For the record: Board did not take action on this item.**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approve the following in a block motion:

### **Discussion:**

Prior to the vote, Mrs. MacIvor inquired whether the salaries for the athletic, extra duty positions reflect what was passed in June 2019, and whether Mr. Hurley had reviewed the schedule and was comfortable with it? - The salaries reflect what was passed in June 2019; Salaries vetted by Mr. Hurley. Mrs. Rob inquired about the extra duty contracts (co-curriculars and mentors) and how amounts were created? Mr. Hartman inquired about the salary structure for coaches. Documents will be provided to the Board that outlines the current extra duty salary structure that was approved in the summer for these items. The athletic salary structure will be reviewed this spring with Mr. Heimbach. Mr. Greenbaum and Mr. Still will continue to review the extra duty structures/salary schedules with the Administration.

**Vote:**

**Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty – Athletics**

The Board employed the following athletic, extra duty personnel:

\*Andrew James - Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach - \$2,100

\*Matthew Johnson - Assistant JV Baseball Coach - \$1,800

\*Mark Galbraith - Assistant Varsity Softball Coach - \$2,100

Dwayne Lawrence - Assist. Jr. High Girls' Soccer Coach - \$1,350

Dwayne Lawrence - Varsity Assist. Girls' Soccer Coach - \$2,250

\*All new employee hires are contingent upon successful completion of all onboarding paperwork.

**Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Co-Curricular**

The Board employed the following extra duty, co-curricular personnel:

Megan Capuano - Scholarships/Awards for Graduation - \$450 - (Replacing Patricia Alichwer)

**Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Mentor Teacher**

The Board employed the following extra duty, mentor teachers:

-Amy Necci - \$128.75 (Erin Krupa - Mentee)

-Michael Bogdan - \$128.75 (Erin Krupa - Mentee)

\*Mentor pay for 1/2 year is being split between the 2 teachers)

**Personnel - Psychologist Intern - 2020-2021 School Year**

The Board approved the following psychologist intern for the 2020-20201 school year:

Name: Charles (Chuck) Emig

Position: Psychologist Intern for 2020-20201

Stipend: \$18,000/yr.

Starting Date: 7/1/2020

\*All paid interns are contingent upon successful completion of all onboarding paperwork.

**Personnel - Employment - Classified**

The Board approved the employment of the following classified personnel:

Name: Julia Eisenhower

Position: Accounts Payable and Purchasing Associate (Replacing Rachel Strayer)

Starting Date: 2/18/20

Salary: \$17.53/hr., 7.5 hrs./day, 251 days/yr.

\*All new employee hires are contingent upon successful completion of all onboarding paperwork.

**Personnel - Job Descriptions**

The Board approved the following job description:

-Building Secretary - Current Salary Range: \$11.55/hr. to \$22.61/hr.

**Personnel - SMEA Unit Clarification**

The Board accepted and approved the Unit Stipulation for the Petition for Unit Clarification as filed by the South Middleton Education Association.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION - None**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Enrollment Report
- Invitation: Annual Induction Ceremony - World Language Department
- Board Calendar for February/March 2020
  - February 2020
  - 2/24/20 - Curriculum/Instruction Committee - 6:00 PM
  - March 2020
  - 3/2/20 - Planning/Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
  - 3/4/20 - Community Relations Committee Meeting - 6:00 PM
  - 3/9/20 - Facilities Committee Meeting - 6:00 PM
  - 3/17/20 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Job Descriptions for Review:
  - Athletic Coach - Stipend - See salary schedule
  - Accounts Receivable and Front Desk Associate - Current salary range: \$15.30/hr. to \$27.65 hr.

**DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION**

Eric Gessaman, Student Representative to the Board, reminded everyone to see a bocce game, which is Thursday at 3:15 PM. Mini-Thon updates will be provided: April 3<sup>rd</sup> is pancake breakfast and bshsminithon.org is website. First in STEAM, Poetry, policy and Public Forum for Debate Club; going to States in March.

Mr. Hartman reminded families that are displaced due to Third Street fire, there are donations at the VFW and a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for assistance to families. He noticed that students are jumping the fence to play on track and turf. Can we unlock stadium at this time? Request to go to Facilities Committee for discussion. Mrs. Rob commented that other districts have good signage to enforce positive use of track and field.

Mrs. Sellers reported that Curriculum Committee is scheduled for 2/24/20. Curriculum mapping discussion is planned and follow-up with the BSHS Planning Guide – to go out tomorrow.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. MacIvor made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

**FOR THE RECORD**

The Board met in Executive Session of discussion purposes only of personnel matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nicole Weber  
Board Secretary

# **South Middleton School District**

School Board Presentation: February 18, 2020

Special Education





# Notices, Communications, & Acknowledgements

- Resilience Film at the Carlisle Theater
  - March 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm
- Impactful Work:
  - Kathy Ryan
  - Building Level Administrative Assistants
  - School Counseling Team
- Meet Jessica White

# Statement of Goals & Background Rationale

Consistent special education processes across South Middleton School District

- Seamless services between buildings
- Legally defensible paperwork
- Least restrictive environment and increased co-teaching
- Career readiness and post-graduation success

# Connecting Goals and Strategies

- Plan Professional Development-collaboration and creating consistent, exemplary practices
- Update special education manual
- Audit special education paperwork

# Major Milestones Ahead

- Increase co-teaching
- More students educated in our district; less out-of-district placements
- New and improved special education manual with annotated forms and exemplars provided to teachers for 20-21 school year
- Evaluation/re-evaluation/IEP calendar

# Evaluation Methods

- LRE percentages
- Increase of in-district vs. out-of-district placements
- Completion of improved special education manual
- Continued auditing of program and paperwork
- Evidence of exemplary teaching practices during walkthroughs and evaluations

# **South Middleton School District**

School Board Presentation: *February 18, 2020*

**Questions or Comments?**

# South Middleton School District Board of Director's

## **Community Relations Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

Date: 5 February 2020

Time: 6:04 PM

a. **Chair person** --- I now open the Community Relations Committee meeting of the South Middleton School District.

b. **Roll Call**

Administration: Dr Strine

Chair Person: Bill Hartman

Others: Dave Boley

c. **Introductions & Recognition:**

Since this was the first of these meetings in such a long time; we set a goal and discussed what we felt we would accomplish at these meetings and who we should involve.

d. **Citizens Participation:**

None

e. **Acceptance of Minutes** (prior meeting)

No prior meeting on file

**f. Topic of Discussion:**

The GOAL for this committee is to renew, rekindle and reshape the relations between the school leaders and the community members, business owners and associations/organizations.

**g. New Business:**

We touched upon this ever so slightly; however I will put together a listing of associations/organizations, community leaders and business owners that we can prioritize and then invite to these meetings to meet and greet, get to know how we can help them and how they can help us, and ultimately create a professional friendship for the betterment of our community.

**h. Citizens Participation:**

none

**i. Announcements & Information:**

none

**j. Adjournment:**

TIME: 6:25 PM and headed for the SM Township meeting where the discussion of construction will be the topic of discussion; both Dr Strine and myself are interested in the weight limit of the dike at Bucher hill; so that the school buses are within the established weight limit and thus are able to travel this road for our pick up and delivery of students.

**k. Next Meeting: 4 March 2020**



## MINUTES

### ATHLETIC & STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 02/10/2020

A meeting of the Athletic & Student Activities Committee was held at the South Middleton School District office at 7:00 p.m. on February 10, 2020.

Members Present: John Greenbaum, William Hartman, Jonathan Still

Members Absent: None

Administration and Staff in Attendance: Joel Hain, Karl Heimbach, Dr. Matthew Strine, Dr. Jesse White, David Yinger

Members of the Public in Attendance: Sophia Bounds

**Athletics:** Mr. Heimbach provided information to the Committee on the following topics:

*Budget:* There are some large ticket items on the athletic department list that will likely be affecting the budget in coming years, including: a new pool scoreboard and timing system (current system has reached the end of its useful life); scoreboards at YBMS; systems to raise and lower baskets and move bleachers at YBMS; replacement of equipment and enhancement of athletic training facilities. Also affecting the budget will be increases in fees for game officials and increases in dues for Mid Penn and District 3. Mr. Heimbach indicated that there is a desire from some teams at YBMS and some parents to participate in more scrimmages and tournaments, but participation in these events can be very costly. The Committee discussed options, such as asking booster clubs or other outside sources pay for some or all of the cost associated with these events. Mr. Heimbach also indicated that having additional transportation resources, such as owned or leased vans, could lower transportation costs when smaller teams or groups participate in athletic events. Ms. Bounds asked that the district provide parents with more options and/or information related to parental transportation of students to and/or from athletic events. Mr. Heimbach informed the Committee that the high school gym is at full capacity during many athletic events and that the District may want to consider options for a larger facility in the future.

*Policy:* Mr. Heimbach asked that the Committee consider enhancing and/or clarifying policies or administrative procedures related to 1) coach hiring; 2) outside conditioning programs, and 3) athletic eligibility (Policy 123.1). The Committee will work with Mr. Heimbach and the Administration on refining policies and procedures in these areas.

*Other:* Mr. Heimbach discussed the advantages of having an “umbrella” booster club for athletic teams in SMSD so that resources, such as purchasing of items for concession stands and staffing concession stands, can be used more effectively. Mr. Heimbach, Dr. Strine, and Mr. Hain indicated that umbrella booster clubs functioned well in districts in which they had previously worked. The Committee expressed interest in consulting and cooperating with existing booster clubs on this idea.

**Music Program:** Mr. Yinger provided information to the Committee related to the music programs available to students. He indicated that participation in the elective music programs had dipped somewhat during a time of staffing transitions, but based on current trends he anticipates strong growth in the band and chorus programs in the coming years. Mr. Yinger informed the Committee that the change in school start times had a small impact on YBMS rehearsal times (was 42 minutes, now 38

minutes), but having rehearsals at the beginning of the day rather than the end has greatly reduced conflicts with athletics/early dismissals and that overall the change has been net positive for the music program. At the high school, rehearsal time has dropped slightly from 80-77 minutes, but having the morning collaboration time for the department has been beneficial.

*Budget/Wish List:* Mr. Yinger indicated that items that may affect the budget in coming years are: 1) purchase/lease of new musical instruments; 2) replacement of band uniforms; 3) possible expansion of use of technology in the music program; 4) possible expansion of music department offerings to students. Mr. Yinger reported that Mr. Weary, director of the choral program, is very interested in musical theatre and will likely be active in supporting that student activity in the coming years.

## Music Dept. Report to School Board Student Activities/Athletics Committee 2/10/20

### Band Participation Trends

Band lessons begin in 4th grade

Average: 80 students begin lessons in September

40 students still playing in June

Approximately 50% of student body begins playing an instrument in 4th grade

Retention rate is approximately 50% by end of 4th grade

Usually a handful of students drop over the summer, start 5th grade with approximately 35 students.

School Year	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21 (proj)
5th Grade	32	23	39	34	45
6th Grade	34	33	25	37	30
7th Grade	24	29	33	24	35
8th Grade	27	24	25	29	22
9th Grade	10	15	22	20	25
10th Grade	18	12	14	20	19
11th Grade	27	16	9	12	20
12th Grade	21	24	17	9	12

Notable:

1. 17-18 5th grade has significantly lower numbers. Mr. Yinger's 2nd child was born October 2016 just as these students' 4th grade lessons were beginning. Missed time at work likely caused the lower number of that year's beginner retention to 5th grade.
2. Drop of 12 students from 16-17 8th grade to 17-18 9th grade. Probably due to the change of YBMS band director to start that year. We had a long-term sub while Mr. Roach was being held at his previous position, he didn't begin until November. Also, the students had a poor experience with the prior director during their 6th and 7th grade years.
3. 16-17 9th grade class is significantly smaller, all the way through. I believe it is due to this group having 4 different band teachers from 4th-9th grade, and their middle school teacher (who left SMSD in 2016) drove many students away from the band program.
4. **19-20 High School band has 61 students. Projection for 2020-21 is 76. Long-range projection for 2021-22 is 85.**
5. YBMS Band Director Jason Roach has been highly successful at retaining and developing the students in the band program. He has revitalized the middle school jazz band program, and seen a dramatic increase in participation and quality.

## Music Dept. Report to School Board Student Activities/Athletics Committee 2/10/20

### Choral Participation Trends

Chorus membership begins in 5th grade, usually involving 80-90 students.

Approximately 50% of 5th grade students are involved in chorus.

Average 40% drop between 5th-6th grade

School Year	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
6th Grade Chorus	49	38	48	53
7th & 8th Grade Chorus	46	34	41	42
HS Chorus		48	43	39

Choral retention/recruitment at the middle school level is a priority. 5th grade chorus participation is usually 80-90 students, and many drop going to 6th grade. Mr. Weary plans to visit Iron Forge and meet the 5th grade chorus members, and is planning activities with the 5th grade chorus to help bridge that gap. Our hope is that increased participation at the middle school level will lead to similar results down the line at the high school level.

Mr. Weary's active involvement and direction of the musical theatre program at the high school is already helping to incorporate the theatre program into the music program. This provides another musical outlet for students in the chorus program to be involved with and should have a positive impact on retention in the chorus program. **(see more on page 6)**

Overall - one concern (which is unavoidable with the YBMS schedule structured as it has been and currently is) is that with band/chorus happening during flex, students are giving up that flex time to participate.

\*\*\* "Not having time to do homework during flex" is the number 1 reason students give for dropping band or chorus in middle school. \*\*\*

## Music Dept. Report to School Board Student Activities/Athletics Committee 2/10/20

**How changes to start times and student resource periods at the schools may have positively or negatively affected our work with students**

### **YBMS**

1. Decrease of 4 minutes per rehearsal - the band/chorus period is now 38 mins rather than 42 mins (previously).
2. Rehearsal at the beginning of the day rather than the end of the day has **greatly reduced conflicts with athletics/early dismissals**.
  - a. Leads to more effective rehearsals with the full group present
  - b. Able to increase jazz band and chorus sectional rehearsal time per cycle without taking away from other ensembles.
  - c. Less hassle dealing with busses/traffic while practicing parade marching outside.

\*\*\* Overall, we feel the start time and schedule changes have been positive for the YBMS band and chorus. While the negative aspect of less rehearsal time is significant, having the ensembles able to consistently rehearse with the full complement of members has been beneficial. \*\*\*

### **BSHS**

1. The overall impact of the start time/schedule change on the high school band and chorus has been negligible. The rehearsal time has dropped from 80-77 minutes and resource has dropped from 45-40 minutes. We've still been able to get done what we need, and the morning faculty collaboration/meeting time has been beneficial for music department/team planning across the buildings/grade levels.

## **Music Dept. Report to School Board Student Activities/Athletics Committee 2/10/20**

### **Future directions, programs or wish lists we have for the music program**

#### **YBMS**

1. Percussion instruments - We currently don't have some of the instruments required for the demands of the music. Students get minimal opportunities to play them at the high school during the rehearsals that lead up to the concert, but that isn't enough. We are in need of 2 more Timpani (1 in the proposed 2020-21 budget) as well as a Vibraphone and Chimes. The High School Band Student Activities Fund recently purchased a used marimba for the YBMS band. Also (over the past few years), as the HS Band has purchased new percussion instruments, the YBMS band has received "hand me downs" which ends up filling some of the gaps.
2. Music stands for use in choral rehearsals
3. The Yamaha MIE keyboard lab purchased in 2000 for use in the general music classroom is in need of replacement. The software is outdated and unable to be used with the current technology in place. (**\*see #3-b in BSHS - page 5**)

#### **BSHS**

1. Band uniforms were last purchased in 2010. For the most part they are holding up well but are beginning to show their age with fabric wear, zipper/button wear and some structural failings. Many of these issues have been addressed and repaired by our band parent uniform committee, however some uniform pieces have been taken out of circulation. I expect these issues to increase in frequency as the uniforms approach 15 years of use. I anticipate there will be a need to purchase new uniforms by 2025. My plan for when that happens is to buy exactly the same uniforms so that they can be used along with any current uniform pieces that are still in usable condition.
2. Many of the school-owned marching band instruments (sousaphones, baritones, mellophones,) were purchased in the 1970-80s and continue to age. Marching percussion is 10 years old, and continuing to age. We keep these instruments in playing condition with annual repairs and upkeep, but budget allowances will eventually need to be made to replace them. This has begun to be addressed in the proposed 2020-21 budget with proposed increases to allow for purchasing some instruments. We've also explored "lease to own" programs with Menchey Music where we get all the instruments up front and pay a set 5-year payment plan - this is a possibility as well.

(continued)

## Music Dept. Report to School Board Student Activities/Athletics Committee 2/10/20

3. There is currently no offering for a music technology elective at the high school, nor is there a facility or software/equipment for it. This is something that most schools in our area offer. A music tech lab and course offerings can be a vehicle to reach students who are not currently in the music (band/chorus) program, as well as to enrich the music education of those students already part of the program. The technology opportunities for music theory, creation and production are virtually unlimited, and students going to college for music are being short-changed by not having access to this type of opportunity in high school. We would like to research options for a music tech class and lab as well as the software and equipment necessary for implementation at BSHS. Our goal is to have this offered as a class for the 21-22 school year. We would like to set up a visit at Cumberland Valley, where new equipment was recently purchased and is currently in use for music tech classes.
  - a. One solution for a space and computers to make this happen is sharing space with the BSHS graphic arts/technology lab. Some iMacs are already in place, but additional software and equipment purchase would be necessary. This could present scheduling challenges but we believe that could be overcome with communication, collaboration and planning.
  - b. Ideally, the YBMS 8th grade general music classes would have a similar set up, to include introductory music tech instruction and exposure, giving them a taste of what they could do at the high school level.
4. Time for individual vocal lessons/instruction (pull-out program - similar to how band lessons work). Mr. Weary currently spends the majority of his time at YBMS, and is only at BSHS for a portion of Days 2-4-6. During that time, he has chorus rehearsal and a music elective. **There is little to no time during the school day for high school students to receive individual vocal instruction or practice.**
  - a. Addressing this would require adding a part-time music position to cover the music classes at YBMS. This was in place from 2000-2012 before that part time position was eliminated. Adding a part time position would greatly increase the flexibility of music instruction to our students district-wide.
5. Currently we offer 1 HS music elective per semester. Being able to offer more classes that reach the other 80% of the student body who are not band or chorus members, but may be interested in music technology, music theory, theatre, etc...should be a priority. We need to reach those students in a way that also goes with 21st Century learning skills of collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.
  - a. Addressing this would require adding a part-time music position to cover the music classes at YBMS. This was in place from 2000-2012 before that part time position was eliminated. Adding a part time position would greatly increase the flexibility of music instruction to our students district-wide.

## **Music Dept. Report to School Board Student Activities/Athletics Committee 2/10/20**

### **Any other topic we would like to bring to the board's attention**

#### **Theatre Program**

Mr. Weary has taken the reins of the musical theatre program, and has extensive experience and knowledge in this area. We see this as a spot with tremendous potential for growth and expansion in our school community. Combining our music and theatre departments under the same “umbrella” will provide an outlet for students to sing, dance, act, learn technical theater skills and should provide numerous opportunities for our kids to shine on stage. We’ve added a Theatre Arts curriculum and course offering to the 2020-21 course planning guide. Mr. Weary plans to do a large musical each spring, a middle school musical in the fall, and a high school play later in the fall.

1. Auditorium Lights - what is the timeline for replacement? This has huge implications as far as show scheduling and costs are concerned. A significant amount of money is spent every year renting lights, and the middle school musical is done back to back in the spring with the high school musical, so the light rental is 2 shows in 1. If we had our own in-house lights, these could be scheduled at our leisure, and would take the pressure off of having 2 shows back to back.
  - a. Ideally - the lights above the stage should be on an electronic pulley system, so they can be brought down to stage level for maintenance and redirection without the need for a lift. Mr. Weary would be happy to meet about system requirements or specifics of this potential auditorium lighting replacement.