

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 4, 2020**

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom (virtual meeting) on May 4, 2020. The President, Mrs. Knouse, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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

Mrs. Elizabeth Knouse

Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz

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

Dr. Jesse White – Principal - YBMS

Kimberly Spisak – Director of Student Services

Nicole Weber – Director of Business/Operations

**Student Representatives**

Gibran Varahrami - Absent

Eric Gessaman

**Visitors**

**Board Secretary**

Nicole Weber

**Solicitor**

Gareth Pahowka

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION**

Dr. Strine recognized and thanked Cindy Bailey and Kristi Elder, co-advisors for the 2020 senior class, for arranging and delivering yard signs to the seniors, for coordinating senior meetings to plan for graduation activities, and all their assistance in recognizing the seniors of Boiling Springs High School. He also thanked and recognized Daryl Betts, groundskeeper, for the display on the stadium field, honoring the seniors.

Mrs. Knouse reviewed the logistics of the virtual meeting, and she announced that after review with the District Solicitor, that each board item does not need to be a roll call vote. Therefore, she would call for a unanimous roll call vote on most items. Items would only have a roll call vote, if needed.

## **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Knouse announced that members of the public that are participating in the meeting can email comments during the meeting to: [smsdschoolboardcomment@smsd.us](mailto:smsdschoolboardcomment@smsd.us). Comments will be addressed during the second citizens participation at the end of the meeting.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting:

-Regular Board Meeting – 4/20/20

**On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, with correction as outlined below.**

\*Note for correction to minutes: The motion passed unanimously, with the addition to the minutes of 4/20/20 that Mrs. MacIvor inquired whether all items for approval were within budget line codes and that there were no budget transfers more than \$10,000. This was confirmed as correct.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Still, that the Board approves the following financials:

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills represented by checks 59934 to checks 59977 in the amount of \$223,600.74, as represented in the attached summary.

The Board approved payment of Activity Fund bills represented by checks 16291 to 16324 in the amount of \$4,104.00 as represented in the attached summary.

The Board approved payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22044 in the amount of \$5,235.00 as represented in the attached summary.

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

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

The Board approved payment of Trust Fund bills represented by check 16325 in the amount of \$314.61 as represented by the attached summary.

\*Mrs. MacIvor confirmed that the approved financials were within approved budget line items, and no budget transfers exceeded \$10,000. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Strine, Superintendent, reported that the administration has been working hard on setting up remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The administrators are now starting to concentrate on summer plans, preparing for the upcoming school year, developing a plan for teachers and parents to pick up belongs that are in the schools, evaluation of staff, and preparing a graduation speech.

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham reviewed the continuity of education plan and reported that ESL students in SMSD are above the reported data measurements. Mr. Boley wanted to acknowledge his staff's hard work with remote learning. The biggest challenge has been missing the students and the hands-on learning. Mr. White reported that YBMS has been working with the staff on new learning/teaching strategies, as well as the guidance counselors are scheduling virtual meetings with students and the student council. Mr. Hain reports that remote learning is going well, and the department chairs have been a big asset in helping this process. Mrs. Reed reports that the participation rate is over 90% for the students in remote learning, and students are enjoying the Monday zoom meetings.

Mr. Hartman inquired about the various platforms that are being used. There are discussions to move forward in the future with one platform. Mrs. Sellers liked that there will be a survey for faculty and parents/students to provide feedback about remote learning, in the event that we need to use this in the future.

Mrs. Kim Spisak reported that May 6<sup>th</sup> is School Nurses' Day. The Student Services Department has been working on the re-entry/reopening plans for school, credit recovery, evaluation of students with special needs, and extended school year needs. Kindergarten registrations for the 2020-2021 school year are being done remotely, and work is being done for course codes for the 2020-2021 school year for PIMS. Discussions of health service and guidance needs for next year are also being held, along with reviewing special education placements for next year. Inquiry made regarding virus screenings and Mrs. Spisak confirmed that this is part of the discussions.

Eric Gessaman, Student Representative to the Board, reported on the meetings held with the senior class advisors to plan for upcoming senior activities. He also commented on the yard signs that were delivered to all seniors and that the administration and advisors are working hard to improve communication and provide updates regarding planned end-of-year activities for seniors.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Dr. Strine reported that renovation work on the stadium project is scheduled to begin on Wednesday. He reminded everyone that the stadium is closed to the public. The internal fencing will be repurposed.

**TOPIC DISCUSSION – None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – None**

Mrs. Knouse commented that she urged the committee chairs to begin to resume the committee meetings (virtually) as already established on the board calendar.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of Monday, May 4, 2020, with all corrections as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Herff Jones Agreement - Virtual Graduation for 2020**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agreement between the South Middleton School District and Herff Jones to provide a virtual commencement for 2020. Contract amount: \$5,000.00 **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Remove From the Table - Transportation Contract - Rohrer Bus Services**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the motion to remove from the table, the transportation contract between South Middleton School District and Rohrer Bus Services. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Transportation Contract - Rohrer Bus Services**

Discussion prior to vote: Mr. Greenbaum requested outline for changes in contract (% of payment and minimum number of school days were revised). Mrs. MacIvor inquired whether we are able to participate in the reduced costs? Yes, see 28 (b) of contract. This percentage does not include driver wages.

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the contract between South Middleton School District and Rohrer Bus Services to provide transportation services, beginning July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

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

### **Personnel - Professional - Resignation**

The Board accepted the resignation of Cory Mengel, emotional support teacher at the BSHS, effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Personnel - Employment - Professional**

The Board employed the following professional personnel for the 2020-2021 school year:

Name: Elizabeth Anderson

Position: Music Teacher - IFES (Replacing DeLeigh Wilson)

Certification: - Pending PA Certification in Music

Salary: Bachelor's Step 1, \$49, 220 (based on the current SMEA agreement)

Starting Date: Beginning of the 2020-2021 school year

\*Employment is contingent upon completion of all onboarding documentation.

### **Personnel - Remove From the Table - Payment of Stipend**

The Board removed from the table the motion to approve a one-time stipend for Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham, Mrs. Kim Spisak and Mrs. Nicole Weber.

### **Personnel - Payment of Stipend**

The Superintendent recommended that Melanie Shaver-Durham, Nicole Weber, and Kimberly Spisak receive a stipend for the assumption of duties and responsibilities of the Superintendent outside the scope of their normal job functions for the period of March 6, 2020, through March 13, 2020, in which they worked extended hours.

**The block motion passed unanimously.**

**Resolution - \$12,500,000 Obligation Bonds - Series 2020**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz that the Board approves the resolution of the South Middleton School District authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2020, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$12,500,000.

Discussion prior to vote: Mr. Hovis commented that cannot go out to market until we receive \$100,000. Mrs. Rob raised question whether this was net, and yes, this would be net. Mrs. MacIvor asked a question regarding under 10 million, and the threshold is listed in paragraph 14, on page 23.

**On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**PLANNING/DISCUSSION: Regular Board Meeting: May 18, 2020**

The following items were presented for discussion purposes only:

**Adoption of the Proposed Final Budget: SMSD - 2020-2021 School Year**

**Resolution Authorizing Proposed Final Budget**

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the South Middleton School District, as follows:

- The proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2020-2021 fiscal year on form PDE 2028 as presented to the School Board shall be considered the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and shall be made available for public inspection after this date.
- At least ten (10) days before the date scheduled for adoption of the Final Budget, the Secretary shall advertise Final Budget Notice in substantially the form as presented to the School Board. The Notice shall be advertised once in a newspaper of general circulation and shall be posted conspicuously at the District offices.

Please send questions regarding the proposed budget to Dr. Strine. Budget workshop is scheduled for May 7, 2020.

**Chartwells Food Service Management Company - Renewal of Contract**

That the Board authorizes the Administration to proceed with the renewal of Year 3 of 5 to contract with Chartwells, and to submit the appropriate documentation to the PA Department of Education.

Comment regarding ala carte items and how Chartwells can help with debt.

**Therabilities Agreement - 2020-2021**

That the Board approves the agreement between South Middleton School District and Therabilities to provide physical therapy, occupational and speech therapy services for the 2020-2021 school year.

Comment regarding looking at other providers for these services.

**Trails Agreement - 2020-2021**

That the Board approves the agreement between South Middleton School District and the Yellow Breeches Educational Center to provide Trails services for the 2020-2021 school year.

Program explained regarding providing services to our special education students in developing good life skills for these students. This experience provides learning in the classroom and an outdoor experience.

**Personnel - Employment - ESY (Extended School Year) for 2020**

That the Board approves the employment of the following professional and paraprofessional staff members to provide extended school year (ESY) services for the summer of 2020.

Comment about name 2 names listed twice – correction made.

**Personnel - Professional Resignation**

Victoria Flanagan - IFES

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Dean Clepper had two comments. He asked for an update on the negative lunch account balances. The accounts still have a negative balance, and letters have recently been sent to vendors asking for donations to reduce the balance. He also inquired as to the impact of retirees due to the pandemic. There is no impact. All school employees are paid their regular salary as there was no pandemic. Retirement not impacted.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Cumberland-Perry AVTS – Mr. Greenbaum**

The vo-tech reports a 96% participation rate in remote learning. Thanked the Board for approving the 20-21 budget.

**PSBA Legislative Representative – Mr. Still**

Mr. Still commented that there is a legislative proposal to freeze real estate taxes. There is a belief out there that due to the pandemic school districts are saving money. Not true, as school districts are still paying salaries/benefits, meeting contractual obligations, and there is uncertainty about the collection of taxes in the future as well as unknown expenditures due to the pandemic.

**South Middleton Township Liaison – Mrs. Knouse**

Need to meet with township to review facilities usage for the summer and working with the township on some surprises for celebrating the seniors.

**Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15 – Mrs. Knouse**

No Report

**Bubblor Foundation – Mrs. Meikrantz**

Mrs. Meikrantz commented that the annual dinner has been cancelled. A meeting is scheduled for this Thursday and will be working on ways to creatively fundraise.

**South Middleton Parks & Recreation – Mr. Greenbaum**

No Report

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Enrollment Report

-May Board Meeting Calendar:

-Community Relations Committee - Cancelled for - 5/6/20 - 6:00 pm

-Budget Workshop - 5/6/20 - 6:00 pm

-Safety/Security Committee - 5/11/20 - 6:00 pm  
-Athletic Committee - 5/11/20- 7:00 pm  
-Regular Board Meeting - 5/18/20 - 7:00 pm  
**-Curriculum/Instruction Committee - 5/26/20 - 6:00 pm**

### **DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Sellers thanked everyone for having discussions and learning from others during the board meetings.

Mr. Still thanked everyone who assisted with the Light the Night efforts.

Mr. Hartman commented about promoting the free and reduced lunch program to all families. Due to higher unemployment rates and the circumstances surrounding the pandemic, there may be a great need for this program. Proud to be involved with the Alumni Association and the efforts to support our graduating seniors.

### **FOR THE RECORD**

The Board will adjourn the regular meeting at this time and hold an Executive Session for discussion purposes only of negotiations.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nicole Weber  
Board Secretary