

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2020

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. Some members of the Board and administration were present in the Board Room of the District Office on August 3, 2020. All members of the public were able to view the meeting via Zoom or livestreamed via YouTube. The President, Mrs. Knouse, called the meeting to order at 7:05 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

Zachary Gump – Supervisor of Buildings/Grounds

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami - Absent

Visitors

Board Secretary

Nicole Weber

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION – None

FOR THE RECORD

Mrs. Knouse announced that prior to this evenings public meeting, the Board held an executive session for discussion purposes only of the following: personnel and negotiation matters.

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. Comments will be addressed during the second citizens participation at the end of the meeting. This meeting is a rehearsal for holding the meeting at the District Office. Some members of the school board are in the board room, along with Dr. Strine, to participate in the meeting. Other members of the Board will join the meeting via Zoom. Members of the public can view the meeting via YouTube or via Zoom. If a member of the public would like to speak during the citizen participation portion of the meeting, please indicate to Dr. White, who is running the zoom meeting, that you would like to speak, by giving a “thumbs up emoji”. This will indicate that you would like to comment. Comments have also been sent via smsschoolboardcomment@smsd.us email address and will be read during the meeting.

Mrs. Knouse read emails from the public that were submitted:

Mrs. Hancock inquired who ultimately decides the reopening plan? Dr. Strine replied that the administration works closely with the PA Department of Education and the Department of Health, the county and establishes reopening plans based on their guidance and recommendations. She also inquired as to who determines if schools will be closed due to a COVID outbreak? Again, the administration would work closely with the various agencies to determine a closure recommendation. Mrs. Hancock also asked if board member votes recorded? Yes, the main purpose of the minutes is to record the votes on actions taken by the Board. Votes are recorded in the minutes.

Mr. Yanity had the following questions:

What would coordinator of health services position entail?

Coordinator of Health Services – This extra duty position is new and will be funded using ESSERS grant. The job description is in process, and the position will have the responsibilities of COVID-19 response, employee wellness, liaison with Department of Health and District Physician. The position will be reviewed periodically to confirm responsibilities are still needed.

Reopening Plan – K-5 – In-person instruction every day
6-12 – Student in district – every other day

Students are dismissed at 2:15 pm. What is being removed?
YBMS – shorter periods
BSHS – resource and shorter periods

Mrs. Bounds had the following questions:

Would we consider grades 6-12 – 5-days per week?
This is our goal – to return to “normal.” Will be monitored.

Why do classroom doors need to be closed?

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Practice changing to reduce touch points.

What about vo-tech students?

AB/AB schedule – vo-tech students can come to BSHS – will work with schedule.

Upgrading history curriculum – Looking to partner with a consultant to address diversity and racial issues. Social studies is scheduled for curriculum mapping in the second half of the year.

Mr. Horner had the following question:

Will families with more than 1 secondary student attend school on same day?

Yes, students in same families that are at the secondary level would all attend school on the same days.

Mrs. Watson inquired about whether dress code could be amended so staff could wear scrubs?

Will look at options and try to mitigate any risks.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

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

-Regular Board Meeting – 7/13/20

The motion passed unanimously.

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 30300 to checks 60331 in the amount of \$781,297.37 as represented in the attached summary.

No checks disbursed from Activity Fund bills during this time.

The Board approved payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22100 in the amount of \$270.00 as represented in the attached summary.

The Board approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills represented by check 7225 to check 7226 in the amount of \$62,257.27 as represented in the attached summary.

The Board approved payment of Construction Fund bills represented by check 1275 in the amount of \$203,952.92 as represented in the attached summary.

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Strine reported that the district is working on improving diversity and racial learning lessons for all students and is currently interviewing two consultants to assist with this task. He also talked about using the alternative calendar that was approved in May 2020. Pushing back the first student day would allow for more preparations for the reopening plan. The first student day will be September 8, 2020. This will provide for more time to develop cleaning protocols. Also, some in-service days will be moved to before school starts. This will allow for in-service/training for teachers prior to the reopening of schools.

In the reopening plan, students are permitted to remove masks, if six feet apart is maintained? This is following CDC guidelines. How will students make up school? Using the LMS to put out student assignments while at home. Will there be a notification system to inform parents of COVID cases? Yes.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham spoke about the fully remote learning plan. This plan was created if all schools must be closed. The reopening plan, when school begins, is for K-5 students to attend in-person school, five days per week. Grades 6-12 will attend every other day.

What about livestreaming? This plan was not developed for several reasons, including 1-way communication with students and the spring parent survey showed that parents want synchronous and in-person learning. Teachers cannot be effective in both remote and in-person. Livestreaming requires more manpower and equipment.

The fully remote model will have daily synchronous on a A/B/A/B schedule with Fridays as a morning meeting. Teachers will receive training with the professional development days pushed to the beginning of the school year.

Will there be a delay between blended learning and fully remote learning, if we need to transition to fully remote? No, students will have devices and can transition right to fully remote. Curriculum alignment? This is part of the five day professional development plan, but the administration is creating a framework.

What about intervention? K-5 students pulled from classroom and meet with intervention specialist or via zoom, if remote. Grading? The creation of grading protocols for each building has been accomplished via building level task forces.

Mrs. Meikrantz commented that she was disappointed that no livestreaming platform had been considered for those that did not want to send their children in-person. The only options are in-person, the CAOLA program or an out-of-district cyber school program. Would like to see livestreaming platform. During the spring, videos of our teachers was not the problem, but rather the videos of other academies or programs that students were provided to use. Would like consider livestreaming.

Mrs. Weber, Director of Business & Operations, reported that the financial reports look a little different this evening due to the new business software. She also reported that the earned income tax collected for 2019-2020 – collections were not significantly impacted due to COVID. She also reviewed preparations for transportation routes are under way for the upcoming school year as well as the food service department is preparing for the return of students.

Mrs. Spisak, Director of Student Services, reported that Angie Edwards is working hard to register and provide information to parents and students about the Bubbler Cyber Academy. This is not a new program – it has just been renamed. She also spoke about the updates provided on the

district's website regarding the reopening plan. She also spoke about a decision-making matrix to help administration in the event that there is a need for students and/or staff to quarantine. There will be time allotted to reteach, tutor, and review, if students miss time due to quarantine. Face covering protocols are going to be reviewed and outlined in an addendum to the student and employee handbooks.

She also reviewed that the health suites in the schools will include space for quarantine, until a parent is able to pick up the student. The student attendance requirement for the 2020-2021 school year is 180 days, even if there is remote learning. If, at some time, the district needs to move to a fully remote school plan, the district will be prepared to have students transfer to the Cyber Bubbler Academy.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that he would like to see the possibility of an ABABX schedule and helps prepare for the likelihood of remote learning and matches the vo-tech.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

TOPIC DISCUSSION – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of August 3, 2020, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Bus Transportation and Routes for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the transportation routes and bus stops for the 2020-2021 school year and authorizes the Superintendent and the Director of Business/Operations to make necessary changes to these routes and bus stops during the school year.

Bus Drivers

The Board approved the list of school bus/van drivers for the 2020-2021 school year.

Personnel - Professional - Resignation

The Board accepted the resignation of Christa Souder from the position of fifth grade teacher at Iron Forge Elementary School, effective July 16, 2020.

Personnel - Resignation - Extra Duty

The Board accepted the resignation of Amy Lanoue from the position of Assistant Jr. High Track Coach, effective immediately.

Personnel - Professional - Employment

The Board approved the employment of the following professionals for the 2020-2021 school year:

Name: Lydia Frohm

Certification: Elementary, PK-4, Special Education K-8

Position: Rice Learning Support Teacher (Reallocated from BSHS special education position)

Salary: Bachelor's, Step 3 - \$49,974

Starting Date: Beginning of the 2020-2021 school year

Name: Bethany Lepley

Position: Iron Forge Learning Support Teacher (replacing Nicole Johnson)

Salary: Master's, Step 10 - \$57,758

Certification: Elementary and Special Education

Starting Date: Beginning of the 2020-2021 school year

Name: Michelle Dwinnells

Position: Iron Forge 4th grade teacher (reallocation from secondary creative arts (Dakota Miller)

Salary: Master's, Step 14 - \$64,615

Certification: PA Certification K-4 - Elementary

Starting Date: Beginning of the 2020-2021 school year

Personnel - Employment - Long-Term Professional Substitute

The Board approved the employment of the following long-term professional substitutes:

Name: Sydney Trimmer

Position: Iron Forge Elementary Emotional Support Teacher (replacing Tina Mohler)

Certification: Special Education - Emergency Certification

Starting Date: Beginning of 2020-2021 school year through end of the school year

Salary: Bachelor's, Step 1 - \$49,220

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Department Chairs

The Board employed the extra duty, Department Chairs for the 2020-2021 school year:

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Athletic Coaches

The Board employed the extra duty, athletic coaches for the 2020-2021 school year.

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Detention Monitors

The Board employed the following detention monitors for the 2020-2021 school year @ \$22.00/hr.

BSHS

Amanda Doeblar

Kristi Elder

Michael Freese

Stephen Lockhart

Carrie Miller

W. David Shields

Christopher Storrick

YBMS

Allyson Chiavacci

Brandon Deitch

Angela Doland

Kristine Kline

Susan Reutter

Personnel - Classified - Change in Status

The Board approved to increase the number of working days per school year for the position of Full-Time Transportation Secretary. The increase is from a 214 day employee to a 251 day employee, retroactive to July 1, 2020. Robin Biggs is employed in this position.

Personnel - Classified - Crossing Guards/School Police for 2020-2021

The Board approved the employment of the crossing guards/school police for the 2020-2021 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Personnel - Coordinator of Health Services Position for 2020-2021

That the Board approves the creation of a new extra duty position of Coordinator of Health Services for the 2020-2021 school year. This position will be funded through grant money. Stipend: \$15,000

Prior to the vote, Dr. Strine outlined the extra duty responsibilities. This is an extra duty position, and the employee would help with the COVID-19 considerations, supporting the students and staff, would serve as a liaison to the PA Department Health, PA Department of Education, CDC, the county health department, and the school physician. For the 2020-2021 school year, this would be funded through the ESSERS grant, and there would be review throughout the year for the continuation of the position. Mr. Greenbaum proposed that the original motion be amended, that this stipend would be paid on a monthly basis, as needed. Mrs. Knavel accepted the amendment to the motion. **On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, as amended.**

PLANNING/DISCUSSION: Regular Board Meeting: August 17, 2020

The following items were presented for discussion purposes only:

PSBA Delegates

That the Board appoints _____ and _____ as PSBA Voting Delegates for the PSBA Legislative Platform, scheduled for November 7, 2020, at the Mountain View Middle School in Cumberland Valley School District or via Zoom.

Student Representative to the Board for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Personnel Items:

- 5th Grade Elementary Teacher (replacing Christa Souder)
- Two to up to Six Temporary Professional Employees – Elementary – As per previous meeting, these employees will be approved in advance of actually starting to work for the district.
- Jr. High Track Coach - (replacing Amy Lanoue)
- Mentor Teachers for new professional employees
- Extra Duty - Co-curricular for 2020-2021
- Winter/Spring Coaches for 2020-2021

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Question from Mrs. Isch:

Are there plans for a kindergarten preview day? Yes, looking into a preview day for kindergarten and new students, as well as students transitioning to new buildings. There will be recess but may look different – want to get students outside and move, but will not be using playground equipment.

Mr. Yanity applauded the change in start date to 9/8/20.

Mrs. Christensen – Will fall sports/band be pushed back? Yes, but no definitive timeline yet. There will be a delay in the start of athletics and band.

Mrs. Bennet – Why isn't this board meeting in-person? This meeting was a trial run at livestreaming as well as having some board members in the board room to practice with the sound and livestreaming at the same time.

District working through how students at home will get back to school for extra-curricular activities.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cumberland-Perry AVTS – Mr. Greenbaum

Mr. Greenbaum commented that the reopening plan is complicated and would like the scheduled to align with vo-tech.

PSBA Legislative Representative – Mr. Still

Mr. Still commented on the resolution that passed regarding granting authority to boards to extend the time for payment of taxes.

South Middleton Township Liaison – Mrs. Knouse

No Report

Bubbler Foundation – Mrs. Meikrantz

No Report

South Middleton Parks & Recreation – Mr. Greenbaum

No Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Board Calendar for August/September 2020

Board Meetings - August/September 2020

August 10, 2020 - Safety & Security Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

August 17, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

August 24, 2020 - Facilities Committee - 6:00 p.m.

August 31, 2020 - Curriculum and Instruction Committee - 6:00 p.m.

September 2, 2020 - Community Relations Committee - 6:00 p.m.

September 8, 2020 - Planning/Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday)

September 14, 2020 - Athletic Committee - 6:00 p.m.

September 21, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Tenure - The following have achieved tenure as of the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Boiling Springs High School

Lauren Bozart - Social Studies

Angela Mentzer - Certified School Nurse

Marli Stephens - Mathematics

Yellow Breeches Middle School

Payge Goodling - Art

Iron Forge Elementary School

Kortney Showers - Elementary

Amanda Wain - Elementary

Rice Elementary School

Lauren Cross - Elementary

Candice Delcamp - Elementary

Jennie Fralish - Elementary

Brittany Staab - Elementary

Jessica Willhide – Elementary

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

A thank you to the community, parents, and staff during this time of making reopening plans due to the pandemic. Everyone is nervous and wants the students and staff to be safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. MacIvor, to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Weber
Board Secretary