

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2020

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom on September 8, 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 7:00 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

Mrs. Denise MacIvor
Mrs. Edith Rob - Absent
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
Ajla Salkic

Visitors

Board Secretary

Nicole Weber

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Strine, Superintendent, and Mrs. Knouse, Board President, introduced and welcomed the new student representative to the Board, Ajla Salkic.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION - None

Mrs. Knouse announced that she would take comments during the second citizens participation section on the agenda, and if you would like to comment, you can indicate via zoom a hand raise that you would like to speak or email the Board.

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 – 8/17/20

The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills represented by check 60372 to check 60415 in the amount of \$259,379.04.

The Board approved payment of Activity Fund bills represented by check 16655 in the amount of \$1,115.00.

The Board approved payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22117 to check 22119 in the amount of \$6,505.04.

The Board approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills represented by check 7227 to check 7228 in the amount of \$66,696.45.

The Board approved payment of Construction Fund bills represented by check 1276 to check 1277 in the amount of \$517,302.00.

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

The Board approved approves payment of Trust Fund bills represented by check 16651 to check 16654 in the amount of \$2,000.00.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Strine commented on success of the first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year which was today. He said there were some things such as transportation and charging of lunches that ran into some glitches, but overall, the day went smoothly. Students/staff were practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and practicing good hygiene. He thanked the Board for their support of hiring extra teachers at the elementary level to support these efforts, and he thanked the bus drivers for their unwavering efforts to transport South Middleton School District students and returning to their positions, despite the current pandemic.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum/Instruction also reported on her experiences with the first day of school. She started at Rice, and all the staff was welcoming and happy to return, greeting the students and creating a safe, welcoming environment for the first day of school.

She also reviewed the items she has been working on the past few weeks, including a meeting with department chairs to continue the professional learning activities, despite the interruption of COVID-19, interviewed for elementary teaching positions, participated in the in-service days prior to the start of school as well as the new teacher induction program. She also had a meeting with the technology department, met with administrators regarding grading procedures for the year, and working on the dispositions committee for diversity and equality.

Mrs. Spisak, Director of Student Services, reported that the first day was successful. Everyone was working hard to welcome back students and many staff members pitched in to create a successful first day. Mr. Yinger provided a video band clip to welcome everyone, since the band did not play during the in-service days. A big thank you to Mrs. Edwards, who was tirelessly registering and assisting students with the Bubbler Cyber Academy. She also spoke about Mrs. White working to assist with the recoupment of services/w for special education students and that the Bubbler Connection camp was also well received. She also commented on the updates to student handbooks regarding COVID-related procedures for the 2020-2021 school year. This addendum will be added to the handbooks.

Mrs. Weber reported that the new phone system has been installed in coordination with the CAIU. All classrooms have telephones. She also reported attending meetings to work on livestreaming of athletic events, and she commented on the caring and devoted bus drivers who have returned to transport our students. The USDA has extended the waiver for free meals for students. This was late in being notified, but working on pushing this information out. Mrs. Weber also reported that Brad Remig, of Public Financial Management will provide a topic discussion on September 21, 2020, to discuss the refinancing of the 2016 Bond Series.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative to the Board, reported that the first day of school was a success. She thought the day went very well, despite the extra precautions required due to COVID-19. She is excited for the fall sports season to begin and felt that the teachers were especially supportive of the new learning environment and new procedures because of the pandemic.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Strine recognized the employees that received years of service pins from the district.

LAST	FIRST	DOE	YRS OF SERV.
SPISAK	KIMBERLY	1985	35
GROUP	MICHELLE	1990	30
HEBERLIG	SALLY	1990	30
AUGUSTINE	SUE	1995	25
FREESE	MICHAEL	1995	25
MICHALIK	PAULA	1995	25
GARMAN (was Miller)	LISA	1995	25
HARMAN	RODNEY	2000	20
MERSCH	TRACY	2000	20

ROHER	KRISTINA	2000	20
SMITH	CHRISTY	2000	20

TOPIC DISCUSSION – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum/Instruction Committee – Mrs. Meikrantz

Mrs. Meikrantz reported on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee that was held on August 31, 2020. The committee reviewed K-5 switching to trimesters, curriculum mapping updates were provided, and review of Dr. Sessoms, the diversity consultant and her services were reviewed. The approval of hiring Dr. Sessoms is on the board agenda for approval this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of September 8, 2020, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Emergency Instructional Time Template

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board authorizes the Administration to submit the Emergency Instructional Time Template to the Pennsylvania Department of Education as required for the 2020-2021 school year. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Act 13 Waiver for South Middleton School District

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the submission of the Act 13 waiver request to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for the waiver of required health screenings for the 2020-2021 school year due to the pandemic. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Prior to the vote, Mrs. Spisak explained that the district is taking a pro-active approach to submit this form for the 2020-2021 school year in asking for a waiver of health screenings. Many other districts are doing the same, in hopes that the waiver will be granted as it was during the 2019-2020 school year, due to the pandemic. The PA code in section 3 will be included, to clarify the waiver request.

Consultant - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

That the Board approves hiring Dr. Amber M. Sessoms as a contracted consultant for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion funded through \$15,000 from the Act 44 School Safety and Security Grant Program. The motion passed as follows:

Mr. Greenbaum - Yes
Mr. Hartman - Yes
Mrs. Knavel - Absent
Mrs. Knouse - Yes
Mrs. Meikrantz - Yes

Mrs. MacIvor - No
Mrs. Rob - Absent
Mrs. Sellers - Yes
Mr. Still - Yes

The motion passed: 6 – Yes, 1 – No, 2 – Absent, 0 - Abstentions

Prior to the vote, Mr. Hartman commented that he had a concern that tackling with two large items such as the pandemic and diversity/equality at the same time. The District made the commitment to review and work on the diversity and quality training prior to the pandemic. Mrs. MacIvor

commented regarding the possibility of train the trainer concept, using excellent resources and in-house personnel. Don't have the funds for an extra set of hands. Mrs. Knouse commented that we do not have an expert in this area to review not only the curriculum, but our equality/diversity practices/procedures and policies throughout the district.

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

Yellow Breeches EMS Agreement

The Board approved the agreement between Yellow Breeches EMS and South Middleton School District to provide ambulance services during the Boiling Springs High School Football Games for the 2020 season.

Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Agenda Manager Agreement

The Board approved the agreement between the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and South Middleton School District to provide agenda manager services, beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

Capital Area Intermediate Unit - Messenger Archiving Services

The Board approved the agreement between the Capital Area Intermediate Unit and South Middleton School District for Messenger Archiving Services from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

Personnel - Professional - Retirement

The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement, of W. David Shields, English teacher at BSHS, effective end of day, October 2, 2020.

Personnel - Professional - Resignations

The Board accepted the resignations of the following professional employees:

- Kim Herman, Certified School Nurse - Rice - Effective Date: Hold for 60 days until 10/23/20
- Mark Maurer, Chemistry Teacher - BSHS - Effective end of day - 9/25/20

Personnel - Employment - Professional

The Board employed the following professional employees:

- Laura Slaybaugh – 1st Grade (new) – Bachelor's Degree Step 1 - \$49,562
 - Carolyn Greene – 5th Grade (new) – Bachelor's Degree Step 1 - \$49,562
 - S. Katie Wilhelm – 3rd Grade (new) – Master's Degree Step 4 - \$54,977
 - Kelsea Reed – 5th Grade (replacement for Christa Souder - IFES) – Master's Degree, Step 5 - \$55,72
 - Caitlin Conklin – 4th Grade (budgeted amount for Gifted Teacher [SY2020-2021 only]) – Bachelor's Degree, Step 3 - \$51,062
 - Maddison Phelps – 5th Grade LTS – Bachelor's Degree, Step 1 - \$49,562
 - Rebecca Kramer – Certified School Nurse (Internal; Replacing Kim Herman); 189 day, 7.5 hour day; Emergency certified with an education obligation; B – Step 1 - \$49,562
 - Amanda Howard – BSHS Building Nurse, 189 day/7.5 day position (replacing Rebecca Kramer), she will be emergency permitted with educational obligation - \$37,171.50
- Start Date: Beginning of the 2020-2021 school year

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Mentor Teachers

The Board employed the mentor teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

Personnel - Employment - Classified

The Board employed the following classified personnel:

- Levi Potteiger – Full-Time IT Technician - \$17.90/hr. - 7.5 hrs/day, 251 days/yr.

-Adam Dieck – Temporary, part-time IT Technician - \$17.90/hr. - 5.5 hrs/day - for approximately 75 to 80 days

-Danielle Roush – PT Custodian, previously board approved at \$13.25/hr. at 5.5 hours/day for 260 days (new position)

Start Date: 9/9/20

Personnel - Job Description - Associate Systems Analyst

The Board approved the job description for Associate Systems Analyst.

Board members expressed their appreciation and best wishes for the resignations of Mr. Shields, Mr. Maurer, and Mrs. Herman. They will be missed. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about the replacement for Mrs. Herman. Current nursing staff will be reassigned building coverage.

Mr. Hartman inquired about the wording of emergency permit and emergency certified – words are interchangeable – have same meaning.

The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING/DISCUSSION: Regular Board Meeting: September 21, 2020

The following items were presented for discussion purposes only:

- a. PSBA Officer Elections
- b. First Reading - Policy #249 - Bullying
- c. Proposed Software for Professional Development Hours - Act 48 - (Replacing 48 Carats)
- d. Letter of Agreement - CASSP Elementary School Based Program

Mr. Hartman clarified voting procedure for the PSBA officers, and he also inquired about the wording on policy #249 and whether the policy covered all aspects of school – including field trips, transportation and school sponsored events. Answer: yes – this would cover all school activities.

Professional development software – 48 Carats will be discontinued through the CAIU. New software creates approval and documenting process.

CASSP – annual, updated agreement with the district.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION - None

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cumberland-Perry AVTS – Mr. Greenbaum

Mr. Greenbaum commented that mask wearing at the vo-tech school was successful. It is common practice for some kind of protective wear to be worn by students during their classes at the school, so mask wearing was just another extension of this practice.

PSBA Legislative Representative – Mr. Still

South Middleton Township Liaison – Mrs. Knouse

Everyone enjoyed the fireworks.

Bubbler Foundation – Mrs. Meikrantz

There is an increase in educational funding requests and looking at ways to continue to grow the donations.

South Middleton Parks & Recreation – Mr. Greenbaum

No Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Information Item: FMLA Leave: Denise Evans (paraprofessional) - 8/24/20 - 10/26/20
Enrollment Report

School Board Calendar for September 2020

-9/14/20 - 6:00 p.m. - Athletic Committee Meeting

-9/21/20 - 7:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Mr. Greenbaum commented that it has been a long summer with a lot of uncertainty surrounding the reopening of schools. He thanked the administration, professional staff, aide, custodians and bus drivers for helping to reopen the schools and get the district back on its feet during the pandemic.

Mrs. Meikrantz asked for clarification on the enrollment report which will be reviewed further

Mrs. Knouse asked the SMEA if there were any comments regarding the start of school. Mrs. Michalik, SMEA President, commented that the start of school went surprisingly well and all proper PPD and cleaning supplies were available.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Weber
Board Secretary