

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 2020

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on September 21, 2020. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom.

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 - Absent

Mrs. Denise MacIvor

Mrs. Edith Rob

Mrs. Bethanne Sellers

Mr. Jonathan Still

Administrative Staff

Dr. Matthew Strine, Superintendent

Mrs. Trisha Reed, Principal, IFES

Mrs. Kimberly Spisak, Director of Student Services

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami

Ajla Salkic

Visitors

Board Secretary

Nicole Weber

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka - Absent

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Strine welcomed back Student Representative, Gibran Varahrami.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION – None

Mrs. Knouse announced that the public comments already submitted would be read and reviewed at the second citizens participation portion of the agenda. Members of the public can continue to submit comments via email or if they are joining the zoom meeting, they can indicate with an emoji that they wish to comment during the second citizens participation portion of the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 9/8/20 – Planning/Regular Board Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

The Board approved payment of General Fund bills represented by checks 60420 to 60479 in the amount of \$623,231.74.

The Board approved payment of Activity Fund bills represented by checks 16656 to 16659 in the amount of \$1,734.72.

The Board approved payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by checks 22120 to 22122 in the amount of \$8,934.50.

The Board approved payment of Cafeteria Fund bills represented by checks 7229 to 7232 in the amount of \$244.61.

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

The Board approved payment of the Construction Fund bills represented by check 1278 in the amount of \$7,980.66.

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

The Board approved payment of Visa represented by transaction 1 to 92 in the amount of \$22,269.62.

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for August 2020.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about whether a report would be distributed with the actual vs. budget figures on a monthly basis – as has been done previously. Mrs. Weber reported that it would be available – still working with new business software to produce the report. Mrs. Weber also reported that she is still seeing a projected 1.8 million in surplus.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about the June estimate for the end of the 2019-2020 school year costs, compared to the August estimate of costs presented. The costs were higher in the August projection due to an oversight of special education costs and outstanding invoices. Mrs. Weber commented that when preparing the 2020-2021 budget, she was looking at the actuals for the whole year of 18-19, not looking at the estimates for 2019-2020 to prepare the budget. She does anticipate that we will be over budget in technology for 2020-2021. This will be monitored closely.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired whether we would be over budget in some areas for 2020-2021 due to unforeseen circumstances, such as out-of-district cyber students. Mrs. Weber said she will continue to monitor this, but it is foreseen that we would be over budget, providing that the cyber students currently enrolled out of the district would remain there. Invoices are received monthly, and so the first invoices have not been received yet.

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

Dr. Strine reported that he met with Dr. Sessoms, the consultant for diversity work. He commented on the Athletics and Activity Plan that is on the agenda for approval. It is basically the same, but is now extended into the playing season. A question/answer session with Fall sports parents is scheduled. The Governor vetoed the bill that would permit larger groups at both indoor and outdoor events at schools. At this point the plan is to uphold the governor's orders and keep within the guidelines. The district is partnering with Ryan Bell to provide livestreaming of athletic events. Mrs. Rob commented that she is in support of following the guidelines. She does not want the school district open to legal issues, if we do not comply with the governor's orders.

Mrs. Spisak, Director of Student Services, reported on the outstanding work that Mrs. Sheaffer is doing to assist cyber learners. She also spoke about the work that Mr. Barrick and Mrs. Klock are doing at the middle school level to support the emotional/social well-being of students. She reported on the steps taken to start to reopen playgrounds so that students have access to equipment, the playgrounds, etc., during recess, but continue to practice preventative measure for COVID. She reported that there are 385 full-time cyber learners. Mrs. Rob inquired about the quality of the CAOLA program. There has been a mixture of responses. Some students/families have very little issue, and some other students/families, it is an adjustment for online learning.

Mrs. Weber, Director of Business/Operations reported that Act 1 index for 2021-2022 is 3%. She also reported that the M&T Bank branch in Mt. Holly is closing, and she has been working on making deposits remotely with no daily deposits made at the bank. She also reported on her Leaders of Cumberland County meeting held on Thursday and Friday. She will be working as a non-voting member on Project Share. A meeting was held with the Township to discuss sharing an administrative position, and how the District and the Township can work together to share resources. Discussion revolved around having a monthly meeting to collaborate together.

Gibran Varahrami, Student Representative, reported that the ABAC schedule feedback was position. Mask fundraiser for mini-thon was a success, and he reported on an upcoming fundraiser for mini-thon.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative, reported on the first field hockey scrimmage against Carlisle as well as a volleyball scrimmage. Golf is doing well and fall pictures were taken today. There are some challenges in leading clubs via virtual meetings.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

BOARD REPORTS

Athletics and Student Activities Committee – Mr. Greenbaum

Mr. Greenbaum reported that the committee met on September 14, 2020. Mr. Heimbach provided an overview of the fall schedule. The district is only playing Mid Penn teams. There are no away visitors and fewer games. Minor adjustments were made to the Athletic/Safety Plan. The use of the stadium/turf by outsiders was discussed. Fencing is not preventing people from jumping the fence. Turning this situation over to the Facilities Committee to review a better fencing to resolve the problem.

TOPIC DISCUSSION – Mr. Brad Remig – Public Financial Management

Presentation is attached. Mrs. Rob inquired about the tax-exempt rates and benefits in the current market. Mr. Remig answered that the rates do vary slightly between tax and tax-exempt rates. Mr. Remig gave the example that if the Board decided to take advantage of the refinancing now the rate would be around 2.25% and taxable would be 2.7%. Mrs. Rob asked for clarification on that timeline and Mr. Remig responded that the tax-exempt option is not available until May and the rates at that time would depend on the market conditions.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartman, that the Board approves the agenda of September 21, 2020, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PSBA Officers

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartman, that the Board submit a vote for the following PSBA officers:

President - (One Year Term)

-David Hein

Vice President - (One Year Term)

Daniel O'Keefe

Treasurer

-Michael Gossert

Trustee(s) - Two Open Positions

-Michael Faccinetto

-Marianne Neel

School Board Secretary - Steering Committee

-Stephen Skrocki

-Tracy Long

The motion passed unanimously.

Athletics and Activities Health and Safety Plan

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Still, that the Board approves the Athletics and Activities Health and Safety Plan, with a correction on page 13, the first line: change the completion date from 9/1/20 to “ongoing” in both grids.

Mrs. Knavel inquired that there seemed to be a section in the document that states coaches were not required to wear masks if social distancing was practice and outdoors, and conflicts with another section of the document where masks are required. Discussion revolved around that this is a living document and can be revised/updated at any time, by board approval.

On a roll call vote, the motion passed as follows:

Mr. Greenbaum - Yes	Mrs. MacIvor - Yes
Mr. Hartman - Yes	Mrs. Rob - Yes
Mrs. Knavel - Yes	Mrs. Sellers - Yes
Mrs. Knouse - Yes	Mr. Still - Yes
Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz – Absent	

8 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Absent, 0 - Abstentions

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the following in a block motion:

Second Reading- Policy #249 - Bullying

The Board approved the second reading (final) of Policy #249 - Bullying.

Professional Development Hours (Act 48 hours) - Software

The Board approved the purchase of Frontline Professional Development Software for Act 48 hours. The current software will be discontinued by the CAIU.

Letter of Agreement - CASSP Elementary School Based Program

The Board approved the annual letter of agreement between the South Middleton School District and CASSP. There is no cost to the district.

Personnel - Additional Part-Time Custodial Position

The Board authorized the administration to proceed with advertising for an additional part-time custodial position for the 2020-2021 school year:
-5.5 hrs/day, 260 days/yr. at \$13.25 hr.

Personnel - Classified Staff - Jonathan Trimble

The Board approved the realignment adjustment for Jonathan Trimble:
Position: Associate Systems Analyst
Salary \$23.33/hr, 251 days/yr., 7.5 hrs./day
Effective Date: 9/20/2020

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Detention Monitor

The Board approved the following for the extra duty position of detention monitor for the 2020-2021 school year:
Megan Capuano - \$22.00/hr. - when needed

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Department Chair

The Board employed the following in the extra duty position of Department Chair for the 2020-2021 school year:

Tracy Mersch - English Department Chair (replacing David Shields)

Pay: \$2,650

Personnel - Employment - Extra Duty - Athletic Coaches

The Board employed the following extra duty, athletic coach for the 2020-2021 school year:

*Michael Zitto - Head Jr. High Boys' Basketball Coach - \$2,550 (replacing Joseph Harker)

Personnel - Employment - Professional

Name: Amy Auger

Position: Building Nurse @ Rice (new position)

Salary: \$37,171.50 - 7.5 hrs./day, 189 days

Anticipated Starting Date: 10/6/20

Name: Dorrie Herman

Position: BSHS English Teacher (replacing David Shields)

Salary: Bachelor's, Step 6 - \$53,312

Anticipated Starting Date: 10/6/20

Personnel - Extra Duty - Mentor Teacher

The Board approved the following mentor teacher:

Allison Rose - (mentee - Dorrie Herman)

Salary: \$515/yr.

Personnel - Employment - Classified

The Board employed the following classified personnel:

Name: Cristeen Beck

Position: Adm. Assistant to the Superintendent (replacing Beth Scott)

Salary: \$26.00/hr., 251/days yr., 7.5 hrs./day

Starting Date: 9/28/2020

Name: Donald Morrison

Position: Part-Time Custodian

Salary: \$13.25/hr, 5.5 hrs/day, 260 days/yr.

Starting Date: 9/22/20

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Rob inquired about the detention monitor – this is not work done during the contract day? Not in the past, and will review for 2020-2021.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about who was teaching for Mr. Maurer. Currently there is a substitute serving in the position.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Knouse raised a question on behalf of a community member about the 2 tickets per athlete for field hockey and soccer. At this time, we are trying to stick to this rule so that these families can go to most of the away games too to see the students play. Mid Penn rules for no visiting fans is for football only. If a scout is coming to watch a student play, the District will work with the family and scout to make sure scout is able to attend.

From Cynthia Christenson:

What are your plans for the upcoming football game on 9/25 against Susquenita School District? Given that Susquenita had a known outbreak, and is located in two counties with some of the highest rates of Covid, it does not seem safe to host this game at this time, under these conditions. Have you considered postponing this game or dropping it completely? If we proceed with the game, will you require fans/players to be tested for Covid prior to entrance?

No visiting fans will be at the football game. Coaches and player will take all safety and screening procedures that we have outlined for screening of COVID symptoms. The District has not considered postponing or canceling the game.

From Tony Verenna:

He spoke about the two contests the VFW is sponsoring for students: The Voice of Democracy context for Grades 9-12 and the Patriots' Pen for Grades 6-8. Information has been provided to the assistant principals at the secondary level, and the deadline is October 31, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report – separate column for CAOLA numbers

Board Calendar for October 2020

October 1, 2020 - Community Relations Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

October 5, 2020 - Planning/Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

October 19, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

October 26, 2020 - Facilities Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Brett and Lizzy Sheaffer welcomed a new baby today.

Mrs. Knavel commented that she heard positive comments from neighbors regarding the reopening of schools, and she thanked the administration and staff for their work.

Mrs. Sellers commented that even her teenage son recognized how everyone was trying to keep staff and students safe during the pandemic.

Mrs. Rob commented that she would like to have a personnel committee with whole board to have an open discussion about positions.

Mr. Hartman praised the football team and coaches for the recent scrimmage.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Weber
Board Secretary