

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2020

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on October 19, 2020. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Knouse.

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

Mrs. Trisha Reed, Principal, IFES

Mrs. Kimberly Spisak, Director of Student Services

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami

Ajla Salkic- absent

Visitors

Board Secretary

Nicole Weber

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka – Absent

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Strine shared that the golf team has been doing very well, Brooke Graham won the individual Girls AA District Championship. Aidan Johnston-Walsh and Drew Vonstein were the first two boys to ever compete in second day of AA Boys Individual Championship. Josh Hiles chipped in an Eagle on one of last holes to secure a Bubbler Team Championship. Tanner Nickel won a Gold Medal for the AA Boys Team Championship. Owen Metz is a first-year player who helped secure the first three wins on the way to Divisional Championships. This year's team was the first ever to win a District 3 AA Championship and did very well in representing Boiling Springs.

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 at smsdschoolboardcomment@smsd.us 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

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meetings: 9/29/20- Special Meeting and 10/5/20 – Planning/Regular Board Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills represented by checks 60523 to 60600 in the amount of \$584,360.46, as represented in the attached summary.

That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills represented by checks 16661 to 16670 in the amount of \$9,318.95, as represented in the attached summary.

That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by checks 22126 to 22136 in the amount of \$674.60, as represented in the attached summary.

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

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

That the Board approves payment of the Construction Fund bills represented by check 1281 to 1283 in the amount of \$7,980.72, as represented in the attached summary.

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

That the Board approves payment of Visa represented by transaction 1 to 163 in the amount of \$33,065.13, as represented in the attached summary.

That the Board approves the Treasurer's Report for September 2020.

Mrs. MacIvor asked Mrs. Weber about the financial board report and an amount showing a negative balance. Mrs. Weber clarified that it's the software report and not a negative balance, will work to revise report to not appear as deficit.

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

Mr. Greenbaum - Yes

Mrs. MacIvor - Yes

**Mr. Hartman - Yes
Mrs. Knavel - Yes
Mrs. Knouse - Yes
Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz- Yes**

**Mrs. Rob - Yes
Mrs. Sellers - Yes
Mr. Still - Yes**

9 – Yes, 0– No, 0 – Absent, 0 – Abstentions

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

Dr. Matthew Strine shared that after the board training on September 29 he has begun reading several books on best practices for School Boards. He recently met with SMEA leaders to discuss issues such as bus parking, voting on November 3, and stress factors – workload, administration, and health and safety.

Mrs. Rob asked Dr. Strine if he has come up with any solutions for the stressors on workload. Dr. Strine responded that he has spoken with administrative team and working through those considerations. Mrs. Rob asked if there are similar issues with other districts that Dr. Strine would be able to get information from other superintendents. Dr. Strine responded that they will work to take care of staff. Mrs. Knavel asked if Dr. Strine could share some of the high-level issues concerning staff. Dr. Strine answered that it pertains to questions about medical quarantine and meeting everyone's needs. Mrs. Knavel was not aware that there were that many students in medical quarantine, asked how many numbers. Dr. Strine said that he does not have a breakdown as it includes medical quarantine and travel quarantine. Mrs. Sellers responded that there is a lot of workload to consider in those situations.

Mrs. Knouse inquired if travel quarantine recommended. Dr. Strine stated that its strongly recommend. Mrs. Knouse inquired if both staff and students. Dr. Strine responded the travel recommendation is for both staff and students. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired if the survey to staff, students, and families has been completed by Mrs. Shaver-Durham. Dr. Strine responded that the survey is forthcoming and all inclusive, possibly through use of Thought Exchange. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about plans for holidays and ability for staff to work remotely prior to holiday. Dr. Strine responded it was discussed but no change to plans.

Mrs. Rob inquired about teachers. Dr. Strine answered that teachers are feeling pressure with workload and concerns with health and safety.

Gibran responded that one of his teachers has a heavy workload and expressed that to students.

Mrs. Rob inquired that the teachers are planning in class work, remote work, and zooms on Friday, if there is any way that administrators can eliminate other distractors. Concerned about teachers being stressed. Teachers workload topic of discussion at recent PSBA conference and other districts facing similar issues. Dr. Strine added that its every side of the table and everywhere but working to consider options to reduce workload and stress.

Mrs. Knouse stated she would like to see Curriculum Committee work to help Mrs. Shaver-Durham on survey.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about email that went out today about student and clarifying quarantine time period. Dr. Strine responded that the 14-day clock starts at last contact.

Mrs. Nicole Weber, Director of Business/Operations, reported the past few weeks have been busy. Mrs. Weber and Mr. Hurley met with Delta Dental representatives last week and reported that dental claims were down significantly due to dental offices being closed due to pandemic and

that more employees were choosing in-network dental provider which provides savings to the district. Information will be provided to employees on where to find in-network providers.

Mr. Gump, Dr. Strine, and Mrs. Weber met with township to plan facility usage plan for youth basketball.

Mrs. Weber has received notification from USDA that free meals are extended through entire school year, which is a blessing for students and families, including cyber. Mrs. Weber reported that her role in the Leadership Cumberland cohort she serves on the Board of Project Share that helps area families with food insecurities.

Mr. Hurley and Mrs. Alwood worked very hard for this past payroll to learn new payroll software and update salary changes in line with new staff agreements.

Met with Transportation Secretary Mrs. Robin Biggs to review transportation and commended her handle on logistical changes this year.

Mrs. Weber attended a property assessment hearing and only one parcel had a negative change to value but other three did not change. Recently met with Crabtree-Rohrbaugh to discuss feasibility study, more information will be forthcoming.

Boyer and Ritter reviewing 2019 financials for audit. Business office team worked very hard to provide numerous reports as requested for audit.

Mrs. Rob asked Mrs. Weber about the Delta Dental and out of network coverage use. Mrs. Weber answered that there are three tiers and it's an individual choice.

Mrs. Kim Spisak, Director of Student Services, reported that Dr. Strine shared his conversation from the SMEA leaders and administrators were able to hear concerns from teachers.

Complimented Paula and Dave Yinger on how they have helped educators. Complimented administrators on planning specific days for special education meetings, helping out in lunchroom, and at arrival and dismissal times to greet students and ensure safety. Mrs. Spisak acknowledged Student Services Team with their work with remote learners and support system for students in medical quarantine. Mrs. Debra Mowe has created a new Life Skills training center in room 116 on BSHS that will open tomorrow that will help build customer service, retail skills, and job training.

Mrs. Spisak will plan to share pictures in the future. Mrs. Spisak shared that Mrs. Abernathy is working with Equus for students to attend a virtual workshop and option to participate in paid eight-week work program for students recommended by their guidance counselor.

Mrs. Spisak thanked School Board for their efforts to keep our schools safe.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mrs. Spisak and inquired if this is her last board meeting. Mrs. Spisak responded she will be at the next meeting.

Student Representative Gibran recognized golf team for winning and heading to state championship. Looking ahead, mini thon is November 11 and golf tournament planned at Mayapple. Senior Fall Formal parents are putting together, unsure if still happening with recent quarantine. Gibran shared that it's tough being in this situation and appreciates the administration and Board facilitates learning. Mrs. Knouse thanked Gibran and stated that the Board wants to keep sports going and students in school and cautioned against large group activities.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS –

Dr. Strine reported that Cumberland County in moderate covid spread and until the county returns into low spread that it would be unwise to transition into full face to face learning at this time.

BOARD REPORTS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of October 19, 2020, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Amendment to the Physician Services Agreement

Mrs. Rob made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the Amendment to the Physician Services Agreement.

Mr. Greenbaum - Abstained

The motion passed unanimously.

2016 Bond Refinancing Series

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the refinancing of the 2016 Bond Series commencing the fourth quarter of 2020 (October 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021)

Mr. Greenbaum recommends the motion be defeated, there were two options brought by the business office and due to the time periods involved, not approving at this time and revisit in spring. Mrs. Knouse inquired if we should just delay. Mr. Still inquired if it should be tabled. Mrs. Knavel responded it should be reintroduced in spring. Dr. Strine clarified there is a tax benefit to wait until spring.

Mrs. Rob inquired if this could be handled differently in the future with clear recommendations from the professionals. Dr. Strine responded that after the board training there are plans in place to review information in depth prior to voting.

Mrs. Weber clarified that it's the Board's decision. Mrs. Rob shared that it should have been clearly recommended by Mr. Remig and Mrs. Weber. Mr. Still responded that both options have risks and Board does need to make the decision. Mrs. Knouse responded that Mr. Remig is a Public Financial Manager and will not make a recommendation but Mrs. Weber or Dr. Strine could. Mr. Greenbaum stated that he was glad options were brought to the Board and was worth discussing.

On a roll call vote, the motion was defeated as follows:

Mr. Greenbaum - No

Mr. Hartman - Yes

Mrs. Knavel - No

Mrs. Knouse - No

Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz- No

Mrs. MacIvor - No

Mrs. Rob - Yes

Mrs. Sellers - No

Mr. Still - No

2 – Yes, 7 – No, 0 – Absent, 0 – Abstentions

Memorandum of Understanding 2020-2021 CAIU #15 Title III Consortium

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, That the Board approves the Memorandum of Understanding 2020-2021 CAIU #15 Title III Consortium.

The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Email from anonymous citizen:

Concern 1:

When can the secondary students go back to school full time? Our children are not learning anything in the 3 days that they are home. On those days, they have approximately 2 hours' worth of busywork. We are doing our children a disservice. If they must be home 3 days a week, Zoom into classroom instruction with their teacher is a MUST. The elementary schools have proven it is safe to attend full time. What am I missing? If elementary can do it, why can't the older students?

Mr. Hartman inquired of the citizen's name, Dr. Strine responded it was sent in via an anonymous email - "Not Telling"- and inquired if he should continue reading second concern from same person. Mr. Hartman and Mr. Still agreed that they will not hear any comments from anonymous citizens.

Mrs. Knavel asked Dr. Strine to read email from citizen regarding recently approved teacher certification. Mr. Still inquired he would also like to know.

Mrs. Sellers responded that she will ask this during Directors Discussion. Dr. Strine responded that he will only share comments that are named citizens.

Mrs. Knouse asked Mrs. Paula Michalik from SMEA to speak. Mrs. Michalik shared that the Bubbler Foundation approved a grant for teacher library. Teacher Josh Gutacker designed and printed Bubbler face masks for Board members. Dr. Strine responded he will hand out to Board members on Thursday. Mrs. Michalik shared that Spanish Teacher Amy Necci is offering mindfulness classes to staff. Applauded all classroom teachers in all buildings for working diligently to provide both in person and remote lessons.

Mrs. Knouse and Mrs. Rob thanked Mrs. Michalik.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report – separate report for CAOLA numbers

Board Calendar for October/November 2020

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

November 2, 2020 - Planning/Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

November 4, 2020 - Community Relations Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

November 9, 2020 - Safety/Security Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

November 16, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

November 23, 2020 - Curriculum/Instruction Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Strine announced Board work session this Thursday.

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Mrs. Sellers inquired on certification on new Chemistry teacher. Dr. Strine confirmed that his teaching degree is in science and teaching experience in Chemistry and Honors Chemistry in Maryland.

Mrs. Rob reiterated that the PSBA presentations had speakers that would be great for SMSD teachers to hear and presentations can be viewed online.

Mrs. Meikrantz thanked Mrs. Spisak and Mrs. Michalik for the comments on the administrators and teachers, it shows that everyone cares and is working hard.

Mr. Hartman thanked Karl Heimbach and the others supporting school sports and Dave Yinger for his work with the band.

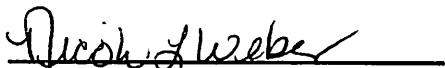
FOR THE RECORD

Mrs. Knouse announced there would be an executive session immediately after the Board meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicole Weber", is written over a horizontal line.

Nicole Weber
Board Secretary

