

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 1, 2020**

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on December 1, 2020. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. Mrs. Knouse called the meeting to order at 7:14 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

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum

Dr. Jesse White - Principal- YBMS

Karl Heimbach - Athletic Director

**Student Representatives**

Gibran Varahrami

Ajla Salkic

**Visitors**

**Board Secretary**

Nicole Weber

**Solicitor**

Chris Harris

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION**

Mrs. Knouse held a moment of silence in honor of the recent passing of two Bubbler community members - Doris Wilson and Bob Line.

Dr. Strine recognized Naomi Rothfus, BSHS senior, for creating the artwork for the SMSD Holiday Card. Her art teacher is Jessica Lay.

The Board congratulated Naomi for her artwork.

Dr. Strine presented a Fall Sports Season Wrap Up presentation that highlighted achievements by the SMSD fall season athletes.

Dr. Strine presented an update on SMSD COVID Briefing and the decision-making process. This included outlines of local actions for COVID mitigation, PA Department of Health dashboard with current data of COVID cases, and SMSD School Closure Response Criteria. District currently has 16 active COVID cases, reviewed how that applies to the matrix. Reviewed Governor Wolf's order and email from Dr. Levine about required face coverings and recommendations for K-12 schools. Dr. Strine received the Attestation Form and read the requirements for schools in counties with substantial transmission rates (this includes Cumberland County). Schools in those counties are recommended to transition to a fully remote learning model which SMSD is currently doing. Currently waiting for guidelines from PIAA.

Mrs. Knouse outlined the Attestation Form- she and Dr. Strine signed off that SMSD is currently remote learning and no athletics. The form can be resubmitted when the district is ready to return to face to face instruction. This is not only simply cases of COVID cases in the district, but also numbers of staff and students in quarantine.

Dr. Strine agreed that the number of staff absences was factored into the decision.

Mrs. Knouse inquired on the number of people quarantined. Dr. Strine responded well over 100 with the athletic teams and entire classrooms.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if teachers would be required to quarantine about traveling. Dr. Strine affirmed that yes, they would need to quarantine.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired about vo-tech and allowing the vo-tech students to attend CPAVTS in a hybrid model. Dr. Strine is exploring that option for those students, they are not attending in person this week, Attestation Form would need to be submitted again with in person instruction selected. Mr. Greenbaum encouraged looking at options to allow them to continue in person.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired about the most recent guidance and what is best for students, trying to get students back in classrooms after holidays.

Mrs. Knouse asked Dr. Chad Jumper to speak about COVID in the community. He shared information of numerous cases in local hospitals, and medical offices in our region having to close due to a large number of cases and staffing issues. Witnesses it firsthand every day.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that he is supporting these efforts and thanked Dr. Jumper.

Mrs. Meikrantz thanked Dr. Jumper and Dr. Strine. Inquired about testing options and winter athletics. There are not many simple solutions but thanked Dr. Strine for being open minded and considering different options.

## Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 3

Mrs. Rob asked Dr. Jumper if he could address asymptomatic cases. He explained that is why the 14 days is important to quarantine, maintain 6 feet distance.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if Mrs. Shaver-Durham could answer a question about the length of Zooms and how they work. Mrs. Shaver-Durham explained that at Elementary level classes are now split so teachers could have more successful classroom management and small group instruction via zoom. This alternates with A and B days with creative arts. Friday is a morning meeting with the whole class and small groups as needed. In the Secondary classes Zooms should be at least 15 minutes at minimum.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired about athletics and if coaches could still coach virtually - workouts or discuss workouts.

Karl Heimbach responded that he is aware of a school in another state who have been virtual all year still hold virtual workouts and coaching sessions. Recently New Jersey and Maryland cancelled their winter sports.

Mrs. Rob commented her son is in ROTC and doing virtual PT, it would be worth looking into.

Mrs. Knouse responded that some of the SMSD coaches have plans for that and are already doing virtual workouts.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired how the closure affects the season.

Mr. Heimbach responded that 15 days of practice are required prior to competition. He will contact PIAA.

Mr. Hartman inquired about confirming with PIAA about guidelines for required practices.

Mrs. Knouse inquired about difficulty in putting the together schedule if the practice piece could be determined and athletes could play.

Mr. Heimbach described how the schedule was changed previously and options.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if teams could still be able to play even if not previously scheduled.

Mr. Heimbach responded that there are games already scheduled for February.

Mr. Still commented that there are many different ideas to explore.

Mrs. MacIvor asked Dr. Strine if any more support is needed for Technology. Dr. Strine responded that 3rd and 4th graders have older devices with issues. New devices were already ordered, and delivery was pushed back. Support for technology is being handled by previously added technology staff. Praised teaching staff for helping students navigate their devices and process to log into classes.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about other technology needs for teachers.

Dr. Strine responded they are working to survey staff for technology needs and will respond as needed. Will work to get teachers what they need to be successful.

## CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Knouse announced that the public comments submitted to [schoolboardcomment@smsd.us](mailto:schoolboardcomment@smsd.us) will be read and citizens may speak. Please use reaction in the Zoom screen to notify the Board to speak. Information will be collected and considered, but no decision will be made during this meeting.

Doug & Kelly Miller

130 Sunset Dr Mount Holly Springs

CDC states that schools should remain open and more studies need to be conducted on remote learning and how it affects students. Primary goal should be the education of students. What alternative methods could be explored to have students in school?

Mrs. Knouse will send questions to Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham to answer.

## Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 4

Andrea Crum

930 Ridge Road Carlisle

Bubbler Alumni and three sons at BSHS. Two sons in wrestling and fall and spring sports. Would there be a way for some kids to go into the school gym to practice? Maybe small groups who are distanced. Many club sports are still practicing together. We should do whatever we can to have some type of normalcy.

Randy Evans

205 Oak Dr Mount Holly Springs

Submitted the petition that was circulated online via Facebook. Collected 111 signatures and wanted to see if Dr. Strine had a response. Dr. Strine responded he is reviewing petition and is open to discussion on different options. Questioned decision about shutting down athletics and if our remote plan could be changed to consider athletics. There are only few schools in our county have cancelled athletics.

Dr. Strine responded that considerations are being reviewed, open to suggestions. Mr. Evans requested considerations for long-term effects on students.

Mary Stouffer

396 Pheasant Lane Carlisle

Daughter was on the Field Hockey team that had to quarantine and could not go to districts. She is also on the basketball team; would it be possible with students not in school if athletics could still be held. CDC has reduced quarantine time to 10 days.

Jimmy Snyder

115 Andrew Court Carlisle

Senior student and athlete- will miss districts with postponed winter season. Playing sports has done so much for him and concerns about getting into college without playing.

Scott & Erica Wilson

145 Frost Rd Gardners

Son wrestles all year around, participated in tournaments and had no outbreaks of COVID he is aware of. Not asking for school to reopen but asking for consideration for athletics to continue season. Questions running into person with COVID in the general public. Mrs. Wilson commented that she works in ER and most critical cases she sees are patients over 70.

Trevor Byers - BSHS Wrestling Coach

Has listened to the entire meeting and respects everything everyone has said. No wrestling coaches are SMSD teachers. Has spoken with other local schools who are on remote and still having wrestling practice. Wrestling athletes would not be eligible to compete due to requirements for wrestling with team and individual postseason. Mats are sterilized, masks provided, all requirements followed.

Abby Book

103 Coventry Drive Carlisle

Speaking on behalf of the swim team, swimmers really want to get into the pool. SMSD is the only local school not allowing swimming. Important for emotional well-being.

## Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 5

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative, commented that she plays field hockey year-round and plans to commit to college. Was part of the field hockey team that had to quarantine and understands how these athletes are feeling. Everyone should be able to come to middle ground consensus.

Eli Bounds

327 Allen Street Carlisle

Student - wrestler since kindergarten. Wrestles all year round and hoping to get a scholarship to college. Missed out on opportunities last season and would like to have a chance to wrestle this year.

Mrs. Meikrantz asked Mr. Heimbach about the special circumstances for wrestling.

Mr. Heimbach responded that the district must do all sports or none. Title IX violation for not offering opportunities for female athletes if only doing wrestling.

Nicole Ritchie

338 Fairview Street Carlisle

Her other child is a student at Carlisle Christian Academy where students are face to face and have all activities. Let choice to participate in sports be up to students and families.

Mrs. Knavel thanked everyone for attending the meeting to voice your opinions. Mrs. Meikrantz thanked the students who spoke.

### ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 11/16/20 – Regular Board Meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Greenbaum and Mrs. Knouse thanked Dr. Jumper for speaking this evening.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the minutes of the following financials in a block motion.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham thanked all SMSD staff for their work on preparing for the remote learning plan. Each building has its own Go Bubbler Plan. Prep work included devices for each

## **Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 6**

student, continuous technology support, and elementary teachers teaching students to use devices.

Mrs. Knavel thanked Mrs. Shaver-Durham for her attitude and all her work.

Mrs. Nicole Weber, Director of Business Operations, shared the local audit has been completed for 2019-2020 school year. Ended year with surplus and financial reports available on agenda. Planning to move up the audit timeline next year. PDE must define variable cost for transportation and how this change will affect the contract. Increase in out of district cyber school students with 1.1 million unbudgeted amount. Closely monitoring earned income tax and received higher deposit than anticipated. Continuing free school meal distribution for students and increased distribution times. Working with Rohrer to distribute meals to day care centers. Families can register to receive the free meals.

Mrs. Knavel inquired using CARES funding to hire more teachers as the question has come up. Mrs. Weber confirmed that only temporary support staff can be hired with those funds and not professional staff.

Dr. Strine shared a Student Services update. Impact Silent auction to help fund activities for Impact classroom. State-reported data was received and reported to not have any errors, this data drives funding. Nurses encourage the school community to report COVID cases and are working to assist families. Student attendances procedures during remote learning will be reviewed to seek improvements.

Mr. Dave Yinger, SMEA, shared that SMEA is thankful for the decision to move to remote learning. Applaud Dr. Strine and the Board for making difficult decisions. Commented that although the students may not be at high risk, there are many others that are, and potentially saving lives of more vulnerable community members. Difficult to run a band program without being able to hold rehearsals and unable to hold concerts. Keep in mind that this isn't just about what we are missing out on, it's about the whole community.

Dr. Chad Jumper commented that we should envision ourselves as a community. Young people may not be getting very ill, but should research asymptomatic carriers, and this has an effect on older community members. Has own child that will miss out on basketball season. Step back and see the whole community and responsibility to protect them.

Mrs. Rob inquired about asymptomatic carriers as her son had to quarantine and could not come home for Thanksgiving. Testing is required at some universities.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative, shared that BSHS Mini-Thon has announced Man Pageant contestants. The Inclusion Club raised funds at Chipotle Fundraisers and thanked Mrs. Sellers for coming. Check out Impact Silent auction, a lot of cool stuff.

Gibran Varahrami, Student Representative, no report but hopes everyone is well.

Mrs. Sellers and Mrs. Meikrantz commented that Ajla did a great job at the Chipotle fundraising event.

## **NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

## **BOARD REPORTS**

**Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Sellers**

Met on Monday, November 23, 2020. Discussed curriculum mapping, it's a massive undertaking with plans for English standards to be complete by March 2021. Change to high school English graduation credit requirements from 5 credits to 4 credits. Using Atlas Program for curriculum planning. Diversity Consultant Amber Sessoms with goal to make the district more diverse and safe space for all, this a 3-5-year plan. Staff surveyed about additional time at the end of day and Friday zoom days. Staff did not want to lose that time in the hybrid model. Establishing parameters for Zooms and remote learning.

Mrs. Knavel applauded Mrs. Shaver-Durham and the team for their work.

Mrs. Knouse inquired about English credits. Mrs. Sellers responded that 5th credit was recently added to accommodate for Keystone testing. Mrs. Meikrantz clarified that this was a recommendation from English department.

**TOPIC DISCUSSION – None.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the agenda of December 1, 2020, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Planning/Discussion: Regular Board Meeting**

a. Thought Exchange

Mrs. Sellers inquired about what percentage of the population participated in the beginning of the year. Dr. Strine responded that over 1300 thoughts were exchanged and rated. Mrs.

Meikrantz asked if there are other similar companies. Dr. Strine responded that this is the one he has worked with previously and their prices have come down.

Mrs. Knouse explained that Thought Exchange would be a platform to answer questions and concerns from community members. Dr. Strine commented that Thought Exchange can find common ground in thoughts and values.

Mr. Still commented that the Board always hears the loudest voices that may not always represent the entire community.

b. Central Penn Education Associates Inc. - Psychoeducational Evaluation Agreement

Dr. Strine explained that a School Psychologist is leaving and require temporary assistance.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired of caseload. Dr. Strine responded this would only be used for overload.

Mr. Still inquired about specific number which Dr. Strine will provide.

c. Job Description - School Psychologist

Dr. Strine shared that Mr. Hurley will work on answering any questions on job description.

d. Update to Health & Safety Plan

Includes new masking mandates and requirements for travel. Mr. Hartman had questions on the language.

e. First Reading - Policy 247 Hazing

f. First Reading - Policy 317.1 Educator Misconduct

## Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 8

g. First Reading - Policy 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

h. Personnel - Professional - Employment

i. Personnel - Professional - Resignation

j. Personnel - Athletics - Employment

k. 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 Instructional Calendars

Dr. Strine shared the two years of calendars completed. Mr. Greenbaum inquired about snow days. Dr. Strine responded that planning on making them virtual days in the future. Mrs. Meikrantz noted that messaging needs to be pushed out.

l. Math Curriculum

Dr. Strine explained it is on the public Atlas site. Mr. Still inquired how to navigate the site. Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded with instructions.

### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Rodney Wagner

185 Pine School Rd Gardners

Requesting slides from tonight and inquired about data team.

Dr. Strine responded there is a team - the Directors who review the data, including Student Services and Human Resources.

Mr. Still commented that data is available on PDE website.

Mr. Wagner inquired about planned remote learning for all buildings.

Mrs. Knavel requested that Dr. Strine post his presentation on the website.

Gary Seiber

5 Allenberry Court Boiling Springs

Commented on remote learning and current COVID rates in Cumberland and local counties.

Other schools are able to remain in face to face learning. Matrix should be re-evaluated.

Appreciated Dr. Jumper's comments. School should be able to have school sports programs, especially for mental health and social interaction. Kids are suffering.

Joe Scavone

13 Meadowood Place Boiling Springs

Question for Mrs. Shaver-Durham regarding curriculum. Concerned about less instructional time for elementary school students. Why was social studies and science eliminated?

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded that the remote learning plan was developed with administrators and a building team of teachers and best plan for student and teacher success. English and math were the primary focus at this time with a follow up meeting to review data on reading and mathematics and follow with Social Studies and Science later. Will continue to review and evaluate the learning plan.

Heidi Magnani

10 Jenny Dr Boiling Springs

Question about grades 6-12 criteria, action plan, and timeframe for these students to be back in school 5 days a week. Concerned that hybrid plan will continue indefinitely.

Mrs. Knouse responded that the district absolutely wants to return to in person.



## Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 9

Cobin Karper and Eli Krum

Wrestlers at BSHS, always following protocol. All athletes want to compete and may miss out on winning district title. Football was able to play in fall.

Sophia Bounds

327 Allen Street Carlisle

Son is a wrestler and he goes above and beyond. Concerned with Athletic Director's comments on not knowing PIAA guidelines, this information should already have been researched. No good answers.

Dr Strine responded that Mr. Heimbach does update administration every day.

Mary Stouffer

396 Pheasant Lane Carlisle

Question if other staff could substitute for other buildings. Will try and provide more information.

Scott Wilson

145 Frost Road Gardners

Question about his chances on running into someone with COVID in public. Has been quarantining themselves this entire time. Was not trying to be insensitive to Claremont.

Mary Stouffer

396 Pheasant Lane Carlisle

Question if anyone has come to the school district asking to not play sports?

Mrs. Knouse affirmed that there have been requests to cancel sports.

Mrs. Knouse thanked everyone for their opinions and concerns.

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Cumberland Perry ATVS - Mr. Greenbaum

No meeting in November

PSBA Legislative Report - Mr. Still - Quite a bit of legislative items, including COVID Liability Protection for School Districts. This item was vetoed by Governor Wolf.

South Middleton Township - Mrs. Knouse - No Report

South Middleton Parks & Recreation - Mr. Greenbaum - No Report

Bubbler Foundation - Mrs. Meikrantz - No Report

### **DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Meikrantz thanked the audience and everyone who reached out to the Board. Appreciates Dr. Strine and team for considering ideas. Most important thing is the safety of the community. Thanked Liz and John for serving again.

Mrs. Sellers thanked parents for their involvement.

## **Board Meeting Minutes, 12/01/20, Page 10**

Mr. Greenbaum thanked the Board for electing he and Mrs. Knouse. Thanked Mrs. Knouse for all of her hard work. Thanked parents and students for their thoughts. Must weigh pros and cons.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Enrollment Report**

**Board Calendar December 2020**

**Personnel - Administration - Employment**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenbaum, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Nicole Weber  
Board Secretary