

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2020

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on December 14, 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. Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum/Instruction

Mrs. Trisha Reed, Principal, IFES

Mr. Joel Hain, Principal, BSHS

Dr. Jesse White, Principal, YBMS

Mrs. Jessica White, Special Education Supervisor

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami

Ajla Salkic- absent

Visitors

Board Secretary

Nicole Weber

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka – Absent

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Mrs. Knouse recognized the recent passing of two Bubbler alumni.

Mrs. Knouse noted that she appreciates all the emails and phone calls from parents and community members. Dr. Strine will touch upon some of these topics.

Dr. Strine addressed questions regarding mental health, cyber school, education, and winter sports. Currently working to get students back to class in face to face instruction. With updated quarantine guidelines, is working to get students back to school January 11.

Working with staff on mitigation, create protocols staggered pick up for practice and events, Important for student-athletes to maintain contact with coaches.

Has reached out to a number of testing companies to get information on testing athletes.

Physical distancing, hand washing, mask wearing.

Preparing for January 4 start for winter sports season.

In constant communication with other local school districts. Looking at all the best practices to mitigate spread of virus. Each district has own health and safety plans.

The PIAA is also on a 3-week break with activities to begin January 4. There are two matrices used to determine in-person learning from PDE. Guidelines can be found in FAQs on website.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about quarantine period after holiday period.

Dr. Strine responded that way coaches have written their plan to contain exposure.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if students at Rice or IFES could also return on January 4.

Dr. Strine noted one of the differences is that sports are voluntary and trying to limit potential for spread in school after any holiday travel.

Mr. Still inquired if substantial spread rate would affect sports. Dr. Strine noted that it is a recommendation.

Mrs. Rob inquired if Athletic Committee recommended sports beginning on January 4, as she had not heard update from Governor.

Dr. Strine agreed that he is only working off on information from Governor and if Governor or Department of Health updates that it's not safe to start then the district will follow that mandate.

Mr. Still noted the Governor stated not before January 4 and that could change with PCR.

Dr. Strine noted that information should come out in the new year.

Mrs. Rob noted that prior to the Governor coming out with the mandate the position was different.

Dr. Strine explained the quarantined guidelines have changed and received packets of health and safety protocols from coaches.

Mr. Hartman commented that many of the neighboring schools are also targeting January 4 as start date for sports.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired if trends are still going up, if there is a way to update Board and community if opening is still planned.

Dr. Strine confirmed he will provide that update via website and weekly update.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if this requires a change to back to school procedures.

Dr. Strine noted he would need to recomplete the Attestation Form with all safety protocols in place.

Board Meeting Minutes, 12/14/20, Page 3

Mrs. Rob requested that Dr. Strine publish guidelines and benchmarks for courses of actions. Believes other extra-curriculars should be looked at as well, must provide equitable education. Dr. Strine explained that for school closure matrix in FAQ section has provided direction. Can use that as basis for athletic decisions. 138 winter athletes.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION –

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.

Randy Evans 205 Oak Drive Mount Holly Springs

Thank you for allowing him to speak. Curious about citizens action committee.

Mrs. Knouse responded that there is a Community Relations Committee and citizens are welcome to participate.

Andrea Crum 930 Ridge Road Carlisle

Thank you, hopeful that district would be following orders from Governor of January 4.

Katrina Scavone 13 Meadowood Place Boiling Springs

Thank you for listening to parent feedback. Question on who made this decision- Board, teacher union or Superintendent.

Mrs. Knouse responded that Superintendent and administration makes decisions, Board has operational oversight.

Ms. Scavone hopes everyone can work together and get students back from CCA.

Kristen Starner 304 Shugart Ave Boiling Springs

Big shoutout to all of the teachers and getting kids to participate the best they can. Concern about limitations for students who participate in outside club sports.

Mr. Hartman commented that it would be his recommendation for during the COVID time period for those high school athletes to not participate. He took that from coaches who gave input. It is not something he was going to implement and was misquoted.

Ms. Starner commented there are a lot of ways for these students to be in contact with others, part time jobs, etc.

Madysen Nileski 302 Sand Bank Road Mount Holly Springs, Sophomore

Prepared comments on perspective from student during virtual learning. Difficult to focus while being taught at home. Kids with bad living situations and parents who can't help with homework.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Madysen for her perspective.

Heather Stamm 205 Westgate Drive Mount Holly Springs

Joined Zoom this evening to get clarification on Mr. Hartman's comments. If student-athlete is on basketball team are they not allowed to do club sports or attend school.

Mrs. Knouse clarified that no, that is not part of the plan at this time. May speak with Karl Heimbach, Athletic Director.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meetings: 12/01/20- Organization Meeting and 12/01/20 – Planning/Regular Board Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

7.1 That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills represented by checks 60804 to checks 60825 in the amount of \$306,848.91 as represented in the attached summary.

7.2 That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills represented by checks 16682 to 16684 in the amount of \$5,217.18 as represented in the attached summary.

7.3 That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22243 to 22247 in the amount of \$14,423.75 as represented in the attached summary.

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

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

7.6 No checks disbursed from Construction Fund bills during this time period.

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

7.8 That the Board approves the Treasurer's Report for November 2020.

Mrs. MacIvor questioned about overbudget amount 1.1 million and where to find on financial report.

Mrs. Weber responded that it's an annual amount if out of district cyber enrollment continues. District is billed on monthly basis.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about cost per month and annual basis.

Mrs. Weber broke down cost and difference between regular and special education costs per student.

Mrs. MacIvor thanked Mrs. Weber for the explanation.

Mrs. Rob inquired if 1.1 million also included CAOLA overage. Mrs. Weber will review information and provide comparison.

Greenbaum – Yes

Hartman- Yes

Knavel- Yes

Knouse- Yes

MacIvor- Yes

Meikrantz- Yes

Rob- Yes

Sellers- Yes

Still- Absent

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

The motion passed.

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

Dr. Strine thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Introduced Mr. Alex Smith, School Psychologist to discuss mental health. He prepared a presentation to show the results of the Fall Wellness Screening.

SMSD Wellness Screening – Fall Presentation

Mr. Smith noted that teachers, parents, other students, can all refer concerns to student assistance team. Multitiered approach to mental health. All the students that identified as elevated or highly elevated were offered resources for mental health.

Dr. Strine noted that he was misquoted that there is simply a phone number to call. The district has always had many different resources available for students and has high accolades to Student Services Department, Counselors, and Student Assistance Team.

Mrs. Rob asked Mr. Smith what options there are if we end up staying remote. Mr. Smith responded that it is something the department is aware of and researching what can be done more universally.

Mrs. Knavel inquired how elementary students were evaluated.

Mr. Smith responded that it's a rating scale provided to teachers for their students.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about devices for students that have not yet been received.

Dr. Strine responded they are still waiting on that order, but students do have devices in the meantime.

Mrs. Sellers asked Alex about mental health and parent education piece. Are we offering parent support? Concerns with amount of screen time for students- zoom fatigue.

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum/Instruction shared a message from Principal Mr. David Boley. Teachers have high rate of participation in Zooms, using SeeSaw for activities and assignments. Teachers have taken opportunity to have both class and small group instruction. Proud of teachers' effort in making this a positive experience for our students. Mrs. Shaver-Durham addressed quality of education during remote learning. The plan was developed using feedback from teachers and teams. Teachers have been continuing to meet and plan as teams throughout remote learning.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about length of instructional time at middle school and length of Zooms are at a minimum 15 minutes. Is there a reason why regular classroom format is not being followed?

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded that the 15 minutes is for direct instruction and the other half of the class may have breakout sessions or one on one time. This can be varied based on teacher. This can be reviewed with principals for discussion.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about the teachers who expressed concerns about student attendance on Zooms.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded that it was discussed and addressed.

Mrs. Sellers commented that that she has been teaching online all year and every teacher is different in their teaching style and expectations. Teaching on Zoom is very different than in a classroom.

Board Meeting Minutes, 12/14/20, Page 6

Mrs. Rob inquired if Mrs. Shaver-Durham could do a comparison on how things are at other schools in different grade levels, including technology by speaking with other Curriculum Directors.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham confirmed she is in a consortium for Curriculum Directors. Thanked Mrs. Rob for that idea.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham commented that parent should contact teacher first and then Principal.

Mrs. Knavel agreed that parents should be reaching out to teacher first.

Mrs. Knouse commented that the relationship between teacher and parent is important.

Mrs. Nicole Weber, Director of Business Operations, shared some highlights from the Business Department over the past couple weeks. Target distribution donated bags of food for families in need that included hand-written notes of encouragement to students. ABM who handles custodial services for the district donated \$5000 to district and offered to assist with food drive for district families. Today was first day of meal pick up from 10-11 instead of 9-10 am. The extra hour is helpful. Meal service will continue through winter break. Meal service will be extended Wednesday morning and cancelled for afternoon due to snow forecast. Mr. Matt Hurley, Supervisor of Human Resources has been learning payroll due to Kathy Alwood's retirement. She will be retiring at the end of December, thanked her for all of her hard work over the years. Met with Conrad-Siegel to discuss next year's healthcare renewal. Created Budget Calendar for 2021-2022 and is available to view at end of agenda.

Dr. Strine shared a Student Services update regarding Cyber School. Current numbers at CCA is 82 students. There are 124 students in for-profit cyber schools. Tuition is paid monthly to cyber schools and is determined by form completed at beginning of school year and this process was created by PDE. Money spent by for-profit cyber schools is not required to be spent on student, can be spent on advertising, etc. Dr. Strine could only offer anecdotal comments on why parents may be choosing for-profit cyber vs Bubbler Cyber Academy, including asynchronous vs synchronous learning, some course offerings. BCA is through CAOLA/CAIU. 89 students have returned from BCA to brick and mortar since beginning of school year.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if these questions and answers would be posted on website.

Dr. Strine confirmed he would like to have this posted.

Brett Sheaffer, representing SMEA, shared information from teachers who they have polled during the remote setting. Many teachers have been having activities via zoom and other virtual settings. Students have opportunities to enjoy games, learn new things, and communicate. Teachers are thankful they can see student faces and still interact with students. Teams are working to help students and families.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mr. Sheaffer. Mrs. Knavel thanked the teachers.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS – None

BOARD REPORTS – Athletic Committee Meeting – Mr. Greenbaum

Mr. Greenbaum shared that they broke records for public attendance with 49 attendees. Topic discussed was Athletic Health and Safety Plan and updates to reflect current state guidance.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of December 14, 2020, with all corrections as indicated.

The motion passed unanimously.

Update Athletics & Activities Health & Safety Plan

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the revised Athletics & Activities Health & Safety Plan (as reviewed and approved by the Athletic Committee on December 7, 2020).

The motion passed unanimously.

Update to Health & Safety Plan

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the updates to the Health & Safety Plan language on pages 24 & 25.

The motion passed unanimously.

Thought Exchange

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the purchase of the Thought Exchange Platform, after discussion.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about percentages. Dr. Strine responded that 1300 thoughts were exchanged with 1200 individuals participating. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about cover letter and cost. Dr. Strine responded that its \$6,000 this year and \$6,000 next year, from Jan 1-Dec 31, 2021.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired if software is necessary. Dr. Strine responded that the software has many uses for other initiatives included, strategic planning, diversity/inclusivity, and other areas. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about price changes from past and other companies. Dr. Strine responded that company structure has changed and also selected different type of Thought Exchange plan.

Mr. Still commented that all the voices could be heard and not just the loudest voices. Dr. Strine confirmed that it shows where commonality lies.

Mrs. Knavel shared her concerns with Thought Exchange.

Mrs. Sellers inquired of how many times this can be used. Dr. Strine responded that it unlimited.

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

Greebaum- No

Hartman- No

Knavel- No

Knouse- No

MacIvor- No

Meikrantz- No

Rob- No

Sellers- No

Still - Yes

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

Mrs. Meikrantz asked Mrs. Knouse if this could be revisited in the Spring. Dr. Strine commented that is a needed resource and its now been voted down. Mr. Still agreed to not revisit.

Central Penn Education Associates Inc. - Psychoeducational Evaluation Agreement

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenbaum, that the Board approves the agreement for Central Penn Education Associates Inc. to provide psychoeducational evaluation services.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Job Description - School Psychologist

That the Board approves the Job Description for School Psychologist.

Mrs. Rob inquired about the definition for provisional on the Job Description.

Mrs. Knouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenbaum, that the board approves the Job Description for School Psychologist, pending update/clarification of "provisional".

Personnel - Administration - Employment

That the Board approves the following Administration - Employment:

- Chelshea Pruznak - School Psychologist (replacing Jessica Petronis) - \$63,000; anticipated start date of February 12, 2021.

Personnel - Professional - Employment

That the Board approves the following Professional Employment (Short-Term Substitute):

- Megan Pine; ST Substitute – Learning Support (covering for K. Trout [FMLA]) – effective start date of 12/07/2020

Personnel - Professional - Resignation

That the Board approves the following Professional Resignation:

- Janelle Chamberlin; BSHS Learning Support Teacher – effective end day of 1/19/2021

Personnel - Athletics - Employment

That the Board approves the following Athletic Employment:

- Preston Repman; Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach (replacing Tyler Kauffman) – effective start date TBD
- Mike Longenberger – Wrestling (Volunteer)

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Second/Final Reading - Policy 247 Hazing

That the Board approves the final reading of Policy 247 Hazing.

Second/Final Reading - Policy 317.1 Educator Misconduct

That the Board approves the final reading of Policy 317.1- Educator Misconduct.

Second/Final Reading - Policy 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

That the Board approves the final reading of Policy 824 Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries.

The motion passed unanimously.

2021-2022 & 2022-2023 Instructional Calendars

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Instructional Calendars.

The motion passed unanimously.

Math Curriculum

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the Math Curriculum.

The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment - Board Secretary

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers. that the Board approves the appointment of Cristeen Beck to the role of Board Secretary (replacing Nicole Weber) effective January 4, 2021.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mrs. Weber for her service as Board Secretary.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Jennifer Salisbury 82 Arlington Drive

Questions about wellness screening to Mr. Smith and when testing was done. Mr. Smith responded that it was four weeks into the school year. Mrs. Salisbury inquired if another test would be done while in virtual learning.

Mr. Smith affirmed that another screening is planned for late winter. That way services can be in place by end of school year.

Mrs. Salisbury inquired about future board meetings in person.

Mrs. Knouse responded that board meetings will not happen in person at this time.

Dr. Strine clarified that safety parameters cannot be guaranteed for in person meetings at this time. Mrs. Knouse thanked Mrs. Salisbury for her questions.

Tony Verenna 3 Mulberry Court Boiling Springs

Shared news of VFW Post Voice of Democracy students- Savannah Turner (sophomore), Adison Verenna (senior), and Matt Fravel (senior).

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mr. Verenna for his comment.

Board Meeting Minutes, 12/14/20, Page 10

Carrie Snyder-Evans 205 Oak Drive Mount Holly Springs

Thanked Mrs. Knouse for allowing her to assist in compiling questions and administrators answering questions.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mrs. Snyder-Evans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report

Committee Calendar 2021

Budget Calendar

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Mrs. MacIvor commented that she had requested breakdown of cyber from past months.

Mr. Hartman asked Mrs. Weber to express thanks to Chartwells in their assistance with the meals and distribution. Thanked the employees for all their efforts during this time. Boiling Springs Alumni and VFW partnered to do scaled down Christmas by the Lake for families in need this Sunday to hand out gifts to children via drive through along with 75 food baskets. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Knavel thanked staff and community.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Greenbaum, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Weber
Board Secretary