

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2021**

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on January 4, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. Mrs. Knouse called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Nicole Weber – Directors of Business Operations

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami

Ajla Salkic

Visitors

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Strine introduced Mr. David Yinger who outlined some recent music program activities that were held in a virtual setting. Students auditioned for district chorus, band, and orchestra. Congratulations to all those students. The Board thanked Mr. Yinger. Dr. Strine congratulated parents and students.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Knouse announced that the public comments submitted to schoolboardcomment@smsd.us will be read and citizens may speak. Please use reaction in the Zoom screen to notify the Board to speak.

Chad and Andrea Kimmel 212 Hope Drive Boiling Springs

Received Dr. Strine's voicemail and email message. Is medical documentation required to complete reporting form?

Dr. Strine responded that administration is trying to use all data they have.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rob, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 12/14/20 – 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 in a block motion. Mrs. Rob asked for discussion, inquired to Mrs. Weber about fees for substitute teachers. Mrs. Weber does not charge fees for applications and ESS does not as well. That cost may be for TB testing and other background check items.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Strine thanked for the opportunity to speak. Reviewed November 16, 2020 data in county and reasons for transitioning to remote learning. Today's numbers that were updated by the state on Friday, January 1, 2021 and are still in substantial spread. Even in substantial range, according to district matrix, we can return to in-person instruction. Will continue to review data to make best decisions for students.

Mrs. Rob inquired if Dr. Strine had received a pie chart with information she had sent. Dr. Strine confirmed he had received.

Dr. Strine shared that Mrs. Shaver-Durham was off today and not here to share her report.

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Mrs. Rob inquired if she had communicated with peers.

Dr. Strine confirmed she has been collaborating with peers and will follow up with answers. Mrs. Knavel commented that she would like to hear what the follow up is from all the survey data that Mrs. Shaver-Durham had presented previously.

Mrs. Weber reported that the food drive was very successful and thankful for assistance of guidance counselors. Attended a PASA webinar to assist with budgeting as there are many different guidelines throughout state. Closely monitoring number of students on busses. Xerox contract is up at end of fiscal year. Working with Gareth to review that information. Looking into opportunities with state contracts for copier and printing options. Working on 2021-2022 budget with first meeting next Monday. Boyer & Ritter financial reports received and available for Board Directors to pick up at office or can be sent home. Mr. Joel Kreider will be at next meeting to review the reports.

Mrs. Rob inquired about cyber school bill. Mrs. Weber responded that she does not have any further information. She will have an update for the next meeting.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative, shared her report of how students are feeling about returning to in-person instruction. Some feel that we will soon be back to remote instruction. Questions about finals during remote learning.

Dr. Strine will have to inquire at Director's Meeting. Mrs. Sellers requested that when gathering information to see how many teachers or courses affected by final. Mrs. Knavel inquired about Ajla's statement about return to remote. Ajla responded that it's the confusion about finals and being prepared.

Gibran Vaharami, Student Representative, reported Senior perspective, excited about going back to school and uncertainty about graduation and spring sports. Notice about some upcoming events.

Mrs. Knouse noted that he can send those events to Mr. Hain or Mrs. Beck. Reminded student leaders that everyone needs to wear masks and wash hands.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS –

Dr. Strine shared formation of Citizen Advisory Committee and read policy aligned with committee. The committee is made up of residents, staff members, and students. Chairman will be appointed, and Superintendent and Board President are ex-officio members. Applications will be posted on website and due by Monday, January 11 at 4 p.m. Recommendations of Citizen Advisory Committee assist Board but do not make decisions. Mrs. Sellers inquired on limit of committee members. Dr. Strine responded he will discuss with Mrs. Knouse. Mrs. Rob inquired on how members will be recruited. Dr. Strine responded phone call, email, and website.

Mrs. Sellers inquired if both Bubbler Foundation could reach out to other community members. Dr. Strine responded he will discuss at Bubbler Foundation meeting this week. Mrs. Knouse noted time commitment would be once a month for a max of two hours. Mrs. Knavel inquired if information sent to review in advance of meeting. Dr. Strine clarified that any information would be sent out prior to meeting.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about email sent out today about collecting positive student data. Dr. Strine responded the matrix is best used with data from positive cases.

BOARD REPORTS-

Mrs. Knouse commented that committees will be finalized with dates being published soon.

TOPIC DISCUSSION – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the agenda of January 4, 2021, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Personnel – Administration – Employment

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the following Personnel – Administration- Employment: Alex Smith – Director of Student Services (replacing Kim Spisak), effective Board approval- \$85,000

Mrs. Rob commented that she is voting to approve the hiring of Alex Smith for Director of Student Services, as he is qualified, but does not agree with hiring process. Job announcements that are not clear, concise and complete only invites scrutiny. Adopt transparent hiring processes. Mrs. MacIvor commented that job descriptions should be modified with any minimum criteria. Dr. Strine agreed with process improvement and has met with Mrs. Rob and Matt Hurley to work on making these improvements.

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

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

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

Winter Coaches

That the Board approves the updated Winter Coaches list and opt-outs.

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the updated Winter Coaches list.

Mrs. Rob commented that all paperwork and onboarding should be completed prior to Board vote. Recognized coaches who opted out for their decision and courage.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about clearances.

Dr. Strine responded that every sport group all have at least one coach who has completed all paperwork and is certified. Clearances and background checks must be received before working. Coaching courses are going to be completed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Greenbaum asked Gareth Pahowka about CPR clearances. Mr. Pahowka responded that all clearances and Act 168 must all be completed prior to working. Mr. Greenbaum inquired about new coaches and training. Dr. Strine responded that they are working to get that done as quickly as possible. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired if Mr. Heimbach is handling that. Dr. Strine responded that both Mr. Heimbach and Mr. Hurley are working on these details.

Mr. Still thanked Dr. Strine and Mr. Heimbach, has spoken with several coaches about their difficult decisions. Thanked coaches who stepped up to fill in positions and recognized coaches who opted out.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired if coaches who opted out will be welcome back to previous positions next year. Dr. Strine responded that coaches will be able to return to position, recognizes their hard decision. Mrs. Knouse clarified that opt out was choice by administration.

Mrs. Knavel commented she is supportive of coaches, inquired if coaches and athletes will be able to mitigate risks and what additional protocols in place versus fall.

Dr. Strine responded that the waiver was updated, and Health & Safety Plan was updated. Asked each coach to outline plan for mitigation. Reminder that covid cases in past were not spread in school or on teams but came from outside.

Mr. Hartman inquired that new coaches that are stepping in, if there is a vacancy in the future, it would be noted in their personnel file?

Dr. Strine responded that there are a number of fall coaches and some new coaches and will keep that in mind.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired about regular reviews by Karl Heimbach to ensure protocols are being followed. Could regular updates be provided?

Dr. Strine confirmed that initial screenings are completed at every practice.

Mrs. Rob inquired if Dr. Strine had reviewed form example from school in New York that uses app for students to complete a daily health check.

Dr. Strine will review and look into options.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about the spot checks.

Dr. Strine responded that he will drop in on practices and has asked others to do the same. Met with SMEA earlier today.

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

Mr. Hartman – Yes

Mrs. Rob - No

Mrs. Knavel – Yes

Mrs. Sellers - No

Mrs. Knouse – Yes

Mr. Still - Yes

Mrs. Meikrantz – Yes

Mr. Greenbaum - Yes

Mrs. MacIvor - Yes

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

Planning/Discussion: Regular Board Meeting

a. Tax Collector Compensation Resolution

Mrs. Rob inquired about salary. Mrs. Weber responded that the amount is per year for the four years. Mrs. Knavel inquired if its competitive. Mrs. Weber responded that she reviewed what other CAIU districts are doing. It's hard to compare based upon how other district pay. Currently at or above what other collectors are receiving.

b. First Reading – Policy 103 – Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

c. First Reading- Policy 218.3 – Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

Dr. Strine commented that the policies are being reviewed by Stock & Leader with updates provided by next Board meeting.

Mrs. Rob inquired about Policy 218.3 and how it relates to recent Senate Bill. Mr. Pahowka responded that there will be some updates to the language after their revisions.

d. Personnel – Extra Duty – Gifted Specialist Case Manager

Mrs. Sellers inquired if previously appointed Chair had absorbed any of those cases. Dr. Strine responded he will get answers to provide at a later time.

e. Personnel – Professional – Employment

Dr. Strine commented that they are interviewing for a Learning Support Teacher at the High School at this time and should have name by next meeting.

Mrs. Knouse asked Mrs. Paula Michalik, SMEA President, to speak.

Mrs. Michalik recognized Board Appreciate Month and support of Board members and gift of personalized mug from SMEA created by Josh Gutacker. Mrs. Rob and Mrs. Knouse thanked Paula.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Email from Mike Savario and Kristen Markley 5 Hoerner Circle Boiling Springs

Question if students can continue with remote learning rather than Bubbler Cyber Academy.

Have done both cyber and remote and find the remote learning is far superior because there is more connection between kids and teachers and more accountability.

Mrs. Knouse responded that Mrs. Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum, will be asked to answer those questions.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cumberland Perry ATVS - Mr. Greenbaum- Breakfast meeting held in December. Budget was approved, expanding health services and renovating cafeteria. Budget will be forwarded to Board and discussed in February.

PSBA Legislative Report - Mr. Still- Number of laws that will impact schools. Act 122 requires changes to required vision screenings. Act 132 high-speed broadband, Act 136 numerous changes to school code, including effects on Keystone Exams, districts can set own graduation requirements. Updates to emergency certifications.

South Middleton Township - Mrs. Knouse – Met with township supervisors about discussing parks and future use.

South Middleton Parks & Recreation - Mr. Greenbaum – No Meeting

Bubbler Foundation - Mrs. Meikrantz – Two funding requests, one from Sophomore class officers and Mrs. Bond's book club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report

Mrs. Rob inquired out of district cyber charter schools and the law and requirements. Mr. Pahowka responded that there was previously proposed legislation but did not pass. Mrs. Rob inquired if parents are informed of cost of out of district cyber when enrolling and can this be forecasted. Dr. Strine clarified that cost has been forecasted for the year and reach out is done for families to show benefits of remaining a district student. Mrs. Rob commented that advocacy should be done for BCA.

Mrs. Knavel commented that she believes parents are leaving the school because they feel they are doing what is best for their students.

Mrs. Rob commented that parents should be informed of the difference of cyber schools.

Dr. Strine responded that he will consider on how to get that message out to families.

Mrs. Weber noted that this is a legislative issue. Mrs. Rob noted she will plan to follow through with PSBA.

January Board Calendar

Information- Personnel- Tenure

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about new tablets that were to be in by the end of the year. Dr. Strine responded that he will look into that. Mrs. Weber confirmed that they were not received and has met with vendor to check on other options.

Mr. Hartman inquired if Dr. Strine had received any feedback on practices held today. Dr. Strine responded that he did not today but will stop by practices this week. Mr. Hartman inquired about arts programs and if things are able to continue. Dr. Strine answered that YBMS musical production was postponed and looking for ways to complete. Mrs. Meikrantz noted email from Mr. Hain about spring musical production and virtual tryouts.

Mr. Hartman inquired about any short comings with returning to brick and mortar. Dr. Strine responded that there have not been any issues so far but will continue to monitor.

Mrs. Sellers commented that she's received some concerns from parents about returning to hybrid schedule. Other item is that given the current decisive climate, students should be taught good citizenship.

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Mrs. Meikrantz commented that she appreciates what Mrs. Rob said earlier about respecting coaches' decision and agrees. Players will miss them, respects and understands difficult decision.

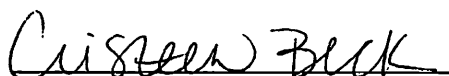
Mrs. Knavel reminded everyone to wash hands, wear masks, and keep your distance. Wants students back in school and sports.

Mrs. Knouse commented that there is a lot of feeling of fear and anxiety as we get ready to get back into school, thank you for your continued grace.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cristeen Beck". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary