

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2021

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on January 19, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. Mrs. Knouse called the meeting to order at 6:59 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. Denise Maclvor

Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz
Mrs. Edith Rob
Mrs. Bethanne Sellers – Absent
Mr. Jonathan Still – Absent

Administrative Staff

Dr. Matthew Strine, Superintendent
Melanie Shaver, Durham, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Nicole Weber, Director of Business/Operations
Alex Smith, Director of Student Services
Matthew Hurley, Supervisor of Human Resources

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami
Ajla Salkic

Visitors

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka – Absent

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Mrs. Knouse asked for a moment of silence for Tom Steele.

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Strine shared a tribute to Tom Steele and recognized him for his role at South Middleton School District – his leadership, passion, and integrity. Provided information on the Go Fund Me page set up for his family and information on donating to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Dr. Strine recognized School Board Recognition Month and the time and effort spent guiding the district. Congratulated Aiden Swank for receiving award. Recognized students of the quarter at CPAVTS.

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 raised hand that they wish to comment during the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 01/04/2021 – 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 in a block motion:

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills represented by checks 60899 to 60941 in the amount of \$576,604.98, as represented in the attached summary.
No checks disbursed from Activity Fund bills during this time period.

That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22254 in the amount of \$4,673.68, as represented in the attached summary.

That the Board approves payment of Cafeteria Fund bills represented by check 7240 in the amount of 100.00, as represented in the attached summary.

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

That the Board approves payment of Construction Fund bills represented by checks 1286 to 1288 in the amount of \$69,883.39, as represented in the attached summary.

That the Board approves payment of Trust Fund bills represented by checks 1298 to 1326 in the amount of 1,500.00, as represented in the attached summary.

That the Board approves payment of Visa represented by transaction Visa 1 to Visa 41 in the amount of \$15,596.31 as represented in the attached summary.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Matthew Strine, Superintendent, shared an update on health and wellness for website that shows dashboard on website with breakdown of cases between buildings. Shared update on Citizen Advisory Committee, drew names from the 65 individuals who applied for the committee. Thanked everyone who was willing to serve. Dr. Strine will be reaching out to the 18 individuals to confirm they still plan to serve on the committee with he and Mrs. Knouse.

Mrs. Knouse outlined that this committee will represent a wide demographic of the community.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about follow up with those who were not selected to be on the committee. Dr. Strine responded that there is always room for other committees that are also open to the public – Curriculum, Safety, etc.

Dr. Strine shared an update that Mr. Joel Hain, BSHS Principal, has been meeting with Student Representatives to review and collaborate. There are currently 6 SMSD administrators are participating in a book study through Shippensburg University Study Council. Working on Strategic Planning.

Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, reported on the virtual snow day plan that was sent out today to families. Thankful for collaborative efforts in planning this. Over the past year staff has collaborative on 4 different learning plans – spring closure/remote, hybrid plan, remote learning plan, and virtual snow day plan. Thanked teachers for the efforts in transitioning between these plans. Provided actions from results of surveys from this past fall. Reviewed masking procedures, communication, and continuing data meetings for support. Dr. White and Mr. Hain have reviewed time at end of day and remote/zoom Fridays. Mrs. Shaver-Durham announced another survey in the near future.

Nicole Weber, Director of Business/Operations, shared an update that she submitted contingency report to PA Department of Education which allows district to recoup some funds for certain students. Reviewed transportation information with Mrs. Robin Biggs to ensure no more than 2 students per seat on bus and participated in a PASBO webinar about transportation subsidies. Continuing to provide meals for CAOLA students. Business department has worked to streamline reconciliation process with dental and health savings accounts. Provided an update from last week's Budget meeting to clarify something that may have been reported incorrectly -increase was annual and not a monthly increase.

Alex Smith, Director of Student Services, thanked Board and community for opportunity to present. Provided an update on special education and compensatory services, analyzed what services were needed for certain students. Gifted Support goals have been updated and book study group to start. School counselors have been working to help students who are failing and credit recovery options. This spring will implement suicide prevention program – lessons and opportunity to speak with counselor or school psychologist. Coordinating with Shippensburg University graduate psychology students to assist with our students. Working on shared ownership of Bubbler Cyber Academy and student engagement and attendance. Shared personal learning goal to build knowledge of homeless youth and promoting best practice.

Mrs. Meikrantz commented that she was pleased to hear about mental health programs.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired where parents should go for help.

Mr. Smith responded that school building counselor is first line of contact.

Gibran shared that teachers can also be a resource.

Mrs. Rob inquired about cyber students and charter cyber schools.

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Mr. Smith responded that charter schools are responsible for those students, but he would share information or help to coordinate. Bubbler Cyber Academy students will be referred to building counselors and principals for help.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative, thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Met with Mr. Hain to discuss school board meetings. Shared that next semester will start on Monday, February 1 and there will be finals next week. Highlighted importance of wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands. Currently COVID positive and quarantining since being exposed at non-school related field hockey practice.

Gibran Varahrami, Student Representative, shared information about social justice club at BSHS led by teachers and experiences about first day back in school today. Interested in working with district administrators to help stop spread by reminding everyone to wear masks.

Dr. Stine responded he would like to meet virtually with Gibran to discuss this.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired how first two weeks of athletics are going. Disappointed with recent pictures in news of local districts where participants are not wearing masks properly. Surprised by lack of masks in athletics.

Dr. Strine responded that conversations were had between coaches about masks. Will discuss with other superintendents at meeting tomorrow.

Mrs. Knouse clarified that referees will not stop game for mask wearing but coaches are normally reminding them.

Mr. Hartman agreed with Mrs. Knouse that coaches are reminding athletes but no provisions for officials to stop play due to improperly worn masks.

Mrs. Meikrantz commented that its likely difficult to both coach and remind athletes to put masks on. Principal or Athletic Director should also be there to remind athletes. Team captain could also be a student leader/role model for masks.

Ajla shared that she wears two masks during practices with no issue of them coming off during play.

Mrs. Knouse commented that its essentials that sports follow the protocols.

Mrs. Maclvor suggested that masks could be considered part of uniform.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS – Boyer & Ritter 2019-2020 Audit Presentation

Joel Kreider from Boyer & Ritter thanked Board for opportunity to present audit. Thanked administrative team led by Dr. Strine and Nicole for their efforts in assisting completing the audit. Reviewed communication letter and documents.

Larger document includes three reports, MDA would be an important focus to review, and contains future concerns and funding. Audit took 2.5 weeks of field work and then follow up.

Excellent result from audit. Outlined internal control testing process.

Mrs. Maclvor inquired about food service statement and recent grants. What is anticipated for the end of this year and will that help us.

Mr. Kreider responded that districts do not operate food service for profit. Chartwells may have break even point for district. Most schools are in same situation with food service.

Mrs. Weber responded that delinquent accounts are now minimal. Mrs. Weber welcomed any questions to herself or to send to Boyer & Ritter.

Mrs. Rob commented that she read through the report and thanked Boyer & Ritter for their tedious work and presented it well.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Boyer & Ritter and Nicole and her team for their work.

BOARD REPORTS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of January 19, 2021, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the Acceptance of Audit 2019-2020. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the Tax Collector Compensation Resolution. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board tables the Second/Final Reading of Policies 103 and 218.3 until the February 1, 2021 meeting pending solicitor review. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Hartman inquired is policies should be tabled further until expert reviews. Mrs. Knouse responded that Board can always review again to update.

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

Personnel - Extra Duty - Gifted Specialist Case Manager

That the Board approves the following Personnel- Extra Duty - Gifted Specialist Case Manager:

Michael Bogdan - \$2,400.00

Personnel - Professional - Employment

That the Board approves the following Personnel - Professional - Employment:

- Traci Barnhart-Stirkey – High School Learning Support Teacher (replacing Janelle Chamberlin) – Master’s Step 5; \$55,727.00

Personnel - Classified- Employment

That the Board approves the following Personnel- Classified - Employment:

Megan Sager - HR Generalist (replacing Kathy Alwood)- \$26.00/hr.

The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Randy Evans 205 Oak Drive Mount Holly Springs
Commented that he has seen students/athletes wearing masks for practices. Athletes are doing a great job. Inquired about advisory committee and categories.

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Dr. Strine explained that there were 12 categories for representation for the committee- diversity/inclusivity, socio-economic status, teachers, activities, MTSS & safety, new bubbler, long-term bubbler, etc. for a well-balanced team. Mrs. Knouse commented that it includes cross-section of different families in district. One-year commitment and opportunities next year as well. Dr. Strine commented that most fit into 5 different categories and selected committee members would be notified later this week.

Heidi Magnani 10 Jenny Drive Boiling Springs

Pointed out there are schools outside of Cumberland County but still in Pennsylvania that have students attend 5 days a week. Not aware of the district trying to make this happen.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mrs. Magnani for her comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report

Board Calendar January/February 2021

January 26, 2021 - Curriculum & Instruction Committee - 6:00 p.m.

February 1, 2021 - Planning/Regular Board Meeting - 7: 00 p.m.

February 2, 2021 - Citizen Advisory Committee - 6:00 p.m.

February 8, 2021 - Athletics & Student Activities Committee - 6:00 p.m.

February 10, 2021 - Safety & Security Committee - 6:00 p.m.

February 16, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

February 22, 2021 - Policy Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Mrs. Rob inquired about enrollment report and if cyber enrollment has gone down.

Mr. Smith responded that the number of students in BCA has decreased by 20 and some other students return from out of district cyber.

Mrs. Rob responded that 20 is great and would like to see increases and decreases, especially for charter cyber. Commented that Dr. Strine is welcoming community members to committees to share their views.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about the enrollment report and if listing of each month for three totals can be added.

Mrs. Knavel thanked student representatives for their feedback tonight and plea for mask wearing. Appreciated their comments this evening.

Mrs. Meikrantz reiterated Mrs. Knavel's comment and impressed by list of vo-tech students Dr. Strine shared at beginning of meeting.

Mr. Hartman inquired about vaccine plan.

Dr. Strine shared that Mr. Hurley surveyed staff for interest in vaccine with exact head count expected tomorrow. Once that is completed, they must be ordered and planning on a Friday for clinic. Met with SMEA to discuss and plan as well. Mrs. Knouse inquired about contracted staff.

Mrs. Weber responded that they are working with those HR directors. Dr. Strine will reach out to coaches.

Mr. Greenbaum thanked bus drivers and teachers. Everyone wants students back 5 days a week and once numbers are lower that is the goal.

Paula Michalik, SMEA President, shared an update from teachers' first day. Dave Yinger and Kyle Weary had music career day with a variety of presenters. Kim Ronan had father Dean Clepper Zoom with class as Santa

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary