

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 1, 2021**

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on March 1, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. Mr. Greenbaum called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 – Absent

Mrs. Denise Maclvor

Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz

Mrs. Edith Rob

Mrs. Bethanne Sellers

Mr. Jonathan Still

**Administrative Staff**

Dr. Matthew Strine, Superintendent

Mrs. Nicole Weber, Directors of Business/Operations

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum/Instruction

Mr. Alex Smith, Director of Student Services

**Student Representatives**

Gibran Varahrami

Ajla Salkic

**Visitors**

**Board Secretary**

Cristeen Beck

**Solicitor**

Gareth Pahowka

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION**

Dr. Strine recognized CPAVTS Students of the Quarter- Sophomores Zoe Collins and Caycee Kopp (American Studies), Junior Mila Elash (Advertising Art & Design), and Senior Daniel Hoover (Diesel Technology).

Mrs. Cynthia Bailey achieved her recertification for National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Connor Ronan, BSHS Teacher and Brad Group, W.G. Rice Teacher and Bubbler Foundation President were introduced to present CNC router. Video Clip shown of Mr. Ronan demonstrated CNC machine that can be programmed remotely.

Mr. Greenbaum announced the Agenda Manager update, issues accessing the agenda were resolved and available on website.

## **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Greenbaum 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.

Katrina Scavone 13 Meadowood Place Boiling Springs  
Question about upcoming curriculum changes in the district relating to diversity and inclusion-specific activities within classroom.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded question about curriculum and mapping timeline and information is available on the website.

Mrs. Scavone inquired about specific discussions relating to gender and bias and opt-out options for teachers and students.

Mr. Greenbaum encouraged Mrs. Scavone to contact Mrs. Shaver-Durham directly via email.

Mrs. Knavel thanked Mrs. Scavone for her question, helps her understand concerns.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 2/16/21 – Regular Board Meeting.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the following financials in a block motion.

7.1 That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills represented by check 61052 to check 61115 in the amount of \$468,787.72 as represented in the attached summary.

7.2 That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills represented by check 16695 in the amount of \$145.00 as represented in the attached summary.

7.3 No checks disbursed from Athletic Fund bills during this time period.

7.4 That the Board approves Cafeteria Fund bills represented by check 7242 in the amount of \$65,662.61 as represented in the attached summary.

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

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

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

**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- Superintendent, shared an update Wellness, Health, and Safety and that PA Department of Health recently lifted travel ban. Provided an update on vaccines in PA, including approved Johnson and Johnson vaccine that will assist in local vaccine planning. Working on Comprehensive Plan and outlined Ready, Set, Go sections. SMSD is preparing to launch an app, this will replace previous app that only routed to website. This app will help with communication.

Mr. Greenbaum commented on legislative committee working to move educators to vaccine group 1a. Contacted Governor Wolf with plea to move teachers to group 1a to vaccinate that group faster.

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham- Director of Curriculum & Instruction reported on planning for standardized testing. MTSS group has continued to meet to work on supporting students. She and Alex Smith attending a Sapphire Data Mining Training. Shared an update on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (JEDI) task force and upcoming Equity Champions training. Outlined upcoming inservice day for staff.

Mrs. Rob thanked Mrs. Shaver-Durham for providing her report to read prior to meeting.

Mrs. Nicole Weber- Director of Business & Operations reported recent review of mid-year balance sheets with Boyer & Ritter and working through any adjustments. Received notification from current school dentist, Dr. Filip, that he is retiring and working with new practice to contract for School Dentist. Met with representative from the CAIU for E-Rate bid for technology project and will receive 50% reimbursement. This project is included in the upcoming budget. Current ESS Paraprofessional contract is set to expire and will be requesting bids for next school year. Continued work on 2021-2022 budget with next meeting scheduled for next Monday, March 8 with meeting information posted on our district website. With potential stimulus package, if approved, South Middleton is estimated to receive 1.7 million dollars in grant funds. Announced that Brad Remig will attend March 16 Board meeting to discuss bond financing.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about ESS contract and if it only includes paraprofessionals or if substitutes included? Mrs. Weber responded it is only for paraprofessionals.

Mrs. Rob inquired about other vendor for contracting services. Mrs. Weber responded she is planning on contacting that vendor.

## **Board Meeting Minutes, 03/01/21, Page 4**

Mr. Alex Smith- Director of Student Services shared an update on gifted support services and acknowledged Ms. Schin and Mr. Christopher for their work this school year. Signs of Suicide Program nearly complete and students given opportunity to check in with counselor after program. Parent and Guardian presentation via Zoom next week, with information being sent out by counselors. Special Education department working to support students in general education setting. Highlighted goals of Bubbler Cyber Academy and ongoing effort in attendance tracking, monitoring, and engagement. Online Kindergarten registrations starts today, please visit district website for details.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about Kindergarten screening process. Mr. Smith responded that they are exploring options for registration. Mr. Smith thanked Sharon Giselman during this process.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired about parent contact with disengaged students.

Mr. Smith responded that there has been success with initiating conversation with parents. Challenges include work schedules and long-term improvement. Student Attendance Improvement Plan meetings can be held to assist with student engagement and follow up.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about those students having difficulty with technology.

Mr. Smith responded that its little to do with access, technology department is quick to provide access to student.

Ajla Salkic- Student Representative shared update on upcoming Bocce tournament for students who did not have season with safety protocols being observed. Encouraged vaccinations to get everyone back in school in person. Recognized Madame Bailey for her support this school year.

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about how to support Bocce Tournament. Ajla responded more information will be coming- event will be held in spring and outdoors.

Gibran Varahrami- Student Representative reported on the upcoming Mini-Thon events including powder puff game and man pageant. Teachers are working to make sure students get the most out of asynchronous learning. Some classes have textbooks that are online and help with teaching online.

Mrs. Rob commented on BSHS Speech and Debate team, that recently participated at districts, led by Marli Stephens where Gibran took 4<sup>th</sup> in Extemp, Eva Hanlin placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lincoln Douglas, and Anna Chamberlin will move onto state competition in student congress. Thanked the Student Representatives for their reports.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that pandemic is not over and although numbers coming down significantly, must continue to wear masks, social distance, wash hands.

**NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS – None**

**BOARD REPORTS-**

**Policy Committee- Mrs. Rob** – Committee held first meeting on February 23 to review 000 policies and approves updates. All updated policies were sent to Stock & Leader for review and returned today for Board review.

**TOPIC DISCUSSION – None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the agenda of March 1, 2021, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Personnel- Extra Duty- Athletics**

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the 2021 Spring athletic coaches (list attached)

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about schedule going through Athletic Committee.

Mr. Hartman responded that the timing did not coordinate with committee meeting.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Planning/Discussion: Regular Board Meeting**

**a. DECISION INSITE**

That the Board approves the Decision Insite agreement.

Dr. Strine outlined Decision Insite and how it assists in future planning to look at home developments, both current and upcoming.

Mrs. Weber commented this information can be used for both facility and staffing planning.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired about cost - \$7,000 per year.

Mrs. Weber confirmed cost and that number could decrease depending on hours.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about other companies that may offer similar services. Recalls similar information used during Iron Forge project.

Mrs. Weber responded that Crabtree and Rohrbaugh provided feasibility study for current numbers at no cost. There is another vendor that also looks at current enrollment. Decided to pursue Decision Insite since they have worked with neighboring districts.

Mrs. Meikrantz inquired about the neighboring districts.

Mrs. Weber responded that it's helped other districts with redistricting and dealing with multiple elementary schools which differs from SMSD needs. May assist with transportation.

Mrs. Knavel commented that SMSD is one district and township- knowledge in advance about residential communities are being planned. Does not feel that it's overwhelming to track.

Mrs. Weber responded that reporting process will assist with the planning of future building projects. Had contacted Cory Adams at South Middleton Township about ability to provide similar information.

Mrs. Sellers commented that Crabtree and Rohrbaugh may be able to provide some of this information free of charge.

Mrs. Weber responded that she will be meeting with Crabtree and Rohrbaugh in the future and can inquire.

Mr. Still commented that he researched into Decision Insite and watched video on what the company provides and differs from information presented during this meeting. Would like to understand all of what this software provides.

Mrs. Weber responded that there is software provided with it and other areas the program dives into. Mr. Still will send the link to the Board.

Mrs. Rob commented that she also watched video on Decision Insite and reached out to another district that has used the program who did not feel it was worth the cost. Decision should be analyzed and not rushed into.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired if report from Mechanicsburg Area School District could be reviewed.

Mrs. Weber will work on getting a report from that district to share with Board.

Mrs. MacIvor commented that South Middleton Township may have more information. Has attended recent township meetings and estimates from housing developments and impact on district. Concerned our data would be affected by number of cyber students during this time.

**b. ESS ADDENDUM FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

That the Board approves the ESS Addendum for Professional Staff.

Mrs. Weber outlined the addendum for substitute teachers and increasing their daily rate.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired if increase will go to teacher or agency with Mrs. Weber confirming the increase will be paid to teacher.

**c. PERSONNEL- PROFESSIONAL- RETIREMENT**

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

- Brad Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher – Effective June 30, 2021
- Sally Heberlig, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher – Effective June 30, 2021

Dr. Strine congratulated both teachers on their upcoming retirement.

**d. PERSONNEL -SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INTERNSHIP- EMPLOYMENT**

That the Board approves the following Personnel -School Psychologist Internship- Employment:

- Alyssa Sunday, School Psychologist Internship, SY 2021-2022, \$18,000 stipend

Dr. Strine commented that Alyssa is currently a Special Education Teacher who is pursuing her advanced degree, and this is a necessary step and look forward to her internship.

**e. PERSONNEL- CLASSIFIED- EMPLOYMENT**

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

- Megan Chaponas, Building Secretary, Rice Elementary (replacing T. Georgeann Bailey), \$15.38/hour, anticipated start date 3/17/2021

Dr. Strine shared that Megan currently works in district as an ESS paraprofessional.

Mrs. Knavel inquired if the polices could be moved into a block motion for later review.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired to Mrs. Rob if she would like to delay voting.

Mrs. Rob responded that she would like to see if there are a lot of questions and discussion.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that there may be questions or discussion on certain policies.

Mrs. Rob commented that they have been reviewed by Stock and Leader and will continue to move through the next set of policies.

Mr. Greenbaum asked the Board to review the policies and send Mrs. Rob any questions. Policies can be tabled as necessary.

Mr. Still had reviewed documents and thanked Mrs. Rob for her work on the policies.

Mrs. Rob thanked Cristeen Beck for her work on the policy committee.

**f. FIRST READING- POLICY 001 - NAME AND CLASSIFICATION**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 001 - Name and Classification.

**g. FIRST READING - POLICY 003 - FUNCTIONS**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 003 - Functions.

**h. FIRST READING- POLICY 004 - MEMBERSHIP**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 004 - Membership.

**i. FIRST READING- POLICY 004.1 - STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 004.1 - Student Representative to the Board.

**j. FIRST READING - POLICY 005 - ORGANIZATION**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 005- Organization.

**k. FIRST READING- POLICY 005.1 - OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR BOARD COMMITTEES**

That the Board approves the First Reading of new Policy 005.1 - Operating Guidelines for Board Committees.

**l. FIRST READING- POLICY 006 - MEETINGS**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 006 - Meetings.

**m. FIRST READING- POLICY 006.1 - ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

That the Board approves the First Reading of new Policy 006.1- Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications.

**n. FIRST READING- POLICY 251 - HOMELESS STUDENTS**

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 251 - Homeless Students.

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION- None**



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Cumberland Perry ATVS - Mr. Greenbaum – Meeting held last week, CPAVTS is also dealing with covid issues like other schools. Shared update on required state testing and working through individual testing requirements to plan for end of school year.

PSBA Legislative Report - Mr. Still – no report

South Middleton Township – Mrs. MacIvor – attend 2 recent meetings. Feb 11 meeting had information about several new developments. Last meeting was on where they went through 16 agenda meeting items and finished in 20 minutes. Information available online

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

Bubbler Foundation - Mrs. Meikrantz – Education committee did not meet this month. Bubbler Foundation will meet this Thursday.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Enrollment Report**

Mr. Still inquired about enrollment report and trending down due to totals of Cyber and CAOLA. Wanted to double check on high school numbers on report. Dr. Strine will review and provide information in next Board meeting update. Mrs. Meikrantz inquired if students only taking one CAOLA class affects that number. Mr. Smith responded that that has been a challenge to determine those numbers and will update with correct numbers.

**March Board Calendar**

March 2, 2021 – Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

March 8, 2021 - Budget Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

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

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

March 29, 2021- Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting- 6:00 p.m.

**Personnel- Tenure** – Allison Schrom has achieved tenure.

**DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION**

Mrs. MacIvor commented that it's wonderful to hear from residents of our district. Welcomes more citizens participation and to attend the public committee meetings. Mrs. MacIvor also commented that the Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting that is listed on the March Board

Calendar is an administrative committee formed by Dr. Strine and not a Board Committee with meetings open to the public.

Mrs. Sellers thanked Mr. Ronan for sharing video of CNC machine.

Mrs. Knavel thanked Mr. Greenbaum for leading meeting.

Mr. Greenbaum noted the Board held an Executive session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 to discuss a personnel matter. Commented that many local districts are working to get their elementary students back into classrooms. Thanked Dr. Strine, Mrs. Shaver-Durham, and administrative team for their work to have elementary students back in classes 5 days a week from beginning of school year. Thanked administration and Board for doing the right thing and teachers for making it happen. Mrs. Shaver-Durham thanked administrators and teachers on the task force for their work in that planning. Dr. Strine commented that when you put students first, good things happen.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. MacIvor, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cristeen Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Cristeen Beck  
Board Secretary