

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on March 16, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met via Zoom. Mrs. Knouse called the meeting to order at 7:00 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
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 – Absent
Ajla Salkic – Absent

Visitors

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka - Absent

INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Dr. Strine recognized the swim team who will be participating in state competition this weekend. There were 3 gold medalists in districts.

Dr. Strine introduced Mrs. Sally Heberlig and Mr. Brad Group, two second grade teachers who are retiring in June. Wished them the best in their retirement.

Mrs. Heberlig thanked everyone, and said it was a pleasure to be a teacher in the district for the past 31 years.

Mr. Group commented that he enjoyed the past 35 years, leaving very happy and satisfied.

The Board thanked the teachers for their years of service.

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.

Steve Nedimyer 8 Group Court Mount Holly Springs

Commented that students need to return to school in person.

Does not feel that current model is ideal for students. School Board's number one priority is the students. Other students across the country have been going to school for 5 days a week. Need to recognize what is best for our students and do that. COVID-19 is not a significant threat to student population. Thanked the Board for their time and attention.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mr. Nedimyer for his comment.

Email received from Randy and Carrie Evans 205 Oak Drive Mount Holly Springs

Inquired about district's target date for increasing or fully re-opening the Secondary schools for in-person learning. Shared that Cumberland Valley announced today that they are increasing their in-person learning by mid-April and aware of other Districts in the area that are also going four days/week.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Mr. Evans for his comment.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 3/01/21 – Regular Board Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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Mr. Greenbaum 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 61104 to check 61159 in the amount of \$960,268.52 as represented in the attached summary.

7.2 That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills represented by check 16695 to check 16696 in the amount of \$216.03 as represented in the attached summary.

7.3 That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22294 to check 22356 in the amount of \$10,208.01 as represented in the attached summary.

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

7.5 That the Board approves Construction Fund bills represented by check 1290 in the amount of \$122,858.99 as represented by the attached check.

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.

7.8 That the Board approves the Treasurer's Report for February 2021.

The motion passed unanimously.

PFM Financial Advisors LLC- Brad Remig

Outlined presentation (attached to agenda)

Mrs. Rob inquired about timeline for savings.

Mr. Remig responded it would be over 19 years.

Mrs. Rob inquired about the tax-exempt rate and difference from 6 months ago.

Mr. Remig responded the tax-exempt rate is 2.75% on this bond.

Mrs. Rob inquired if tax exempt bond is best option and timeline for decisions.

Mr. Remig responded on options for investors.

Mr. Remig reviewed timeline on presentation, next meeting on April 6 would authorize Financing Team to proceed, resolution approval on April 19, week of May 3 interest rates locked/contract executed, and early June 2021 Bond Issue closing.

Mrs. Rob thanked Mr. Remig.

Mrs. Maclvor inquired if number is net of any fees.

Mr. Remig responded that the amount shown includes all the fees.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about maximizing state reimbursement.

Mr. Remig responded that blue category will equal around \$22k more per year.

Mrs. Maclvor inquired about the impact on taxes, the debt structure and ability to raise taxes.

Mrs. Weber responded that she is not aware of any changes to current Act 1 index exceptions.

Mrs. Maclvor asked Mr. Remig about which structure may be more attractive to the agencies.

Mr. Remig answered that there would not be a material impact.

Mrs. Rob inquired about percentage cost between two columns.

Mr. Remig responded with percentage around 20 percent.

Mrs. Weber commented that this will be reviewed at next meeting and voted on in April or could be pushed back to May.

Mrs. Rob commented that determination is between the two options.

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

Dr. Strine- Superintendent, thanked Mr. Remig for his presentation. Provided overview of vaccine progress in district. By this Friday, March 19, first round of staff will have vaccinations completed. Reported on considerations for return to in-person instruction for students. Met with administrators and SMEA to discuss re-opening obstacles – lunchtime spacing considerations, furniture in storage to be moved back into classrooms, teacher personal days and substitutes during Spring. At BSHS there is a scheduling obstacle with certain classes. At YBMS modifications are necessary for creative arts rotations and physical space for lunch. Noted that gym space could be used for lunches. Working to mitigate those obstacles and get students back to full-time in person learning.

Dr. Strine shared update on Comprehensive Planning, working on Ready, Set, Go sections.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about shop class and scheduling and decision that was made to allow that number of students in a class.

Dr. Strine responded that changes were made to student day and modifications to schedules were necessary.

Mrs. Knavel noted that the community feels very strongly about students returning to school and encouraged thinking outside the box.

Mrs. Meikrantz commented that list is very long and hopes that group is able to help cross off some of these things. Hopes that obstacles are not stopping the process.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that he thinks that 4th quarter should be in person. There have been many obstacles over the past year and reaching point where conditions will allow re-opening.

Mrs. Rob recommended approaching re-opening with key players and briefing Board and public regularly.

Mrs. Knouse requested timeline from Dr. Strine for Board and public.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that COVID relief funds can assist students return to school.

Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham- Director of Curriculum & Instruction, shared an update on past two days. Equity Champions training on Monday with Dr. Sessoms. This training assists teachers with conversations in their buildings on diversity.

Details on this training will be posted to JEDI section of website by the end of the week.

Today teachers participated in an Inservice Day with breakfast from the Bubbler Foundation and presentations from the Student Services department. Spent afternoon working on curriculum, textbook training, and committee work.

Mrs. Knavel requested that Equity Champions training minutes and materials be forwarded to Board members.

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Mrs. Nicole Weber- Director of Business/Operations, shared that budget presentation was posted to district website for public to review. District closed on real estate purchase of 16 Forge Road. Thanked Bubbler Foundation, Chartwells, and Chick-fil-A for breakfast and lunch vouchers for staff today.

Mrs. Knouse inquired about Thank You cards.
Mrs. Weber responded she will be sending cards.

Mr. Alex Smith- Director of Student Services, reported on exploring programs and who is represented in those programs by using data mining in Sapphire to assist in identifying population and data trends.
Counseling department update on credit recovery program at BSHS through CAOLA, 77 students taking 128 courses.
Recognized student Lily Sellers and presentation during virtual conference on students being active participants in their education.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS –

Mrs. Knouse announced Executive Session was held at 6pm this evening, with no voting and will also hold a brief executive session after this meeting to discuss Personnel, with no voting.

BOARD REPORTS- None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the agenda of March 16, 2021, with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ESS ADDENDUM FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, That the Board approves the ESS Addendum for Professional Staff.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, to approve the following personnel items in a block motion:

PERSONNEL- PROFESSIONAL- RETIREMENT

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

Brad Group, 2nd Grade Teacher- Effective June 30, 2021

Sally Heberlig, 2nd Grade Teacher- Effective June 30, 2021

PERSONNEL- SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INTERNSHIP- EMPLOYMENT

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

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

PERSONNEL- PROFESSIONAL- RESIGNATION

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

Lydia Frohm - Rice Elementary, Special Education Teacher- Effective end of day May 6, 2021

PERSONNEL- CLASSIFIED- EMPLOYMENT

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenbaum inquired to Mrs. Rob for her preference on approving policies- individually or block.

Mrs. Rob responded block motion.

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, to approve the policies in the agenda in a block motion:

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 001- NAME AND CLASSIFICATION

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 001- Name and Classification.

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 003- FUNCTIONS

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 003- Functions.

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 004- MEMBERSHIP

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 004- Membership.

SECOND/FINAL READING OF POLICY 004.1 - STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 004.1 - Student Representative to the Board.

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 005- ORGANIZATION

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 005- Organization.

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 005.1- OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR BOARD COMMITTEES

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of new Policy 005.1- Operating Guidelines for Board Committees.

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 006- MEETINGS

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 006- Meetings.

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 006.1 - ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

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

SECOND/FINAL READING- POLICY 251- HOMELESS STUDENTS

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 251- Homeless Students.

Mr. Greenbaum recommending revision to policy 006.1 on adding language on weather emergency that Board President could announce an electronic meeting.

Mrs. Rob responded that recommendation would be to approve policy contingent upon included language.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about policy 006 and section on meetings.

Mrs. Rob clarified the language in policy 006.

Mrs. Knavel thanked Mrs. Rob and the committee for their work on the policies.

Mrs. Rob noted that Bethanne Sellers, Denise MacIvor, Dr. Strine, Alex Smith, Melanie Shaver-Durham, Paula Michalik, and Brett Sheaffer are assisting with the policy review. Thanked Cristeen Beck for her work in compiling the information.

Mr. Greenbaum amended the motion, seconded by Mrs. Rob, to approve the policies in the agenda in a block motion, contingent upon adding indicated language:

The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION-

Bradley Cashman

Parent and community member – thanked everyone. Extremely challenging year for everyone

Email from Senior Student Molly Biggs – 9 Sheely Lane Boiling Springs

Suggestions and questions about senior prom and events. Students should return to all in-person learning at least 4 days a week.

Email from Doug & Kelly Miller 130 Sunset Drive Mount Holly Springs

Comment on results from 2021 student survey on student learning and action steps on student concerns.

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Mrs. Knouse requested that administration follow up with community questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report

March/April Board Calendar

March 22, 2021- Policy Committee Meeting - 6:00 pm

March 29, 2021- Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting- 6:00 pm

April 6, 2021- Planning/Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

April 19, 2021- Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 pm

April 26, 2021- Policy Committee Meeting- 6:00 pm

April 26, 2021- Budget Committee Meeting- 7:00 pm

DIRECTORS' DISCUSSION

Mr. Greenbaum commented that it was a year ago this week that we went remote. Beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Mrs. Meikrantz requested signage for on campus mask policy, spring sports season has spectators and need to provide reminders.

Mr. Hartman thanked winter sports athletes, parents, and coaches for a successful year. Felt that from a health standpoint did it safely. Looking forward to spring sports season.

Mrs. Rob requested to Mrs. Knouse a planning cell and deadline for reopening. Helpful to see matrix for reopening.

Mrs. Meikrantz suggested timeline if possible.

Mrs. Knavel commented on Molly Biggs email comment. There should be an emphasis early on to celebrate this year's seniors.

Dr. Strine responded that Mr. Hain sent out an email today on celebrations and timelines in the works.

Mrs. Knouse requested Dr. Strine share Mr. Hain's email with Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary