

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2021

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on June 7, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met in the District Office Board Room. 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 MacIvor

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

Administrative Staff

Mrs. Nicole Weber, Directors of Business/Operations
Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham, Director of Curriculum/Instruction
Mr. Alex Smith, Director of Student Services
Dr. Jesse White, Principal – Yellow Breeches Middle School
Mr. Mark Correll, Assistant Principal – Boiling Springs High School
Mr. David Boley, Principal- W.G. Rice Elementary School
Mr. Zachary Gump, Supervisor of Building/Grounds

Student Representatives

Gibran Varahrami
Ajla Salkic

Visitors

See Attached

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

Mrs. Knouse announced a moment of silence for Steve Cameron and Craig Metzger.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, to approve the agenda of June 7, 2021, with all corrections as indicated.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 5/17/21 – Regular Board Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS –

In Memory of Steve Cameron (video presentation)

Mr. Gump and Mr. Boley recognized Mr. Steve Cameron's 32 years of service to SMSD. Thanked staff who contributed to dress down day last week, raised nearly \$3,000 for his family. Thanked community and Board for their contributions. Mr. Boley spoke to how he touched the lives of many and his impact at Rice Elementary.

Mrs. Knouse thanked Barb Kuhns for putting the video together.

Recognition of Track & Field State Gold Medalists – Anna Chamberlin, Peyton Ellis, Sophia Felix, and Katryn Yocum. Coaches Matt Brenner and Steve Doland were also recognized.

Recognition of outgoing Student Representative Gibran Varahrami.

Recognition of 2020-2021 SMSD Retirees (video presentation)

Last Name	First Name	Position	Years of Service
Shields	W. David	Secondary Teacher	34
Spisak	Kimberly	Administrator	35
Scott	Beth	Administrative Assistant	15

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Alwood	Kathy	Payroll/Benefits Coordinator	24
Bailey	T. Georgann	Building Secretary	22
Group	Brad	Elementary Teacher	35
Heberlig	Sally	Elementary Teacher	31
Reutter	Susan	Elementary Teacher	25
Heimbach	Karl	Athletic Director	2
Trostle	Barb	Building Secretary	5

Mrs. Knouse thanked the retirees for their years of service to the district. Thanked Ms. Clugh for putting the video together.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY) –

Paula Michalik- emailed in comment -40 K Eastgate Drive, Carlisle

Dear Members of the South Middleton School District Board of Education,

This is a thank you letter to all of the teachers in the South Middleton School District who taught students at home and at school during the worldwide pandemic this school year. As president of the South Middleton Education Association, I witnessed firsthand the fear and anxiety of being asked by the administration and school board to risk their lives daily to educate the students of SMSD in physical classrooms. From the beginning of the 20-21 school year, SMEA and teachers advocated strongly for enforcement by the administration of the mask mandate, better contact tracing procedures as initially teachers and students were missed in being identified as close contacts, more stringent cleaning protocols and accountability for the evening cleaning crews. In November the entire district closed until January 19, 2021. During that time our dedicated teachers continued to work tirelessly to educate our students through distance learning. With short notice, their roles were redefined as they once again, transitioned their classrooms to their homes, spent hours learning new online educational tools, and worked independently and in collaboration with their peers to establish innovative ways to connect and support students and families. Like the rest of the community, they were also navigating a new way of life, caring for their own families, homeschooling their children, and worrying about the health and safety of loved ones. Every day of this pandemic, they have blown us away with their creativity, compassion, and commitment, tenacity and heart. They have moved mountains to reach each child, wherever they are and despite the challenges that stood in their way. They not only taught lessons; they have been many students' lifeline to normalcy and stability, a tether and a point of connection. Not because it's easy or because they got it right every day. It isn't, and they didn't. But they choose to get in the arena and stay there. They have managed, not just during this crisis but against the backdrop of the everyday grind, to bring joy in the midst of struggle. They have taught kids from history books and stories, legends and myths in which their names do not appear. But when we tell the story of this time, it is my hope that the work of teachers and what they have done to educate, inspire, and connect us all will be front and center.

I wish all of my colleagues a restful and relaxing summer! They deserve it!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/STUDENT REPORTS

Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction- Mrs. Sellers – Met on June 1st at 6:00pm via Zoom. K-12 Curriculum counsel reviewed and recommended the textbooks and curriculum on agenda. Bringing forward K-5 ELA curriculum, 6-8 math, Bridges intervention program for mathematics, and Algebra resources for approval on agenda. Noted it's a 6-year license and only annual cost is for workbooks. Next meeting is scheduled for July 27. Mrs. Knavel thanked Mrs. Shaver-Durham for her work. Mrs. Shaver-Durham thanked teachers and Mrs. Hale.

Advisory Committee Reports

Cumberland Perry AVTS – Mr. Greenbaum – Shared information about new summer camp for students in grades 6-8. Noted recent renovations to expand health occupations.

PSBA Legislative Report – Mr. Still – 10 House and Senate bills currently making their way through legislative process. Recent FAQ released about ESSERS.

South Middleton Township- Mrs. MacIvor – Kunkel bridge is now open. Proposed Starbucks has been withdrawn. Township is pursuing grant funding for two tennis courts and walking trail. Township has received grant to purchase Carlisle Airport.

South Middleton Parks and Recreation- Mr. Greenbaum – Last meeting focused on discussing proposed layout of Yellow Breeches park- includes baseball fields and walking trails.

Bubbler Foundation- Mrs. Meikrantz – Absent/No Report

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Gibran Varahrami- Student Representative, shared report on senior walk and other senior activities, including parade and senior night. Noted he will miss serving on Board.

The Board thanked Gibran.

Ajla Salkic- Student Representative, shared report on end of school year. Currently finals week and wished student luck on the exams. Wished all seniors a happy graduation.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

Nicole Weber – Director of Business & Operations, reported on recent survey sent to families to plan for transportation for next year. Announced that over 200 students have signed up for the free summer meals being offered this year. Thanked Mr. Milone and Chartwells team their continued work to feed students over the summer for the second year. Thanked Rohrer Bus for delivering meals for students that are unable to pick up due to transportation issues.

Highlighted district/township residential report to showcase enrollment and township zoning/potential real estate impacts. Thanked Brian O’Neil, engineer at the township for his work on report. Report is posted on district website.

SUPPORT SERVICES REPORTS- None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT- None

Mrs. Knouse noted that plan for graduation is for outdoors.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel to approve the consent agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

10.1 That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills represented by check 61421 to check 61489 in the amount of \$625,540.00 as represented in the attached summary.

10.2 That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills represented by check 16717 to check 16726 in the amount of \$17,817.67 as represented in the attached summary.

10.3 That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22422 to check 22487 in the amount of \$21,591.46 as represented in the attached summary.

10.4 That the Board approves Cafeteria Fund bills represented by check 7247 in the amount of \$90,177.48 as represented in the attached summary.

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

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

10.7 That the Board approves Trust Fund bills represented by check 7 to check 8 in the amount of \$650.00 as represented in the attached summary.

Personnel- Professional- Resignation

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

- Lindsay Frisbie, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, BSHS, effective June 30, 2021

Extra Duty Contract

That the Board approves the following Extra Duty Contract:

- \$500.00 for Brooke Clugh to complete retiree video

School Psychologist Inclusion into SMEA

That the Board approves the School Psychologist Inclusion into SMEA.

2021 Extended School Year Staff

That the Board approves the 2021 Extended School Year Staff (list attached).

Personnel - Professional - Resignation

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

- Carolyn Greene, 5th Grade Teacher, IFES, effective 6/14/2021
- Seth Eck, Art Teacher, IFES, effective 6/18/2021

Personnel - Administrative - Resignation

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

- Matthew Hurley, Supervisor of Human Resources, effective 6/18/2021

Itemized Agenda:

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel to approve the Emig Psychoeducational Evaluation Agreement.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenbaum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel to approve the First Capital Insulation, Inc. Bid for the Asbestos Removal Project.

The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING & DISCUSSION

Adoption of the Final Budget for 2021-2022

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of School Directors of the South Middleton School District, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania hereby adopts the annual budget, transfers and designations of and for said District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, as more fully set forth in PDE Form 2028 which is presented at this meeting: Further, that said Board of School Directors hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$40,323,396 for the school fiscal year July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and more particularly and fully detailed in the annual budget as foresaid; and Further, that said Board of School Directors does hereby levy a real estate tax of 11.4294 Mills of the

assessed valuation (\$1.14292 per \$100 of assessed value) on all real estate within the South Middleton School District, pursuant to the authority of "The Public School Code of 1949," as amended for the school fiscal year as aforesaid; and Further, that said Board of School Directors continues to levy the following taxes heretofore levied pursuant to the authority of "The Local Tax Enabling Act," as amended (1) Realty Transfer Tax – ½%; (2) Earned Income Tax – 1.1%; and (3) Local Services Tax - \$5.00.

That said proposed taxes as levied and continued to be levied shall provide revenue for the proposed expenditures authorized above.

Further, that said Board of School Directors approves the attached resolution implementing the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year in accordance with Act 1 of Special Session of 2006.

Capital Reserve Transfer - \$600,000

Mrs. MacIvor inquired about the anticipated balance.

Mrs. Weber noted she will follow up with figure.

Mutual Settlement and Release of All Claims

Mrs. Weber explained background of settlement- ten years ago there was a transition from Cap Tax to Cumberland Country Tax Bureau and have been seeking the money previously collected by Cap Tax. \$320k figure that will be split between South Middleton School District, Carlisle School District, and Big Spring School District.

Mr. Pahowka noted that amount will be around \$70,000 for South Middleton if approved.

Mr. Greenbaum asked Mr. Pahowka if he is happy with outcome.

Mr. Pahowka noted that this is a good outcome for the districts.

CAIU WAN Agreement

Mrs. Weber noted that this is the annual agreement for district internet services.

2021-2022 Solicitor Agreement

Mrs. Knavel thanked Mr. Pahowka for his firm not billing for COVID-related advisory services.

Mrs. Rob thanked Mr. Pahowka for sharing legal research as related to other districts.

2021-2022 River Rock Contract

Mr. Smith explained that this is an annual contract for students in need of emotional and behavioral support. This contract is planned for students for next year.

Mrs. Rob inquired about transport.

Mr. Smith responded that students are transported to locations in Shiremanstown and Newville.

Textbook Disposal

- YBMS Family & Consumer Science- "Young Living", copyright 2000 - 40 copies
- BSHS Family & Consumer Science - "Food for Today", copyright 1997 - 24 copies

Mr. Still excused himself from the meeting at 8:36pm

Job Description - Director of Technology

Mrs. MacIvor commented on including additional language cybersecurity and that she spoke with Dr. Strine about change of Supervisor of Human Resources to Director of Human Resources.

Mrs. Knavel noted that there be bigger pool of candidates for that level and if workload supports it.

Mr. Hartman noted that revised job description has severe changes between supervisor to director and required education.

Mrs. Knouse commented she will take comments back to Dr. Strine for discussion.

Mrs. Rob commented that initially supervisor and director job descriptions were very similar. Questions about added language on new description and hiring a qualified candidate for offered salary.

Mrs. Knavel agreed about competitive salary for position.

Mrs. MacIvor suggested language changes from required to desired and include experience.

Mrs. Sellers commented that job description layout is well organized, but some bullet points could be condensed.

Appointment of Student Representative- Jake Sokolofsky

Mrs. Knouse introduced Jake Sokolofsky.

Approval of Textbooks

Mrs. Shaver-Durham explained envision 6-8 Math textbooks, Algebra textbooks, and K-5 Tier 3 Math resources that Curriculum & Instruction Committee reviewed and approved.

Mrs. Rob inquired about curriculum mapping timeline and textbooks.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded that curriculum mapping is normally done prior to textbooks. The exception would be the recent FCS mapping that process was started several years ago.

Mrs. Sellers commented that standards and curriculum are driven by PA Department of Education. Resources are used to deliver standard of curriculum.

K-5 ELA Curriculum Maps

Mrs. Shaver-Durham explained where link to curriculum can be found and reviewed accessing website.

Mrs. Knavel that she is proud of district's work on web access to curriculum mapping. Thanked Mrs. Shaver-Durham and her team for their work.

Mrs. Knouse noted that this is resource for both parents and teachers.

Mrs. Rob inquired about investment in Mrs. Hale and train the trainer for future.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded that curriculum is aligned to state standards curriculum.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about frequency of re-write.

Mrs. Shaver-Durham confirmed that the cloud-based system can be edited and updated as needed.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Carol Neumayer - 207 Red Tank Road Boiling Springs

Inquired about Student Representative and years served on Board.

Gibran explained that announcements are made in the high school and students can run for the role or if there is only one applicant that student will be selected.

AJ explained her experience and applying for the role of student representative.

Mrs. Neumayer inquired about representing student classes.

AJ responded that their role represents all students and activities.

Mrs. Knouse noted that they bring insight to Board and great leadership experience for the student.

Gibran noted that he makes an effort to poll students from each demographic.

AJ commented that it's important to hear all voices.

Mrs. Rob commented that Student Representative policy was recently revised this year.

AJ gave example of survey this past year that was collected and presented to Board to share student voices and opinions on topic.

Mrs. Sellers commented that chain of command is followed, and that Mr. Hain follows up with any concerns.

Mrs. MacIvor noted that students have come for public comment at Board meetings.

Email from Meagan Snook- 18 Laurel Oak Drive Boiling Springs

I know that we were told that there would be a pause put on the JEDI initiative until there was more input from parents. That being said, during the curriculum meeting Ms. Shaver-Durham included the term "culturally responsive" instruction on one of her slides, which is another "buzz word" for the highly controversial theory that is, Critical Race Theory. How can we as parents be sure, that this racist theory will not be taught in our schools?

Mrs. Shaver-Durham responded that the slide Ms. Snook is referring to is related to multi-tiered systems of support and not curriculum.

Email from Katrina Scavone 13 Meadowood Place Boiling Springs

What are the terms of the current student reps? Where can we find the expectations of how the student rep is to act that the current student rep mentioned? Can we please send out an email application for this important position so equity is ensured and its not the same voices being heard and given

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opportunity? It's important that we are placing ourselves inside an echo chamber during these important board meetings.

Mrs. Knouse commented that those questions were just answered in the discussion.

Joy Bowman – 46 South Pin Oak Drive Boiling Springs

Asked Gibran about his experience of running for student representative. Inquired if there is typically a lot of interested in this role.

Mr. Correll responded that some years there are rarely any applicants- emails and announcements are sent out to students. Announcements are done twice a day. More interest in Student Council.

Mrs. Bowman inquired about culturally responsive term in curriculum meeting. Request for concrete examples of this – as a parent would like specific clear information.

Inquired about next school year and masking.

Mrs. Knouse responded that a decision has not been made and Safety & Security committee will review.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that guidance will be reviewed and information out to families prior to next school year.

Doug Miller - 130 Sunset Drive Mount Holly Springs

Commented on two other districts in Cumberland County and students with issues with numerous absences. Understanding that Children and Youth will be get involved and districts are allowing students to move onto next grade. Inquired about district data.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that at last Safety & Security meeting Mr. Alex Smith shared report on impact of COVID on attendance and other issues.

Mr. Smith responded that report showed average attendance rates. Past years attendance rate was 95%. This past year elementary stayed at same rate. Middle School and High School rates dropped. This data impacts planning for supporting students and helping with identifying learning loss. Mr. Smith noted there were still student attendance improvement plan meetings and worked to leverage strengths.

Gibran inquired about drop in attendance at BSHS – noted that electronic attendance form was not always completed and effect on numbers.

Mr. Smith responded that both electronic attendance and teacher reported attendance as well. Noted that Barb Trostle pulled information from both to verify attendance.

Mr. Miller inquired about excused absences. Mr. Smith confirmed that the excused absences were included in those figures.

Mrs. Neumayer commented that she is concerned with only one view from student representative for each grade – noted that Gibran and Jake are both on Racial Justice Club.

Mrs. Knouse noted that student representatives do not make policy.

Mr. Pahowka noted that this is only of the only Boards that have two representatives, others have only one or none.

AJ commented on her involvement with Perfect Peers Club.

Mrs. Knavel commented that she has only interacted with student representatives during Board meeting. Welcomes student feedback at public meetings.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Sellers commented that parade was excellent. Senior daughter enjoyed.

Mrs. Knavel expressed happiness for getting through this school year. Thanked parents and students.

Mr. Hartman congratulated spring sports and graduating class. Plans to do parade every year for students.

Mr. Greenbaum thanked everyone for hard work this year.

Mrs. Rob commented on great photos of parade.

Mrs. MacIvor complimented both student representatives.

Mrs. Knouse congratulated class of 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Enrollment Report (attached)

June Board Calendar

June 21, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knouse, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary

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Public Attendance

Sherry Welsh

Carol Neumayer

Kimberly Ronan

Brian Ronan

Georgann Bailey

Sally Heberlig

Patti Geiger

Tom Geiger

Joyce Rider

Lauretta Garman

Brad Group

Vicki Clepper

Dean Clepper

Kim Spisak

Matt Brenner

Steve Doland

Jennifer Chamberlin

Anna Chamberlin

Carla Yocum

Ashlyn Yocum

Katryn Yocum

Douglas Miller

Sophia Felix

Jake Sokolofsky

Tanya Morret

Mackenzie Morret

