

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2021

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on September 7, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Greenbaum 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. Brad Group

Mr. William Hartman

Mrs. Stacey Kavel

Mrs. Elizabeth Knouse- Absent

Mrs. Denise MacIvor

Mrs. Elizabeth Meikrantz

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. Joel Hain, Principal – Boiling Springs High School

Mrs. Trisha Reed, Principal- Iron Forge Elementary School

Mr. Brian Ronan, Director of Technology

Student Representatives

Ajla Salkic

Jacob Sokolofsky

Visitors

See Attached

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Approval of Agenda

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting: 8/16/21 – Regular Board Meeting.

Mrs. Knavel commented on how well Mrs. Beck's captured the public comments from the last meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS –

Mr. Hartman recognized Rachel Boyle and team for Hall of Fame Event.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY) –

Email from Shannon Snyder 115 Andrew Court

In regards to any board approved severance agreement with Mr. Strine that may have been made and the hiring of Mr. Estep as Superintendent, how is the previously approved budget effected? Will there need to be adjustments made to the budget or specific line items in order to meet these commitments? Please understand that I am not asking for private personnel information, only how the budget is/will be effected. Thank you in advance for your assistance in understanding how community tax dollars are being utilized.

Mr. Greenbaum noted that the Business manager can review that information and determine updates to budget.

Email from Andrea Crum 930 Ridge Road

I hope you are all doing well. I just had a concern about the financial aspect of Dr Strine's severance package as well as Mr. Estep's retirement in 3 years and wanted to make sure that we feel we can financially handle both without effecting the student's needs.

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

Mr. Greenbaum outlined the 8/23, 8/26, 8/27, 8/29, 8/30, 9/2 Executive Sessions to discuss Personnel matters. Focus was on Mr. James Estep and Superintendent duties. Mr. Estep agreed to delay retirement for up to 3 years and that contract is on the agenda this evening.

Mr. Greenbaum thanked Mr. Alex Smith and Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham for taking on Acting Superintendent duties during the interim.

Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction- Mrs. Sellers – Met directly before Board meeting. Meeting was rescheduled from 8/30/21. Outlined agenda including Social Justice course, ELA course novels, and websites. Recommendations to bring forward those items for approval. Course description and name were previously approved. Next meeting is October 25.

Advisory Committee Reports

Cumberland Perry Area Career & Technical Center – Mr. Greenbaum – Reported on recent name change. Commented on largest class this year. Cafeteria space was redone into health career center and are offering more medical career choices.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about the café.

Mr. Greenbaum noted that café is still in place.

PSBA Legislative Report – Mr. Still – Noted Governor Wolf's mask mandate for K-12 schools and preschool centers.

South Middleton Township- Mrs. MacIvor – Working to get meeting set up with township.

South Middleton Parks and Recreation- Mr. Greenbaum – No meeting.

Bubbler Foundation- Mrs. Meikrantz – Education committee met on 8/11 and discussed fundraising initiatives. Bubbler Foundation is on Facebook.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS- Mrs. Nicole Weber- Director of Business & Operations, highlighted the checks and amounts listed for approval. Large amount of supply purchasing for start of school year. Commented on Recorder of Deeds check error and change to financial reports. Business department working on getting benefits and payroll set for 10-month staff. Thanked Mrs. Beck for her assistance with HR department.

Mrs. Knavel inquired about Amazon account.

Mrs. Weber responded that rates are discounted.

Mr. Hartman inquired about Recorder of Deeds check error and how it could be corrected in future.

Mrs. Weber responded that additional follow up will be considered.

SUPPORT SERVICES REPORTS- None

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT REPORT-

Mr. Alex Smith- Director of Student Services, highlighted Bubbler Foundation and their assistance with helping families with food insecurities. School year has gotten off to a great start. Transportation services have done an excellent job. Building level secretaries and administrative assistants have helped with enrollment process. Commented on Back to School nights at the buildings. There have been several COVID cases and notifications have been handled by the building principals. Noted Pep Rally and last couple football games.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT -

Jake Sokolofsky- Student Representative, thanked the Board for their welcome. Everyone is excited about being back in school 5 days per week. Highlighted Student Representative Instagram account to gather student feedback with polls and information. Recent poll has shown that students agree with masking. Club are starting and great ways to connect with others. Working to plan prom.

AJ Salkic- Student Representative, congratulated all the team captains for fall sports. Highlighted recent games and wins. Commented that there were a few tech issues on first day but otherwise school year has gotten off to a good start. Congratulated students on Homecoming Court.

Mrs. Knavel commented on previous feedback and working to represent all students via Instagram account.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Financial Reports

10.1 That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills represented by check 61730 to check 61840 in the amount of \$1,259,571.75 as represented in the attached summary.

10.2 That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills represented by check

16745 to check 16749 in the amount of \$8,289.64 as represented in the attached summary.

10.3 That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills represented by check 22516 in the amount of \$4,000.00 as represented in the attached summary.

10.4 That the Board approves Cafeteria Fund bills represented by check 7292 to check 7296 in the amount of \$36,973.94 as represented in the attached summary.

10.5 That the Board approves Construction Fund bills represented by check 1294 in the amount of \$1,091.28 as represented in the attached summary.

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 14 to check 18 in the amount of \$2,300.00 as represented in the attached summary.

YBEC Agreement

That the Board approves the 2021-2022 YBEC agreement.

Extra-Duty/Co-Curriculars

That the Board approves the following Extra-Duty/Co-Curricular assignments:

- Emma Mummert- Class of 2025 Co-Advisor- \$300.00 (position is vacant)
- Katherin Doncel-Slantz- Class of 2024 Co-Advisory - \$600.00 (replacing Kristi Elder)
- David Boyle - Chemistry Club Advisor - \$450.00 (position is vacant)
- Michael Bogdan- BSHS gifted case manager with an anticipated caseload of 28 students for \$3,360 for first semester.

Department Chairs 2021-2022

That the Board approves the Department Chairs for the 2021-2022 School Year. (list attached)

Sign Language Interpreter Contract

That the Board approves the Sign Language Interpreter Contract.

Student Assistant Program/Teenline Agreement

That the Board approves the Student Assistance Program/Teenline Agreement.

Amended HR Services Agreement

That the Board approves the amended PASPA Agreement for Human Resources Services.

Pro Care Therapy Contract

That the Board approves the Pro Care Therapy Contract for speech/teletherapy services.

The motion passed unanimously.

Itemized Agenda:

Personnel - Employment - Professional

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the following Personnel - Professional - Employment:

- Kayla Nailor - Learning Support Teacher - YBMS- (Replacing Michelle Long) - Master's, Step 4 - \$56,025, Anticipated start date September 20, 2021
 - Education: Bachelor's from Shippensburg University, Master's from Shippensburg University
 - Experience: Washington County Schools, Maryland 2018-2021

The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel - Employment- Athletics

Mr. Still made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, that the Board approves the following Personnel - Employment - Athletics:

- Allie Schrom - Junior High Assistant Field Hockey Coach - \$2,250 (position is vacant)
- Kristen Lebo - Assistant Varsity Cheer/Strength Training Coach- Volunteer

The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel- Employment- Long-Term Substitute

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the following Personnel- Employment- Long-Term Substitute:

- Brooke Brownawell - Reading Teacher - IFES (for Vanessa Watkins) - September 20, 2021- April 1, 2022, Bachelor's Step 1-Pro-rated \$33,539.94

Board Meeting Minutes, 09/07/21, Page 7

Mrs. Sellers inquired about certification.

Mr. Group inquired about Title 1 position certification requirements.

Mr. Pahowka responded that position can be approved pending certification verification.

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers that the Board approves the employment pending verification of appropriate certification.

The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel- Employment - Short-Term Substitute

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz, that the Board approves the following Personnel -Employment- Short-Term Substitute:

- Gretchen Miller - 6th Grade Teacher - YBMS (for Erin Brenner) August 25, 2021- October 1, 2021, Bachelor's Step 1 -Pro-rated \$7,187.13

The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel - Resignation

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers that the Board approves the following resignation:

- Chelsea Hranica - Accounting Specialist - Effective September 17, 2021

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz to move items 11f-11h in a block motion:

Appointment of Acting Superintendent Duties (8/30/21-9/10/21)

That the Board approves the appointment of Acting Superintendent Duties to Mrs. Melanie Shaver-Durham and Mr. Alex Smith for the period of 8/30/21 through 9/10/21, each compensated at a rate of \$300.00 per day.

Director of Business & Operations Job Description

That the Board approved the Director of Business & Operations Job Description.

PASBO Business Services Agreement

That the Board approves the Contracted Services Agreement for the Business Office transition with PASBO at a rate of \$95.00 per hour with services provided by Jeff Ammerman of PASBO.

The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Business & Operations - Employment Agreement

Mrs. Knavel made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Meikrantz that the Board approves the Employment Agreement with Tina Darchicourt for the position of Director of Business and Operations for the term November 8, 2021 through June 30, 2026, as attached.

Mr. Still noted that he will have a no vote. This is based upon contract differences with Business and Superintendent agreements and not Mrs. Darchicourt. There should not be incentivizing of sick days.

Mrs. Knavel commented that she agreed with Mr. Still on sick days.

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

Mr. Hartman- Yes	Mrs. Sellers-Yes
Mrs. Knavel- Yes	Mr. Still-No
Mrs. Knouse-Absent	Mr. Greenbaum-No
Mrs. MacIvor- Yes	Mr. Group-Yes
Mrs. Meikrantz-Yes	

Yes -6, No -2, Abstentions-0, Absent -1

Rescind Acting Superintendent Agreement

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board rescinds the Acting Superintendent Agreement with Mr. James Estep by mutual agreement.

The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent- Employment Agreement

Mrs. Meikrantz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Knavel, that the Board approves the Employment Agreement with James A. Estep for the position of Superintendent for the term September 11, 2021 through September 10, 2024, as attached.

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

Mr. Hartman- Yes Mrs. Sellers-Yes
Mrs. Knavel - Yes Mr. Still- Yes
Mrs. Knouse- Absent Mr. Greenbaum- Yes
Mrs. MacIvor- Yes Mr. Group-Yes
Mrs. Meikrantz- Yes

Yes –8, No –0, Abstentions-0, Absent -1

Mr. Greenbaum thanked Mr. Estep for reconsidering his retirement.

Mr. Estep thanked the Board. Wants to help stabilize things, focus on financials with Tina’s assistance, and add value to every student’s day. Thanked Board for opportunity.

Mr. Greenbaum noted that it’s a challenging time for education.

Mr. Still commented that Nicole has done a fantastic job and thankful for Tina during this critical time during Nicole’s departure.

Mrs. Sellers commented she appreciated Mr. Estep’s positive view of Boiling Springs.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Email from Beth and Brian Rudge 107 Bellows Drive

We feel that the attitude toward Covid mitigation for this school year has been excellent [deploying reasonable mitigations where possible to ensure access to 5 day a week in person learning for our kids]. Through these first few weeks of school, there has been a substantially larger than expected level of kids with exposures identified through contact tracing that are now in quarantine. We are surprised by the levels considering the masking requirements in place and the changes to exposure classifications that were made. It appears as if the exposures and subsequent quarantines could be coming in large part from gaps in our mitigations like a lack of distancing at lunch. Do you have any information that you can share about the nature of the exposures that are happening and what is being considered and/or done to adjust our protocols so that we can stay on track to keeping as many kids as possible in the classroom? Are we currently following the 6ft spacing guidance for lunch periods? If not, are there plans to move toward this? Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. Greenbaum noted that Mr. Rudge's questions can be forwarded to an administrator for answers.

Email from Kristen Markley 5 Hoerner Circle

As a parent of a 1st grader and 5th grader in the school district, I am writing to urge the school district to require 6 ft distancing between students at lunch time and any other time that they are indoors and without masks. We are alarmed by the number of Covid cases and numbers of students being quarantined and believe that following this recommended safety protocol would enable the SMSD to manage Covid better and keep more students in school. Thank you for your consideration.

Email from Jennifer Lapse 215 Meals Drive

Email from Linda Lane 310 Longs Gap Road

Mr. Greenbaum noted that both sent in emails regarding a particular student. These cannot be discussed in a public meeting but will be forwarded to the appropriate administrator.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Hartman thanked Mrs. Shaver-Durham and Mr. Smith for stepping up. Welcomed Mrs. Darchicourt and Mr. Estep.

Mr. Group inquired about building substitutes.

Mrs. Weber and Dr. White responded with information about YBMS building subs, they are working on finding a sub. IFES and Rice are covered. Working to get another at BSHS.

Mrs. MacIvor thanked Mr. Greenbaum for filling in for this meeting. Recognized Mrs. Knouse for her role as Board President. Noted that she spends a lot of time on the phone and in meetings. Despite her full-time job and other commitments, Mrs. Knouse is devoted to her role as Board President for the district.

Mr. Greenbaum shared similar sentiments for Mrs. Knouse.

Mr. Still thanked Mrs. Shaver-Durham and Mr. Smith for stepping in to help during this time. Recommended district wide communication about COVID cases.

Mrs. Knavel commented that dashboard is helpful for that information.

Mr. Greenbaum noted that information normally publicized on website.

Mrs. Sellers welcomed Jake and AJ and thanked them for their role as Student Representatives.

Mrs. Meikrantz thanked administrators. Complimented student handbooks.

Mr. Pahowka noted Executive Session immediately following meeting to discuss Personnel.

Mr. Greenbaum commented that he and Mrs. Rob had discussion in spring and was optimistic for fall, where as Mrs. Rob disagreed. Mr. Greenbaum noted that she was

right. Thanked administration for taking realistic approach and for a successful start. Students are thankful to be back in school, attending football games, and other events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

September Board Calendar

Athletics & Student Activities Committee Meeting – September 13, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Regular Board Meeting- September 20, 2021- 7:00 PM

Policy Committee Meeting - September 27, 2021- 6:00 PM

Informational- FMLA

- Erin Brenner- August 25, 2021-October 1, 2021
- Nicole Johnson- January 3, 2021-March 25, 2022
- Kara Dayhoff- November 7, 2021 - February 18, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartman, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary

Public Attendance

Anna Foster

Joy Bowman

Tony Lucido

Board Meeting Minutes, 09/07/21, Page 12

Melissa Sell

Tina Darchicourt

Tanya Morret

Joe Cress

James Estep