

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2021

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on December 20, 2021. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Group 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. Eric Berry

Mr. Terry Draper

Mr. Brad Group

Mr. William Hartman

Mr. Anthony Lucido

Mrs. Robin Scherer

Mrs. Bethanne Sellers

Mrs. Shannon Snyder

Mr. Rodney Wagner

Administrative Staff

Mr. James Estep, Superintendent

Mr. Alex Smith, Director of Student Services

Mrs. Tina Darchicourt, Director of Business & Operations

Mrs. Jennifer Chamberlin, Supervisor of Special Education

Student Representatives

Ajla Salkic

Jake Sokolofsky

Visitors

See attached

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

Mr. Group announced an Executive Session on December 14 to discuss Personnel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Snyder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartman, to approve the agenda of December 20, 2021, with all correction as indicated.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartman, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meetings:

12/06/2021- Organization Meeting

12/06/2021 – Planning/Regular Board Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS – Recognition of Holiday Card Artist

Mr. Estep recognized 2nd Grade W.G. Rice Student- Emily Spurgeon for her artwork that was selected for the 2021 SMSD Holiday Card.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY) –

Allen Cosby – 1 East Countryside Drive Boiling Springs
Inquired about appointment of new board members and Mrs. Snyder's vote.

Mr. Pahowka clarified public comment process.

Mr. Cosby commented that he is disappointed and disgusted.

Mr. Group thanked Mr. Cosby for his comment.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT- Mr. Estep shared information on plan for next school year for monthly two-hour early dismissals or delays for staff to work on professional development. Mr. Estep noted this would increase time to improve on instructional planning. The 2022-2023 calendar will need to be revisited and discussed with more information to be shared over the next month or so.

Mr. Berry inquired about if it would be on same day.

Mr. Estep responded that it would likely differ and would provide advance notice.

Mrs. Sellers commented on recent change to start time to accommodate for staff development meetings and impact with loss of instructional time.

Mr. Estep responded with suggestion to revisit start times to increase instructional time for students and allow additional time for professional development. Goal is to provide quality instruction.

Mrs. Snyder inquired about trainings.

Mr. Wagner inquired about impact on Act 80 days.

Mr. Estep responded the time would not impact Act 80 days.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS – Mrs. Tina Darchicourt shared update on recently completed 2020-2021 audit and information submitted to PDE. Noted budget 20-21 deficit. Highlighted increased cyber school costs. Mr. Kreider from Boyer & Ritter will attend the January 10 Board Meeting to present on audit.

Mr. Estep encouraged Board to ask Tina questions of any financial items prior to meetings.

Mrs. Scherer inquired about report on agenda.

Mrs. Darchicourt confirmed that is the annual financial report but not the audited report which will be on the January 10 agenda.

Mr. Estep commented that several districts are facing similar budget issues.

Mr. Draper inquired about this year's budget.

Mrs. Darchicourt responded that General Fund Balance can accommodate the deficit and will work to present those numbers to the Board during budget process.

Mr. Estep confirmed pending review of current budget.

Mr. Lucido inquired about Capital Reserve benchmark.

Mrs. Darchicourt responded she will work to provide these numbers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT– Mr. Group outlined Board Committee Chairs and assignments for new Board members. Mr. Draper will serve on Policy Committee, Athletics & Student Activities Committee, and serve as CPACTC Rep. Mr. Lucido will serve on Safety & Security Committee, Technology Committee, and serve as South Middleton Township Parks & Recreation Rep. Mr. Group noted committee guidelines packet.

Mr. Group also addressed school board email and working to develop a response protocol.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT –

Jake Sokolofsky, Student Representative- shared information on BSHS clubs that held recent bake sales, made Christmas Cards, and success in math and debate clubs.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative- congratulated winter sports teams. Highlighted Mrs. Mowe and bake sale that club held. Club will be holding fundraiser for Special Olympics.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about feedback on lunch seating.

Jake responded that concern was on lifting masking and close seating.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Draper made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Berry inquired about mobile mini building rental.

Mr. Smith responded with information about on-site COVID testing and impact on test to stay program.

Mr. Estep noted it will allow students that negative test to return to school.

Mr. Smith confirmed location by maintenance building and would be there through May 2022.

Mr. Lucido inquired about who would be testing.

Mr. Smith clarified it would be students and available to community.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about other mobile minis.

Mr. Smith responded this is an office unit for testing.

Ajla spoke to her experience with COVID quarantining and desire to return to class.

Mr. Smith noted this would require an update to Health & Safety Plan.

Mrs. Sellers suggested coordination with township.

Mr. Draper inquired about timeline and Health & Safety Plan update.

Mr. Alex responded with timeline and grant funding information.

Mrs. Snyder inquired about parent consent for testing students.

Mr. Smith responded with process and discussion on consent.

Mr. Hartman suggested connection with township.

Mr. Wagner inquired about the EMS agreement.

Mr. Smith clarified EMS bills insurance or patient.

Mr. Draper made a motion to move 9i (Mobile Mini Building Rental) to the Itemized Agenda. It was moved to Item 10f on the Itemized Agenda.

Financial Reports

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills processed from December 07, 2021 through December 17, 2021.

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills processed December 20, 2021.

That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills processed from December 01, 2021 through December 14, 2021.

That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills processed from December 01, 2021 through December 14, 2021.

No checks disbursed from Cafeteria Fund from December 01, 2021 through December 14, 2021.

No checks disbursed from Construction Fund from December 01, 2021 through December 14, 2021.

No checks disbursed from Capital Reserve from December 01, 2021 through December 14, 2021.

No checks disbursed from Trust Fund from December 01, 2021 through December 14, 2021.

That the Board approves VISA transactions from October 26, 2021 through November 26, 2021.

That the Board approves the Treasurer's Report from November 2021.

That the Board approves the Financial Report through November 2021.

See Saw Contract

That the Board approves the See Saw Contract.

New Story Tuition Agreements

That the Board approves the New Story Tuition Agreements.

Personnel- Resignation/Retirement

That the Board approves the following Personnel- Resignation/Retirement:

- Paula Michalik- Speech/Language Teacher at IFES, effective February 4, 2022

2022 Board Committee Appointments and Calendar

That the Board approves the 2022 Board Committee Appointments and Calendar.

Goddard School MOU

That the Board approves the Goddard School Emergency Evacuation MOU.

EMS Medical Management Inc. Agreement

That the Board approves the EMS Medical Management Inc. Agreement.

Associated Products Rental

That the Board approves the rental of a Portable Restroom from Associated Products for \$108.60/month (rental anticipated until end of 21-22 school year)

Capital Electric

That the Board approves the Capital Electric quote for electric to mobile building rental.

The motion passed unanimously.

Itemized Agenda:

Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Hartman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers that the Board approves the 2020-2023 Comprehensive Plan and state reports.

Mr. Berry commented on his review of the plan and repetitive language. Noted numerous acronyms.

Mr. Estep noted it may be due to required template but will answer any questions on specific items.

Mr. Berry inquired about Student Assurances Plan and school resource officers.

Mr. Smith responded that it confirms that SMSD does not have a resource officer.

Mrs. Scherer commented that Comp Plan is based on feelings and social-emotional learning. Focus should be on academics.

Mr. Estep commented on requirements for grant funding.

Mr. Lucido inquired about tie to Title IX and Policy 103.

Mr. Smith responded that infractions related to Title IX and officers and need for Administrative Regulation.

Mrs. Scherer inquired about updates to the plan.

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

Mr. Hartman-Yes

Mr. Wagner-Yes

Mr. Lucido-Yes

Mr. Berry-Yes

Mrs. Scherer-Yes

Mr. Draper- Yes

Mrs. Sellers-Yes

Mr. Group- Yes

Mrs. Snyder-Yes

Yes -9, No –0, Abstentions-0, Absent –0

Financial Report 2020-2021

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner that the Board approves the audited Financial Report for the 2020-2021 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel- Winter Athletic Coaches

Mr. Hartman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner that the Board approves the following Personnel- Winter Athletic Coach:

- Scott Houser - Assistant Coach - Diving- \$3,000
- Kirsten Strayer- Assistant Coach- Swimming & Diving- Volunteer

The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner to move items 10d and 10e in a block motion:

Personnel- Position Change/Employment

That the Board approves the following Personnel- Position Change/Employment:

- Erin Pittman- BSHS Science Teacher to Acting Assistant Principal (for Mark Correll) effective January 3, 2022, through March 28, 2022, \$2,695.00 stipend.
- Michael Bogdan- BSHS Foreign Language Teacher to 6-12 Gifted Teacher (replacing Jen Chamberlin), effective date TBD, no salary change.

Personnel- Employment

That the Board approves the following Personnel- Employment:

- John Billman - Head Groundskeeper (replacing Darryl Betts), effective January 3, 2022, \$20.10/hour
- Leslie Felix - School Nurse (RN) at YBMS (replacing Melissa Short-Ryan), effective January 6, 2022, Salary- \$37,732.50/year

The motion passed unanimously.

Mobile Mini Building Rental

Mr. Hartman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers that the Board approves the Mobile Mini building rental agreement.

Mr. Draper commented with concerns and determining exact plan.

Mr. Lucido and Mr. Berry agreed with Mr. Draper.

Mrs. Sellers commented on helping students and quickly.

On a roll call vote, the motion was defeated as follows:

Mr. Lucido-No

Mr. Berry-No

Mrs. Scherer-No

Mr. Draper- No

Mrs. Sellers-Yes

Mr. Group- Yes

Mrs. Snyder-No

Mr. Hartman- Yes

Mr. Wagner-Yes

Yes -4, No -5, Abstentions-0, Absent -0

Mr. Group inquired to Board on how to handle other approvals.

Mrs. Sellers suggested township property use.

Mr. Wagner inquired if Safety & Security Committee can review.

Mr. Draper highlighted the other items- porta potty, electric, and agreement with EMS.

Mr. Group asked Mr. Pahowka on other items.

Mr. Pahowka responded with suggestions on how to handle and possible committee discussion.

Mr. Group clarified that Safety & Security Committee will review.

Mrs. Sellers commented that she does not agree with re-grouping and committee review due to timing.

Mr. Draper commented that he agrees with intent but needs details.

Mr. Hartman commented that campus has many visitors.

Mr. Lucido noted that those who voted no have questions on process.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Athletics & Student Activities Committee- Mr. Hartman

Met earlier in December and had several student athletes visit. Highlighted cheerleaders and several other music and sports events.

Mr. Estep commented on practice request for Thursday morning this week and optional for students.

Safety & Security Committee- Mr. Wagner

Met on December 15 to discuss Health & Safety Plan and recent mask order.
Scheduled meeting for January 19 to discuss changes to Health & Safety Plan.
Mrs. Sellers inquired about testing plan.
Mr. Wagner responded it was discussed but did not have specifics.

BOARD COMMENTS-

Mr. Group requested that Board provide feedback on email protocol response plan.
Mrs. Scherer commented that President should act as gatekeeper and disseminate to related committee chair for response.
Mr. Group noted some examples and highlighted chain of command.
Mr. Estep offered several suggestions on how to respond.
Mrs. Sellers commented on difference in voices when committee responds. Noted Vice-President role and providing consistent voice with back up as needed.
Mr. Berry noted agreement with having one voice.
Mr. Estep commented on assisting with reply.
Mr. Wagner inquired about past practice.
Mr. Hartman outlined Mrs. Knouse's previous responses and back up assistance.
Mr. Hartman wished all staff a happy holiday.
Mrs. Sellers welcomed Mr. Draper and Mr. Lucido to the Board, new hires, and retirement.
Mr. Group welcomed new members.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION-

Carol Yannity- 17 Sheely Lane Boiling Springs
Welcomed new board members. Thanked Mr. Estep and Mr. Smith for the Health & Safety Plan and students being in the buildings 5 days a week. Disappointed about vote on Mobile Mini Unit and personal experience dealing with finding testing resources. Thanked professional staff, support staff, and administrators for their work. Feels that children have received a wonderful education here.

Anna Foster – 120 Spring Farm Circle Carlisle
Commented on large number of cases with COVID and medical quarantining in buildings. Noted that it's not a closed campus. Encouraged Board to re-think on campus testing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

January 2022 Board Calendar

Policy Committee Meeting- Wednesday January 5, 2022 - 6:00 pm

Planning/Regular Board Meeting- Monday January 10, 2022- 7:00 pm

Budget Committee Meeting- Monday, January 17, 2021- 6:00 pm

Safety & Security Committee Meeting- Wednesday January 19, 2022- 5:00 pm

Regular Board Meeting- Monday January 24, 2022- 7:00 pm

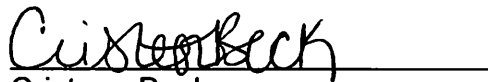
Athletics & Student Activities Committee Meeting- Monday, January 31, 2022- 6:00 pm

Enrollment Report

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Snyder, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cristeen Beck", is written over a horizontal line.

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary

Public Attendance

Matt Tomasov

Susan Lutz

Maryjane Akin

Meagan Snook

Maria Gorham

Laura Eckert

Anna Foster

Carol Yannity

Joy Bowman

Tina Gutshall

Gibran Varahrami

Allen Cosby

Kim Stone