

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

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2022

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on January 10, 2022. The South Middleton Board of School Directors met in the District Office Board Room. Mr. Group called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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. Tony 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

Student Representatives

Ajla Salkic
Jacob Sokolofsky

Visitors

See Attached

Board Secretary

Cristeen Beck

Solicitor

Gareth Pahowka

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Mr. Hartman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Berry, that the Board approves the agenda of January 10, 2022, and the minutes of the following meetings: 12/20/2021-Special Voting Meeting and 12/20/2021- Regular Board Meeting

The motion passed unanimously.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS – Mr. Estep recognized Mr. Yinger and the district band and orchestra students. Mr. Yinger spoke about the process and honor of being selected for district band and district orchestra. Commented on good things happening at SMSD. Student Claire James highlighted experiences in participating in music events through district, even during the pandemic.

Mr. Draper commented on county band event at Messiah this past weekend- kudos to the students.

Mr. Estep recognized Mr. Yinger and the other music teachers for their work.

Mr. Group noted that district has one of oldest instrumental programs in the area. Many students have gone onto compete at county and state levels.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY) –

Gene Yannity – 17 Sheely Lane Boiling Springs

Inquired about Mobile Mini for covid testing.

Mr. Group confirmed it is for covid testing.

Mr. Yannity commented on students learning best in person. Having access to testing is important- shared recent experience with daughter who felt ill and tried to get tested. Encourages board to vote yes for on campus testing.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT- Mr. Estep shared an update on Director of Curriculum role and transitioning that position into the Assistant to the Superintendent role. The new Assistant to the Superintendent could potentially transition into the Superintendent after Mr. Estep's retirement. First round interviews will take place tomorrow.

2020-2021 Audit Report- Boyer & Ritter- Mr. Joel Kreider shared the audit report. Outlined the audit packet and noted Boyer & Ritter reports and separate district financials.

Explained audit process- gathering data, testing, and compliance. Mr. Kreider provided explanation of different fund balances.

Mr. Group inquired about rent and lease changes.

Mr. Kreider clarified the change and gave examples of copier leasing and transportation leases. Recommended capital leases in specific situations.

Mr. Estep inquired about liabilities.

Mr. Kreider responded that impact will be low.

Mr. Estep commented on experience with strategic financial decisions and discussed concerns with capital reserve and balances.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT- None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT –

Jake Sokolofsky- Student Representative, shared update on student dress code survey. Will review data soon and present to board. Working with group of teachers to meet with students to discuss.

Ajla Salkic- Student Representative, congratulated winter sports teams and recent achievements. Noted upcoming change to high school resource schedule. Commented on concern with rise in covid cases at BSHS and students quarantining.

Jake commented on several students out with covid in the past week and mobile mini for testing.

Consent Agenda

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

Financial Reports

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills processed from December 21, 2021 through January 07, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills processed January 10, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills processed from December 15, 2021 through January 04, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills processed from December 15, 2021 through January 04, 2022.

No payments were disbursed from Cafeteria Fund from December 15, 2021 through January 04, 2022.

No payments were disbursed from Construction Fund from December 15, 2021 through January 04, 2022.

No payments were disbursed from Capital Reserve from December 15, 2021 through January 04, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Trust Fund bills processed from December 15, 2021 through January 04, 2022.

16 Forge Road Demolition Project

That the Board authorizes the Administration to seek bids on the 16 Forge Road Demolition Project.

Mr. Hartman inquired about fire department participation.

Mr. Group responded that facilities committee will review bids prior to board recommendation.

Mr. Estep noted associated utility projects to cap water and sewer.

The motion passed unanimously.

Itemized Agenda:

2020-2021 Audit Report

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Snyder that the Board approves the 2020-2021 Audit Report.

Mr. Hartman asked Mrs. Darchicourt about audit experience.

Mrs. Darchicourt noted that Boyer & Ritter was very helpful and highlighted Assistant Business Manager - Lindsay Kint's work.

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

Mrs. Scherer-Yes	Mr. Draper-Yes
Mrs. Sellers-Yes	Mr. Group-Yes
Mrs. Snyder-Yes	Mr. Hartman-Yes
Mr. Wagner-Yes	Mr. Lucido-Yes
Mr. Berry-Yes	

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

Mobile Mini Building Rental

Mr. Wagner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers that the Board approves the Mobile Mini building rental agreement - total cost of agreement through end of May 2022 is estimated to be approximately \$2700.00. This cost is eligible for coverage under

ESSERS through a revision of the ESSERS budget, or we can use existing unspent monies from the Student Services Budget.

Note: Use of the testing service will be voluntary, and the only eligible people will be our employees and students. Hours of operation will be Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-1pm.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about ESSERS funding.

Mr. Estep confirmed that ESSERS funding may be used for these situations.

Mr. Draper inquired about access.

Mr. Smith responded that student and staff ID's will be required, verification through Sapphire, and/or school nurse referral.

Mr. Draper inquired about availability of testing kits.

Mr. Smith responded that EMS is responsible for providing test kits and personnel to administer tests.

Mr. Draper inquired about turnaround time on tests.

Mr. Smith responded that rapid tests are within a few minutes and the lab PCR tests are approximately 24-72 hours.

Mr. Berry inquired about ESSERS funds and testing costs.

Mr. Smith clarified that tests are paid for by either patients' insurance or through grant funding through EMS. The district will not pay for the tests.

Mrs. Scherer commented on testing days.

Mr. Smith responded that the scheduling is flexible, and schedule may be updated.

Mr. Hartman inquired about timing of test results over weekend.

Mr. Smith would need to clarify timeline.

Mr. Hartman inquired about employees and contractors.

Mr. Smith responded that both district and on-campus contractors would be eligible.

Mr. Group inquired about timing.

Mr. Smith responded that if approved, the Mobile Mini may be in place as early as Thursday this week.

Mr. Estep clarified that this is a testing only site and not a vaccination site.

Mr. Wagner commented on other local district that offers testing on campus. Noted concerns with wrestling team and availability of testing.

AJ commented on seniors being able to participate.

Mr. Wagner commented on testing availability for general public vs medical providers.

Mr. Berry inquired about rapid tests.

Mr. Smith responded on rapid vs PCR test cost difference.

Mrs. Scherer asked Mr. Smith about parental consent.

Mr. Smith responded that it's done under FERPA – testing must be done with parental consent/presence.

Mr. Wagner inquired about donations.

Mr. Estep asked for direction on ESSERS vs donations.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about percentage of spent ESSERS.

Mr. Estep commented that would have to be reviewed.

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

Mrs. Sellers-Yes	Mr. Group-Yes
Mrs. Snyder-Yes	Mr. Hartman-Yes
Mr. Wagner-Yes	Mr. Lucido-Yes
Mr. Berry-Yes	Mrs. Scherer-Yes
Mr. Draper-Yes	

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

Personnel- Employment- Substitute

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

- Alaysia Smith - High School Spanish Teacher (replacing Michael Bogdan) effective January 18, 2022 - TBD. Bachelors Step 1- \$266.19/day.

Mr. Draper inquired about Spanish certification.

Mr. Estep clarified that this is to bridge a gap until a certificated candidate is hired.

The motion passed unanimously.

Planning/Discussion- for Approval at 01/24/2022 Meeting

Policies

First Reading- Policy 122 Extracurricular Activities

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 122- Extracurricular Activities.

(Updated language from PSBA/Legal update and several guidelines moved to AR)

First Reading- Policy 123- Interscholastic Athletics

That the Board approves the First Reading of revised Policy 123- Interscholastic Athletics.

(Updated language from PSBA/Legal update)

First Reading- Policy 123.2 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest

That the Board approves the First Reading/Adoption of new Policy 123.2- Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

(New policy from PSBA- recommended for adoption)

Retire- Policy 122.1- Standards of Behavior During Season of Activity

That the Board approves retiring Policy 122.1- Standards of Behavior During Season of Activity.

(Retire policy and include guidelines in Administrative Regulation/Handbook)

Retire- Policy 123.1 - Athletic Interscholastic Eligibility

That the Board approves retiring Policy 123.1 - Athletic Interscholastic Eligibility.

(Language is in current Student Handbook and Athletic Participation Packet)

Mrs. Snyder outlined meeting and updates to policies.

Mr. Hartman inquired about cheerleading.

Mrs. Snyder noted cheerleading is included.

CSIU Agreement

That the Board approves the CSIU Agreement.

Mrs. Darchicourt outlined current software and transition to CSIU, noted cost to cancel contract. Overall lower cost for CSIU software.

Mr. Estep noted his support of the CSIU software.

Mrs. Darchicourt commented that majority of other districts use CSIU.

BSHS Course Guide

That the Board approves the BSHS Course Guide.

Mrs. Sellers noted several minor changes from last year and timing. Dr. Hain will be working minor edits for January 24 meeting.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee- Mrs. Snyder – reported on January 5 meeting. Reviewed discussion of policy 103 and Title IX. Shared recommendations on Extracurricular and Interscholastic Athletics and policy updates as listed on the board agenda.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Hartman thanked athletes who attended Christmas by the Lake this year.

Mr. Wagner thanked everyone for their time.

Mrs. Sellers congratulated the business office on a clean audit.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION-

Email from Dan Doyle 1 White Oak Ct. Boiling Springs

Good evening fellow Bubblers! First a huge thank you to the nurses and teachers for working tirelessly to help students who missed school due to Covid. Our family has been personally touched by your understanding and thoughtfulness, thank you. I would like to present my daughter's situation, as we are assuming she is not the only one in this situation, and ask you to please consider changing the current policy to Optional Masks or at a minimum change the Medical Quarantine to symptomatic persons only.

Our daughter was exposed to Covid (outside of school) in October 2021. She had to be quarantined for 10 days. She missed 6 full days of In person learning. She had no virtual learning at this time. She was to work on assignments alone at home with no instruction. She never tested positive and never had symptoms, still had to miss the full 10 days.

Today, 1/10/22 we were informed that she is being required to miss another 3 days of in person learning due to a Covid exposure at school as a 'close contact' while she and the Positive student were both wearing their masks. Now she has to miss another 3 days of in-person learning. This puts her total days missed, in a 3 month time-frame, at 9 days. That is approximately 10% of her in person learning missed while being perfectly healthy.

My question/comment would be- as you vote on a mask mandate- if you require masks, to what end? We thought it was to protect situations like my daughter. it was to keep kids in school, live learning, as much as possible- but now, she is being punished for following the rules and wearing a mask? Sorry, but this seems illogical. So please, reconsider the mask mandate, or at a very minimum if a mask will be required, then quarantine rules MUST be addressed to make the wearing of masks meaningful because at this point- mask or not, students must quarantine. Given this, they might as well not wear masks.

And if you won't consider changing quarantine rules, can we at least put on the table virtual learning? Can all classes be on zoom for kids who need to miss to be able to login and at least participate, see what their class is doing? We did this for an entire year- the technology exists and is in everyone's possession.

Thank you for your time and working through these difficult situations.

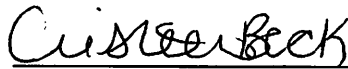
Email from Julie White 307 Forge Road Rear

No mandatory anything! No mandatory vaccinations, no mandatory testing, and we should make masks optional! The COVID-19 virus is getting weaker. It is spreading

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cristeen Beck". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cristeen Beck
Board Secretary

quickly which is what viruses do when they get weaker. No need to close schools keep doing what we're doing also make masking optional.

Email from Stanislav Venskyy 112 East Springville Road Boiling Springs

As a part of today's meeting, I would ask you to make sure that: kids who don't want to wear masks would be granted same rights and freedom as those who are pro-masks. Because as we all know, the benefits of masks are very questionable as we can see. Even those who are very dedicated to use them still get sick no matter what.

Letty McDonough 1636 Leidigh Drive Boiling Springs

Inquired about masking discussion.

Mr. Estep responded it will be discussed on January 19 Safety & Security Committee meeting.

Julie White 307 Forge Road Rear Boiling Springs

Thanked administration for two-hour delay and not closing school on Friday. Requested clarification on masking and quarantines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Board Calendar January 2022

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

Budget Committee Meeting- Thursday, January 20, 2022- 6:00 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

Mr. Estep informed the Board that Mrs. Beck would reach out about final round interview for Assistant to the Superintendent.

Public Attendance

Claire James

RaeAnne Hudson

Kim Hudson

Letty McDonough

Anna Foster

Gene Yannity

Julie White