

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 24, 2022**

The South Middleton Board of School Directors met on January 24, 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 p.m. Mr. Group outlined meeting guidelines.

**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

**Student Representatives**

Ajla Salkic  
Jake Sokolofsky

**Visitors**

See attached

**Board Secretary**

Cristeen Beck

**Solicitor**

Gareth Pahowka- Absent

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Snyder made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers, to approve the agenda of January 24, 2022, with all correction as indicated.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Snyder, that the Board approves the minutes of the following meeting:  
01/10/2022 – Planning/Regular Board Meeting.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS – None**

## **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY) –**

Mr. Group noted numerous emails received via email with comments on masking.

Community members who emailed in comments in support of Health & Safety Plan revisions and optional masking:

Julie White- 207 Forge Road Rear  
Cindi Olson-1415 Rockledge Drive  
Erik Olson- 1415 Rockledge Drive  
Steve Trostle- 376 Whiskey Springs Road

Community members who emailed in comments in support of keeping mandatory masking and/or concerns with revised plan:

Abby & George Book- 103 Coventry Drive  
Jennifer Straub- 201 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Nichole Windhausen- 901 S. Spring Garden Street  
Allison Longenberger- 345 Whiskey Springs Road  
Nicole Hart- 210 Shirley Lane  
Mackenzie Morret- 22 Enck Drive  
Anna Book- 103 Coventry Drive  
Tom Arnold- 234 Highland Terrace

Randy Evans- 205 Oak Drive Mount Holly Springs

Commented on updates to Health & Safety Plan- in favor of optional masking and eliminating quarantine for close contacts who are asymptomatic. Noted substitute concerns.

Letty McDonough- 1636 Leidigh Drive Boiling Springs  
Commented on vaccinations in Health & Safety Plan.

Mr. Smith responded that the vaccination clinic offered was a past event and not currently being offered at this time.

Gene Yannity- 17 Sheely Lane Boiling Springs  
Thanked board for mobile mini. Commented that students learn best in classroom and supports wearing masks.

Carol Yannity- 17 Sheely Lane Boiling Springs  
Commented on Health & Safety Plan revisions and support of masking.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT-** Mr. Estep commented on preschool programs at Rice and BSHS and continued masking.

Mrs. Sellers noted support of masking for preschool students under age 5.

Mr. Lucido commented that it's at the discretion of Mr. Estep.

**DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS** – Mrs. Tina Darchicourt thanked board for attending Budget Committee meeting last Thursday. Mrs. Darchicourt provided overview of the preliminary budget spending. Highlighted financial reports attached to agenda.

Mr. Estep complimented Mrs. Darchicourt on well-articulated budget presentation.  
Mr. Lucido and Mr. Group agreed.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**– Mr. Group noted the recent passing of Sandy Slifko, former high school guidance counselor and husband, Paul, was board member.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT –**

Jake Sokolofsky, Student Representative- shared information on junior class planning prom- will be held at Carlisle Country Club on May 6. Reported on student mask poll from December- approximately 50 in favor of lifting mandatory masking/50 in favor of keeping masks. Inquired about Health & Safety Plan changes and no threshold for school closures.

Ajla Salkic, Student Representative- Congratulated winter sports teams. Shared highlights of Bocce event. Commented on masking poll results. Concerned about the outcome and effect on upcoming student events.

Mr. Group commented on successful Bocce event.  
Mrs. Sellers inquired about club schedule.

Jake and Ajla responded with current schedule.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

Mrs. Sellers commented on BSHS Course Guide and updates for CPACTC.

Mr. Draper inquired about Transportation Coordinator position.

Mrs. Darchicourt responded interviews will be held this week and that other district office staff will be covering in the interim.

Mr. Draper inquired about Atlas agreement.

Mr. Estep outlined that Atlas houses the curriculum information for website.

### **Financial Reports**

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills processed from January 11, 2022 through January 21, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of General Fund bills processed January 24, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Activity Fund bills processed from January 05, 2022 through January 18, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Athletic Fund bills processed from January 05, 2022 through January 18, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Cafeteria Fund bills processed from January 05, 2022 through January 18, 2022.

No payments were disbursed from Construction Fund from January 05, 2022 through January 18, 2022.

No payments were disbursed from Capital Reserve from January 05, 2022 through January 18, 2022.

That the Board approves payment of Trust Fund bills processed from January 05, 2022 through January 18, 2022.

That the Board approves VISA transactions from November 27, 2021 through December 25, 2021.

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

That the Board approves the Financial Report through December 2021.

### **2022-2023 BSHS Course Guide**

That the Board approves the 2022-2023 BSHS Course Guide.

### **CSIU Agreement**

That the Board approves the CSIU Agreement.

### **Policies**

#### **Second/Final Reading- Policy 122 Extracurricular Activities**

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 122- Extracurricular Activities.

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

**Second/Final Reading- Policy 123- Interscholastic Athletics**

That the Board approves the Second/Final Reading of revised Policy 123- Interscholastic Athletics.

(Updated language from PSBA/Legal update)

**Second/Final Reading- Policy 123.2 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

That the Board approves the Second/Final 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)

**2021-2022 District Assessment Coordinator**

That the Board approves Trisha Reed as the District Assessment Coordinator for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year with a stipend of \$2,000.

**Detention Monitors**

That the Board approves the addendum rate for Detention Monitors as \$22.00/hour for the duration of the approved Collective Bargaining Agreement which remains in effect until June 30, 2024.

**Personnel- Resignation**

That the Board approves the following Personnel- Resignations:

- Anne Hoffman - YBMS Teacher, effective at end of Child Rearing Leave.

- Robin Biggs- Transportation Coordinator, effective January 28, 2022.

### **Atlas Agreement**

That the Board approves the Atlas renewal for a 3-year agreement for a total cost \$20,382.30.

### **ACCESS Billing MOU**

That the Board approves the ACCESS Billing MOU.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Itemized Agenda:**

#### **Health & Safety Plan**

Mr. Lucido made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner that the Board approves the revisions to the Health & Safety Plan, effective Monday, January 31, 2022.

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Draper to amend the Health & Safety Plan to include these guidelines: Mandatory masking for 2% infection rates per building. Gave example- 418 students at Rice is threshold of 8 students. Mandate should last 7 days for that building. Masking requirement for students returning from quarantine or exposure. Threshold of 5% infection rate for closure and virtual learning.

Mr. Lucido disagreed with Mrs. Sellers threshold levels. Noted that there is no medical study that cloth masks mitigate the virus. Responded to revised Health & Safety Plan and closure decisions. Commented on lesser severity of omicron variant.

Mr. Wagner commented on thresholds and changes to numbers. Noted that Safety & Security Committee can meet to discuss issues with rising cases.

Mrs. Snyder agreed on masking requirement for students coming off illness and quarantine.

Mrs. Sellers noted first goal is safety and this allows planning for students and parents.

Mr. Lucido commented on higher prior baseline numbers and expanded availability for vaccinations. Time to stop this and move forward.

Mrs. Sellers confirmed 2% threshold rate for individual buildings for mandatory masking for 7 days and 5% threshold for school closure.

**Vote on amendment to Health & Safety Plan to include mandatory masking for 2% infection rate, masking requirement for students returning from quarantine, and 5% threshold for building closures:**

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

**Mrs. Snyder-No**

**Mr. Hartman- Yes**

**Mr. Wagner-No**

**Mr. Lucido-No**

**Mr. Berry-No**

**Mrs. Scherer-No**

**Mr. Draper-No**

**Mrs. Sellers-Yes**

**Mr. Group-No**

**Yes -2, No -7, Abstentions-0, Absent -0**

Mr. Berry commented on email received from parent requesting for reasoning behind decisions. Mr. Berry read highlights from several articles, websites, and quotes about mask ineffectiveness.

Mr. Hartman made a motion to amend Health & Safety Plan to include information on parent contact regarding student close contacts and who they can contact at district with questions and concerns. That there be a two-way parent communication regarding close contacts and/or quarantines, even after hours. The motioned was not seconded and failed.

Mr. Estep commented on discussion and current stances. Recommends voting on plan presented and administration will work to comply.

Mrs. Sellers requested continued COVID dashboard on website.

Mr. Estep confirmed that administration will update the dashboard.

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartman to amend the Health & Safety Plan, effective start date to February 7, 2022.

Mr. Berry commented on past suggestions on two weeks to flatten the curve.

Mr. Wagner noted that the committee did consider that during their discussion at the meeting on January 19 and timing but was not determined as the recommendation for plan revision.

**Vote on amendment to Health & Safety Plan's effective date of February 7, 2022:**

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

**Mr. Wagner- No**

**Mr. Lucido-No**

**Mr. Berry-No**

**Mrs. Scherer-No**

**Mr. Draper-Yes**

**Mrs. Sellers- Yes**

**Mr. Group-Yes**

**Mrs. Snyder-No**

**Mr. Hartman-Yes**

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

Mrs. Scherer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lucido to remove all language on the district working with providers to provide vaccinations.

Mr. Hartman inquired about testing center and offering vaccinations.

Mr. Estep confirmed that EMS does not provide vaccinations.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about district communications on other vaccinations.

Mr. Estep and Mr. Group confirmed the district does not provide other vaccinations.

**Vote on amendment to Health & Safety Plan removing language on the district working with providers to provide vaccinations:**

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

**Mr. Berry-Yes**

**Mrs. Scherer-Yes**

**Mr. Draper-Yes**

**Mrs. Sellers- No**

**Mr. Group-Yes**

**Mrs. Snyder- No**

**Mr. Hartman-Yes**

**Mr. Wagner-Yes**

**Mr. Lucido-Yes**

**Yes -7, No -2, Abstentions-0, Absent -0**

Mrs. Snyder made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sellers to amend the Health & Safety Plan to follow CDC guidelines that COVID positive students returning from quarantine are required to wear masks for 5 days.

Mr. Wager commented students would be singled out.

Mr. Berry commented on choice of masking.

Mrs. Sellers commented on effectiveness of masks protecting others.

Mrs. Scherer inquired about logic on continued masking.

Mr. Estep responded that recommendation from CDC that infection can potentially persist after 5 days.



Mr. Group agreed with Mr. Wagner's comment that students would be singled out.

Mr. Lucido commented on regularly changing CDC language.

**Mr. Wagner commented on data regarding close contacts.**

**Vote on amendment to Health & Safety Plan to that COVID positive students returning from quarantine are required to wear masks for 5 days:**

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

**Mr. Draper-Yes**

**Mrs. Sellers- Yes**

**Mr. Group- No**

**Mrs. Snyder-Yes**

**Mr. Hartman-Yes**

**Mr. Wagner-No**

**Mr. Lucido-No**

**Mr. Berry-No**

**Mrs. Scherer-No**

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

**Vote on Revised Health and Safety Plan, effective Monday, January 31, 2022 (as amended with removing language on providing vaccines):**

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

**Mr. Group- Yes**

**Mrs. Snyder- Yes**

**Mr. Hartman-No**

**Mr. Wagner-Yes**

**Mr. Lucido-Yes**

**Mr. Berry-Yes**

**Mrs. Scherer-Yes**

**Mr. Draper- No**

**Mrs. Sellers- No**

**Yes -6, No -3, Abstentions-0, Absent -0**

## Personnel- Employment- Professional

Mr. Draper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wagner that the Board approves the following Personnel- Employment- Professional:

- **Laura LaRose - Spanish Teacher (BSHS- replacing Michael Bogdan) - Master's Step 6- \$57,725.00, anticipated start date- March 21, 2022**
  - **Education: Bachelor's and Master's degrees- Kutztown University**

- Experience: Big Spring School District 2013-Present

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Personnel- Uncompensated Leave Request**

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Snyder that the Board approves the following Personnel- Uncompensated Leave Request:

- Erin Brenner - February 4, 2022

Mrs. Scherer inquired about previous leave requests.

Mr. Estep confirmed there has been previous requests and concerns can be discussed in Executive Session.

**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**

### **Discussion- for Approval at February 7, 2022 Meeting**

### **Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center 2022-2023 Budget**

That the Board approves the CPACTC 2022-2023 Budget.

Mr. Draper highlighted facility and programs.

### **2022-2023 Preliminary Budget**

The Administration is recommending that the board approve the attached Proposed Preliminary Budget at the February 7 meeting. This budget represents a first look at our 2022-23 budget. By passing this preliminary budget, the board will have the ability to apply for exceptions to the Act 1 index. Passing this preliminary budget does not imply that the board is increasing taxes. Taxing decisions will be made when the final budget is passed in May or June.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Safety & Security Committee- Mr. Wagner-** shared report on meeting held on January 19 and discussed recommendations for revisions to Health & Safety Plan. Noted that administration was asked to take lead on communicating with parents. Mr. Smith had provided update on mobile testing facility.

## **BOARD COMMENTS-**

Mr. Draper commented on positive BSHS front office experience and visit to Zone Smart Store run by Mrs. Mowe's students.

Mr. Wagner- thanked community for the discussion and interest in involvement. Encouraged that interest to be applied to helping district, especially helping children who fell behind during remote learning.

Mrs. Snyder acknowledged Rachel Boyle and work with athletic programs.

Mr. Lucido echoed Mr. Wagner's comments.

Mrs. Sellers recognized Annie Hoffman and Robin Biggs for their service. Commented on Chelshea Pruznak staying at SMSD and the hiring of Laura LaRose.

Mr. Berry commented on respect of other's medical decisions and focus on kids and education.

## **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION-**

Carol Yannity- 17 Sheely Lane Boiling Springs

Commented on lower taxes compared to some other areas. Shared data on declining rates of individuals seeking teaching certificates. Need to attract teachers with salaries.

Anna Foster- 120 Spring Farm Circle

Commented on number of cases in district and sick students. Noted that some parents do not test their students when sick or report to school. Commented on board vote on revisions to Health & Safety Plan.

Meagan Snook- 18 Laurel Oak Drive Boiling Springs

Commented that she withdrew children from district, and they do not have to wear masks or quarantine.

Mr. Group commented on community members helping district- substituting, bus driving, staffing is a current challenge.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **January/February 2022 Board Calendar**

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

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

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting- Monday, February 14, 2022- 6:00 pm

Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, February 22, 2022- 7:00 pm

Safety & Security Committee Meeting- Monday, February 28, 2022- 5:30 pm

Budget Committee Meeting- Monday, February 28, 2022- 6:30 pm

### **Enrollment Report**

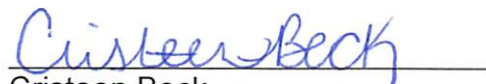
Mr. Estep commented on district budget and charter school tuition. Recommends that community member talk to legislators about charter school reform. Charter schools do not have same transparency and often run by private, for-profit companies. Asking for community to learn more about this issue and consider being advocate for the district. Mr. Estep announced he will be participating in upcoming conference to advocate. Mr. Estep shared information on Senate Bill 527- creates automatic EITC increases from state budget for tuition vouchers. House Bill 1660 to limit School Board Authority to amend school code provisions for emergency closures- pandemics, weather emergencies, police emergencies and alters board authority to establish policies for emergency closures. Also prevent schools from operating in-house cyber programs.

Mr. Estep announced an Executive Session for Real Estate immediately following the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Sellers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Scherer, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cristeen Beck  
Board Secretary

**Public Attendance**

Joe Cress

Randy Evans

Marjorie Akin

Wes Loe

Kim Stone

Letty McDonough

Laura Eckert

Meagan Snook

Grace Willacy

Erin Keener

Collin Harris

Josh Anderson

Gibran Varahrami

Carol Yannity

Gene Yannity

Jamie Berrier

Charlotte Reilly

Michelle Lee

Shane Reilly

Katrina Scavone

J. Santana

Jack Meikrantz

Connor Meikrantz

Joy Bowman

Anna Foster