

**Middletown Springs School District Board of School Directors
(Regular) Meeting**

Date: August 25, 2015 Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Present: Clarence Haynes (Chair), Meredith Morgan (Vice-Chair), Jennelle Carr (Member). Also Present: Joan Paustian (RSWSU Supt.), Rick Beal (Principal), Susan Rosso (Recording Secretary). Christopher Smid (Board Member) arrived at 6:19PM.

Public Present: Bob Bruttomesso

1. Call to Order **(Action)**

Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

2. Changes, Deletions, Additions to the Agenda:

- Under #6: Add "Discontinuation of *The Magnet*."
- Under #9: Change "TBA" to Paul Morgan (Sport Coordinator) and "TBA" to Kathy Cronin (Before School Staff).
- Under #7: Add (b) "Approval of a Pre-school tuition contract with Ira."

3. Consent Agenda: **(Action)**

- i. Approval of Minutes: July 9, 2015 (Regular); July 16, 2015 (Special)

Jennelle Carr moved to approve the minutes of July 9, 2015 and July 16, 2015, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 3-0.

- ii. Superintendent's Report (Written):

Supt. Paustian reported that a family from Ira wants their child to attend Pre-K at MSES. Ira would be responsible for paying the tuition. We will also be receiving a tuition student from Poultney. Regarding the Act 46 study, it seems prudent to accept the bid from the NY consultant; rather than wait and go through another bid process. She also shared information about an Act 46 meeting held at the state level. At the meeting, Middletown Springs, Wells, and Poultney districts shared information about our different boards and structures. The AOE representatives didn't answer any questions about whether or not the Small Schools Grant was being discontinued or offer any suggestions on ways we should proceed with our study. The question of whether or not school choice districts can merge with non-choice districts could severely limit our options. The AOE is focused on 1) schools improving learning quality and 2) at the same time, cutting costs. All districts in the RSWSU will hold community forums to share information and gather input.

- iii. Principal's Report (Written):

Mr. Beal shared the SBAC results from last spring. The results were pretty good considering this was the first year of this new test. Some highlights: 4th grade ELA above state average; 5th grade and 6th grade Math above state average. The only score MSES had below the state average was 3rd grade Math; all others were at or above the state average. PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) is being rolled out on the first day; the program recognizes and rewards positive student behavior. For the beginning of the year, we are focusing on the behavior "respect for others" and will concentrate our efforts in the lunchroom and at recess. We will expand to other behaviors and environments as the year progresses. Dr. Paustian mentioned the importance of letting parents know and involving them in the process. Notices will be sent home to keep parents informed. Mr. Beal is not going to be teaching Science/Social Studies in the afternoon in order to devote more time to his Principal duties. Regarding the building; back roof area has been re-shingled; the MPR floor has been resurfaced, and wood chips were poured on the playground. Mr. Beal thanks Christopher Smid and everyone else who came to shovel the wood chips. The replacement playground slide will be installed on Sept. 2. Once again, FFE is

sponsoring the First Day Community Breakfast. Mr. Beal would like to thank the FFE members and all the parents who provided food and volunteered to serve for the event.

iv. Update on Financial Statements

Supt. Paustian distributed financial statements and reported that, per Louis Milazzo, an \$82,886 surplus is anticipated for 2014-2015; approximately \$60,000 came from savings in regular education expenses; revenues of approximately \$23,000 also came in. Mr. Beal would like to recognize our Cook/Food Service Director, Lisa Myette for helping to contain costs while serving healthy, high quality meals. Christopher Smid moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 4-0.

4. Approve Warrants: **(Action- read into the minutes as officially approved)**

- a. Warrant #235 in the amount of \$71,581.15 dated 7/8/15
- b. Warrant #237 in the amount of \$38,585.94 dated 7/22/15
- c. Warrant #239 in the amount of \$12,501.84 dated 8/5/15

Meredith Morgan moved to approve Warrant #235 in the amount of \$71,581.15 dated 7/8/15, Warrant #237 in the amount of \$38,585.94 dated 7/22/15, and Warrant #239 in the amount of \$12,501.84 dated 8/5/15, Clarence Haynes seconded; motion carried 4-0.

5. General Public Comments **(Listen & Defer Action to Future Meeting)**

Mr. Bruttomesso stated he was here to listen. After hearing the updates on the Financial Statements, he wanted to share his opinion on how it's sad to think that in 2015, the state government is penalizing schools for actually saving money (by under-spending their budgets). Mr. Haynes shared that this issue is the focus of a potential lawsuit against the state. Mr. Haynes added that the new funding cap of 2% (on a sliding scale) was added last-minute to a gutted bill. Supt. Paustian called Business Mgr. Louis Milazzo on speakerphone so the Board could ask how the \$83,000 surplus will impact the budget in the coming years. Mr. Milazzo explained that the cap is based on the equalized pupil cost and that the surplus for this year will positively impact that figure. What happens two years out? We need to end with an approximately \$83,000 surplus again to avoid a spending cap penalty. Mr. Smid spoke about the need to deliver a high quality education; putting our tax dollars to the best possible use as the community is supporting our efforts to do so. Being open-minded and creative are important ways to do this.

6. Old Business: **(Itemize Subjects for Deliberation & Possible Action)**

- a. Act 46 Updates

Covered earlier in meeting (see Superintendent's Report).

- b. Community Forum

Should a community survey be done re consolidation? There is a lot of misinformation out there. The law states that the intent is not to close any small schools; but the regulations seem to be pushing small schools in this direction. Should the Board have someone oversee a forum or develop a survey for the community? Meredith Morgan wonders if we could have an Open House, community meal, or event and also offer information about Act 46. It was agreed to see what the consultant recommends and revisit this question at the September board meeting; in order to possibly hold a forum in October.

- c. Discontinuation of *The Magnet*

Discussion took place about ways to share school news now that *The Magnet* is no longer being published. School and/or town websites were mentioned. Supt. Paustian will check on the requirements for posting agendas and meeting minutes online.

7. New Business (Receive Information & Possible Action):

- a. Approve FY16 meal prices

Earlier (via phone), Louis Milazzo recommended that we keep school meals prices the same this year. Christopher Smid moved to have FY16 school meal prices remain unchanged from FY15 as recommended by the Business Mgr., Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 4-0.

b. Approval of a Preschool tuition contract with Ira

A family in Ira would like to send their child to Pre-K at MSES this year; Ira would pay the tuition (approximately \$4,600 per year) for the student to attend here. Dr. Paustian recommends the MS Board sign the contract with Ira.

Clarence Haynes moved to enter into the Pre-K contract with Ira at the state tuition rate, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 4-0.

8. Policies **(for input/approval)** : (policies for input, in packets if available)
- a. F-24 Prevention of Harassment, Bullying and Hazing (approval)
 - b. G-12 Title I Comparability Policy (approval)
 - c. F-23 Participation of Home Study Students (approval)
 - d. G-9 Grade Advancement, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students (approval)
 - e. (input)

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the above policies: F-24, G-12, F-23, and G-9, as presented, Christopher Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0.

9. Action on Personnel Contract: **(Action, if applicable)**

- a. Renewals (Special contracts)
- i. Carr, Kim – ASP Homework Club Instructor
 - ii. Rosso, Susan – Medical Designee
 - iii. Rosso, Susan – ASP Biller
 - iv. Morgan, Paul – Soccer Coach
 - v. Morgan, Paul – Sports Coordinator
 - vi. Kathy Cronin – Before School Staff
 - vii. Dudley, Donna – Before School Staff
 - viii. Crandall, Holly – ASP Staff
 - ix. Crandall, Meghan – ASP Coordinator
 - x. Reed, Ann – Instrumental Music Instruction

Clarence Hayes moved to approve the contract of Kim Carr, Meredith Morgan seconded; Jennelle Carr abstained, motion carried 3-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the contracts for Paul Morgan (2) Christopher Smid seconded; Meredith Morgan abstained, motion carried 3-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to renew the contracts for Susan Rosso (2), Kathy Cronin, Donna Dudley, Holly Crandall, Meghan Crandall, and Ann Reed, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 4-0.

xi. Instructional Assistant (Part-time)

Interviews have not yet been held, therefore, this item is tabled until the September meeting.

10. Set Next Regular Board Meeting: **(Action)** (Anticipated, Sept. 10, 2015 at 6 PM at MSES).
Next Board Meeting will be September 28, 2015 at 5:30PM at PHS; RSWSU meeting follows at 6:30PM.

11. Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1-9) (a) (b) **(Discussion & Possible Action)** (as warranted).
None

12. Other Lawful Business **(Information Gathering Only)**

The presentation by Dr. Daggett was thought-provoking. Sharing the costs with two other SUs allowed us to bring him here. Meredith Morgan mentioned the Taren Institute. They come in to do teacher training on technology integration. They are working with RSSU via a grant; could they work with us?

13. Adjournment **(Action)**

Christopher Smid moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rosso