

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

Date: December 10, 2015 Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Present: Clarence Haynes (Chair), Meredith Morgan (Vice-Chair), Sarah Haley (Clerk), Christopher Smid and Jennelle Carr (Members). Also Present: Joan Paustian (Supt.), Louis Milazzo (Business Mgr.), Rick Beal (Principal).

Public Present: None

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

Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

2. Changes, Deletions, Additions to the Agenda:

Under 6b: add "Wells Support Staff Practices"

Under 7d: add "Set Tuition Rate"

Under 7e: add "Henderson Fund Applications"

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

i. Approval of Minutes:, November 12, 2015 (regular)

Christopher Smid moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2015, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 5-0.

ii. Superintendent's Report (Written):

Supt. Paustian reported to the Board that an Act 46 Community Forum will be held on Thursday, January 7 at 7:00PM at Poultney High School (snow date: January 14) to receive the Consultants' report. She has received dates for support staff negotiations meetings and will share these with the boards. Rupert, Pawlet, and Mettawee districts are planning to enter a formal merger study and will potentially designate New York State secondary schools. They will be formally inviting Wells to join them. Pittsfield, Hancock, Searsburg, and Granville, VT are non-operating school districts that are planning a formal merger study. They have asked if Ira would like to join them. The possibility of having them join our SU will be discussed. Dates should arrive very soon from the BRSU Supt. for a joint meeting of Board Chairs from Danby, Mt. Tabor, Currier, Sunderland, Middletown Springs, and Wells to discuss a potential merger study of these K-6 schools. The Supt. has received preliminary FY2017 data from the VT AOE. The figures may change as legislators often override these calculations. The Stafford Tech Center tuition is announced at \$13,893 (an increase of 5.1%).

iii. Principal's Report (Written):

Principal Beal reported that teachers are having students complete opinion/argumentative writing pieces and using an agreed-upon scoring rubric to measure writing competency. Computer coding is being introduced to the students. MSES hosted an "Hour of Coding" on December 9 from 6:00-7:00PM (parents and students attended). A new Supervision/Evaluation Handbook has been developed by an SU committee comprised of administrators and teachers. Administrators have been working on standardizing evaluation forms across the SU schools. Classroom teachers and the special educator have been meeting with Bernie Peatman to strategize the implementation of Common Core grade level instruction for all students. Mr. Beal participated in VSBIT's Risk Management Training on Dec. 3. He was also part of the Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) team. Regarding building maintenance, Rick will be meeting with a representative from Efficiency Vermont to discuss efficiency recommendations. The State has recommended approval of reimbursement for the water project. The school can now apply for loan forgiveness of \$25,000 for the project. Contracts for Odyssey of the Mind (OTM) Coaches for four teams will be brought to the Board later in the meeting. The Winter Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 15 from 6:30-7:30PM.

iv. Update on Financial Statements

Mr. Milazzo reports that allowable tuition rates have been published and compared to announced tuition rates. Adjustments were calculated. We are due refunds from Mill River and West Rutland totaling \$4,500. Other schools fell within the 3% window, so no other refunds are due.

Mr. Haynes moved to have the MSES announced tuition rate remain the same for FY17, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 5-0.

The Board declined to back-bill Ira for the allowable adjustment (FY15).

Jennelle Carr moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Christopher Smid; motion carried 5-0.

4. Executive Session **(Action)**

Clarence Hayes moved to enter Executive Session for student issues at 7:00PM, Sarah Haley seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to exit Executive Session at 7:19PM, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

No Action Taken.

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

a. Warrant #253 in the amount of \$36,524.76 dated 10/28/15

b. Warrant #255 in the amount of \$292,086.22 dated 11/11/15

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #253 in the amount of \$36,524.76 dated 10/28/15, and Warrant #255 in the amount of \$292,086.22 dated 11/11/15, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

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

None

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

a. FY17 Draft Budget review, possible action.

In an effort to be conservative, the Board has budgeted tuition costs for four additional secondary education students. Vocational tuition adjustments were made. All anticipated expenses have been updated. Regarding revenue, we are still waiting on figures from the state for the Small Schools, SPED Block, and Pre-School grants. Mr. Beal has asked the Board to increase the field trip transportation line to fund three days of transportation for the Skiing/Skating program. By consensus, the Board agreed to do so. The Board is pleased that this year's budget is lower than last year's.

Meredith Morgan moved to approve the MSD '16-'17 Budget in the amount of \$2,393,217.15, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

b. Wells Support Staff Practices

Some support staff practices at Wells need to be changed.

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

a. 20-day plan – update on current cycle, and upcoming (may be covered under Principal's Report)

Another cycle of MAPS will be starting soon to measure student growth.

b. Discussion of budget presentation for community, review of warning dates, etc.

The Board will compose a press announcement for the public. This will be reviewed and approved at the January Board Meeting. We will share the budget on Front Porch Form, the school website, and in the school newsletter.

c. Act 46 Consultant's Study – review results, discuss forum, etc.

This was discussed as part of the Superintendent's Report (see #3).

Meredith Morgan and Christopher Smid attended a Community Forum with Danby & Currier to make them aware of us as a K-6 option to join and to see what they are planning. The VSBA has asked all board chairs to

contact their board members and representatives to lobby to have the 3% budget cap repealed by 1/15/16 or to have it postponed for one year.

d. Set MSES Tuition Rate

Covered earlier during Financial Statements Update (see #3).

e. Henderson Fund Applications

The School Board Chair and Select Board Chair will meet to review applications and select applicants.

9. Policies **(for Input or Approval): None this month.**

None

10. Action on Personnel Contracts: **(Action, if applicable)**

a. Odyssey of the Mind Coaches – Rebecca Wood, Glenn Tarbell, Julia Kreilkamp & Rick Beal Jennelle Carr moved to approve the hiring of Rebecca Wood, Glenn Tarbell, Julia Kreilkamp, and Rick Beal as OTM Coaches for '15-'16. Christopher Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0-1 (Sarah Haley abstained.)

11. Set Next Regular Board Meeting: **(Action)** (Anticipated, January 14, 2016 at 6 PM at MSES)
By consensus, the next Board Meeting is set for Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 7:00PM at MSES.

12. Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1-9) (a) (b) **(Discussion & Possible Action)** (as warranted).

a. Anticipated for negotiations

Covered earlier in meeting (see #4).

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

None

14. Adjournment **(Action)**

Christopher Smid moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53PM, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Rosso

(Transcribed from minutes taken by Board Clerk, Sarah Haley)