

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

Date: July 9, 2015 Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

Present: Meredith Morgan (Vice Chair), Sarah Haley (Clerk), Christopher Smid & Jennelle Carr (Members).
Also Present: Joan Paustian (RSWSU Supt.), Rick Beal (Principal) & Susan Rosso (Recording Secretary).
Public Present: Bob Bruttomesso

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

Meredith Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:07PM.

2. Changes, Deletions, Additions to the Agenda:

Under Old Business, add:

--Review/Assess Data from Kathy Letendre's Report

--Action on Principal's Contract

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

i. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2015 (regular); and June 19, 2015 (Special)

Sarah Haley moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2015, Chris Smid seconded; motion carried 4-0.
Chris Smid moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2015, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 4-0.

ii. Superintendent's Report

Supt. Paustian reported that a meeting with the RSSU and MSD boards about governance/consolidation will take place next week. She has met with superintendents from two other SUs, as well. The VSBA & VSA have opened more meeting slots to discuss governance studies/grants. Our meeting will take place at VSBA's office on August 21. She, Clarence Haynes, and two other board members from our SU will attend. The Supt. reported that MSES is now fully staffed; a School Nurse and School Counselor having been hired by the RSWSU.

iii. Principal's Report (Written):

Principal Beal reported that Grade 6 Teacher, Jenn Tiff and he have attended "Proficiency Based Learning" (PBL) training this year; this will help SUs to build consistency regarding standards and graduation requirements. Ten SUs, including ours, are currently working together on this goal. Mr. Beal and three other MSES staff members attended the BEST Institute at Killington recently. The conference was focused on "Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies" (PBIS). This program will be utilized at MSES next school year and is currently being implemented during the Summer Program. The program's goal is to improve behavior by recognizing students for doing the right thing. Tokens are distributed for positive behaviors and after a certain number are earned, a reward is given. Re the building, Mr. Beal and Mr. Smid met with the Fire Marshal and an AOE representative on whether or not we are required to install a lift or elevator. The initial impression/understanding is that because we had one previously, we need to replace it. However, the conversation is still ongoing. Options being considered include a possible variance of the ceiling height so we can reinstall a chair lift instead of the much more expensive option of an elevator. Mr. Beal distributed a printout of data from a School Climate Survey taken by students in grades K-6 at the end of school years: 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015. Data was reviewed and discussed; results were similar for each year.

iv. Update on Financial Statements

Dr. Paustian reported that (per Business Manager, Louis Milazzo) MSES is expecting to end 2014-2015 with a surplus of approximately \$25,000.

Jennelle Carr moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 4-0.

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

- a. Warrant #224 in the amount of \$19,477.00 dated 6/4/15
- b. Warrant #225 in the amount of \$36,642.78 dated 6/10/15
- c. Warrant #232 in the amount of \$649,329.48 dated 6/24/15
- d. Warrant #234 in the amount of \$17,881.75 dated 6/30/15

Chris Smid moved to approve Warrant #224 for \$19,477.00 dated 6/4/15, Warrant #225 for \$36,642.78 dated 6/10/15, Warrant #232 for \$649,329.48 dated 6/24/15, and Warrant #234 for \$17,881.75 dated 6/30/15. Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 4-0.

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

Mr. Bruttomesso asked when the Board will do a study about merging/consolidating as the State is going to act on this if we do not. Supt. Paustian stated that the RFP for firms to conduct the study has just been sent out. The Board has also (with the assistance of Kathy Letendre) looked at a matrix and weighted issues regarding consolidation/governance. Our grant application has been sent to the AOE; we are waiting to hear back. Many irons are in the fire. Meredith Morgan spoke about the importance of not just "jumping in." Some districts have been able to move quickly because it is easier to create K-12 districts when there is already one designated high school in place. The Board is working hard to look at all options. Community input will be sought as the process moves on. Mr. Bruttomesso asked who would be teaching Grade 1 next year, since Mrs. Wilkins is only teaching the class part-time (her other time is for Title 1 Services). Mr. Beal replied that he would be teaching Grade 1 for part of the day as he is a .20 Teacher. His time, along with Specials (PE, Music & Art) will cover the full day for the first graders. Mr. Bruttomesso then asked who would be teaching the G&T Program next year (in lieu of Mr. Beal). Mr. Beal replied that Mrs. Kreilkamp will do some of the teaching and our Technology Integrationist, Greg Styles may also be teaching; utilizing technology.

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

-- A summary of MSD data from previous merger/governance meetings was distributed. Kathy Letendre is asking that the data be reviewed and checked for accuracy and reasonableness. Meredith Morgan noted that some factors were missing. It was explained that any factors weighted less than 2% were omitted. We can keep all fifteen remaining factors as we proceed; which is recommended. Chris Smid reported that Mrs. Letendre is willing to come back free of charge to "close the circle" on the data that was developed during the sessions. By consensus, the Board agreed to keep all fifteen factors in place and requested that Kathy Letendre be notified by Supt. Paustian to move forward with the next step/s.

--Principal Beal was previously offered a three year employment contract; but concerns were raised about possible consolidation/governance changes occurring within that time frame. The SU attorney was consulted and thought the third year could be problematic. On advice of the attorney, RSWSU administrator contracts have been changed to two year contracts (with a provision that if a merger or change of governance does *not* take place, the contract would roll over to a third year).

Chris Smid moved to amend the contract for Rick Beal to a two-year contract with a third year option if MSD does not experience a merger/governance change, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 4-0.

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

None

8. Policies **(for input/approval)** : (policies for input, in packets if available)

- a. Model Procedures: Prevention of Harassment, Bullying and Hazing (input)
- b. D-12 Harassment of Employees (approval)
- c. D-6R Substitute Teacher Procedures (approval)
- d. F-104 Procedure – selection of Dial 4 assessment (input)
- e. G-12 Title I Comparability Policy (input)
- f. F-23 Participation of Home Study Students (input)
- g. G-9 Grade Advancement, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students (input)

Policies were not sent out prior to this meeting. The policies were distributed by the Supt.; she asks that board members review these and direct all input to her. The goal is to have the policies ready for the Systems Committee to approve by the end of September. A new combined Harassment/Hazing/Bullying Policy has been provided by the AOE; to be followed by all schools. The entire slate of policies noted above will be reviewed by board members and are tabled, by consensus, until the next meeting.

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

- a. Sara Humphreys – Summer Program Teacher
- b. Kathleen Cronin – Summer Program Assistant
- c. Kathleen Cronin – Instructional Assistant (part-time) (recalled)

Jennelle Carr moved to approve the hiring of Sara Humphreys as Summer Program Teacher and Kathleen Cronin as Summer Program Assistant, as well as the recall hiring of Kathleen Cronin as part-time Instructional Assistant for the 15-16 school year. Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 4-0.

10. Set Next Regular Board Meeting: **(Action)** (Anticipated, August 13, 2015 at 6:00PM at MSES).
By consensus, the next MSD Board Meeting is scheduled for August 25 at 6:00PM at MSES.

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)**
None

13. Adjournment **(Action)**
Jennelle Carr moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07PM, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rosso