

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

**Date: September 28, 2015    Time: 5:30PM  
Place: Poultney High School (Carousel Meetings)**

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**UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Clarence Haynes (Chair) Meredith Morgan (Vice Chair), Sarah Haley (Clerk), Christopher Smid & Jennelle Carr (Members). Also Present: Joan Paustian (RSWSU Supt.), Rick Beal (Principal). Public Present: Bob Bruttomesso. Business Mgr. Louis Milazzo arrived at 6:20PM.

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

Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 5:31PM.

2. Changes, Deletions, Additions to the Agenda:

None

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

i. Approval of Minutes: August 24, 2015 (Special) and August 25, 2015 (Regular)

Sarah Haley moved to approve the minutes of August 24, 2015, Chris Smid seconded; motion carried 5-0. Chris Smid moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2015, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

ii. Superintendent's Report

Supt. Paustian will present her report at the RSWSU meeting; immediately following this one.

iii. Principal's Report (Written):

Principal Beal reported that PBIS is being implemented school-wide and students have already earned a school-wide celebration. MSES and Smokey House will be collaborating on a year-long environmental studies program. Our students will also collaborate with students from Tinmouth and possibly, Danby. The early release day on Sept. 22 was used for staff collaboration to begin aligning the math program with essential standards and identify assessments. All grades will be doing MAPS testing that will benchmark student knowledge and identify instructional needs. The school will be using Medicaid Reinvestment funds to purchase 20 Chromebooks for students in grades K-3. A candidate for the .53 Pre-K Assistant position will be brought to the board later in this meeting. FFE is working on fundraising to bring the "No Strings Marionette Company" to MSES in March of 2016. A grant proposal has also been sent to the VT Arts Council to help pay the cost of the residency. Parents Only Night took place on Thursday, Sept. 24 from 6:00-8:00PM. Along with classroom visits, there were presentations on PBIS and changes in education in VT.

iv. Update on Financial Statements

Update on Financials will be done at the RSWSU meeting; immediately following this one.

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

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

- a. Warrant #242 in the amount of \$21,271.89 dated 8/19/15
- b. Warrant #244 in the amount of \$22,667.55 dated 9/2/15
- c. Warrant #246 in the amount of \$10,215.59 dated 9/16/15

Chris Smid moved to approve Warrant #242 for \$21,271.89 dated 8/19/15, Warrant #244 for \$22,667.55 dated 9/2/15, and Warrant #246 for \$10,215.59 dated 9/16/15, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 5-0.

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

--Mr. Bruttomesso asked why the board negotiated two different salary schedules for teachers since this was merged SU-wide bargaining and stated that this resulted in new hires being put on a different, higher

salary schedule instead of the schedule that MSES voted to keep for their current teachers. He is wondering why this was done.

Supt. Paustian replied that new people hired come in at their actual step/level of experience and degree and don't experience the "freeze" on the other MSES salary schedule. Supt. Paustian stated that by June 30, 2017, all of the teachers in the SU will be on one salary schedule.

--Mr. Bruttomesso also asked why a teacher was allowed to leave MSES two weeks before school started to work in another school within the same SU. Supt. Paustian stated that this is a personnel issue that cannot be discussed in public session.

--Mr. Bruttomesso wanted the minutes to reflect that he did not leave MSES due to money issues.

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

a. Act 46 Updates:

Clarence Haynes has been attending meetings with the Rutland South SU Superintendent and others. He has let them know that we are working on our own research study. We will be meeting with Battenkill SU, Pawlet, and Wells to discuss potential options.

b. Community Forum

Our Community Forum should happen very soon because Democratic/Progressive parties have taken up Act 46 as a point of discussion for their caucus. The Selectboard has also expressed interest in taking part in decision making. Mr. Haynes is very concerned about the amount of misinformation that is out there. Mr. Smid agrees that we need to get some information out to the public regarding our process and progress.

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

a. Identify Pre-School Region FY16

We will need to have a community forum to establish who will be in our Pre-K region.

b. 20-Day Plan

Mr. Beal stated that the school is working on getting all students tested with MAPS and will be sharing data with the Board.

c. SBAC Results

Tabled until next meeting; by consensus.

d. Learning Initiatives

Tabled until next meeting; by consensus.

e. Louis Milazzo arrived to report on *Financials* at 6:20PM. He provided an update on

Title I grant funding. The Board needs to approve the sub-grant agreement.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the Title I sub-grant agreement, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes questioned the insurance percentage; Louis Milazzo has already configured these using the new, higher percentage.

8. Policies **(for input)**:

a. D-8 Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace

b. E-8 Tobacco Prohibition

c. F-27 Pupil Privacy Rights

d. G-13 Animal Dissection

e. H-7 Title I, Part A, Parental Involvement

f. D-11 Drug & Alcohol Testing; Transportation

Policies were reviewed for input and are fine to move on to the next level.

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

a. New (Special contracts)

i. Jenn Rocque-Tiffit – Wellness Coordinator

ii. Katherine Byrne – Instructional Assistant (P/T)

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the hiring of Jenn Rocque-Tiffit as Wellness Coordinator, Chris Smid seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the hiring of Katherine Byrne as .53 PreK Assistant, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

10. Set Next Regular Board Meeting: **(Action)** (Anticipated, October 8, 2015 at 6:00PM at MSES).  
By consensus, the next MSD Board Meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2015 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)**  
Sarah Haley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31PM, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Rosso, Recording Secretary*

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