

Middletown Springs Board of School Directors (Regular) Meeting

Date: February 10, 2015--Time: 6:00PM

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES (Subject to Approval)

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. At 7:00PM - the regular meeting will be suspended in order to conduct the School Board's *Public Informational Meeting*, after which the regular meeting will resume.

3. Additions, Deletions, Changes to Agenda (**Action**)

"Student Concern" needs to be added under #13 (Executive Session).

4. Preparation for *Public Informational Meeting*

- Discussed which documents would be distributed to people attending the meeting, as well as slides and talking points.
- Budget deficit was caused by secondary costs (tuition and special education expenses) which came in \$164,000 over budget. Some of this was made up by spending reductions in the elementary budget. We saved \$64,000 in the elementary budget, used \$31,000 from the Tuition Fund, and also used some special education reimbursement funds. These measures brought the deficit down from \$164,000 to approximately \$48,000.
- Discussed what common questions might be brought up during public forum.
- Primary expenses behind the elementary school budget are salaries, health insurance, plant maintenance, food service program, homework club.
- The Board does not intend to harm the elementary school programs in order to pay for secondary education.
- Discussed potential savings/costs of changing supervisory unions.

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

- Approval of Minutes –January 20, 2015 (Regular) and January 26, 2015 (Special)

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 20 and January 26, with the following corrections/additions to the Jan. 20 minutes: Meredith Morgan wanted to clarify that the 1) the ADA lift would be for access to the second floor, 2) that Mr. Beal works with students on many diverse projects, and 3) that we are discussing possibilities for reducing costs in the future. Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

▪ Superintendent's Report

Supt. Paustian reported that she had sent a letter to House Speaker, Shap Smith regarding small school districts and their cost efficiency. She distributed a summary of AOE proposals from the state. The Supt. has spoken with Robin Chesnut-Tangerman. She is concerned that we will lose the Small Schools Grant funds due to having class sizes of less than 20 students. Supt. Paustian talked about the importance of 1:1 technology in classrooms and its benefits in differentiated

teaching to students of all abilities. Discussion also took place on the concept of “flipping” classrooms and how they work.

The meeting was suspended at 7:00 to move into the Public Informational Meeting.

The Public Informational Meeting was called to order by Clarence Haynes at 7:06PM.

In Attendance: Joan Paustian, Rick Beal, Louis Milazzo, Clarence Haynes, Meredith Morgan, Christopher Smid, Sarah Haley, and Jennelle Carr. Public Present: None

- The Board read through the article regarding our school budget and “The Path Forward.”
- The Board discussed some of the options that were presented by Harry Frank of the VSBA, regarding what other schools/districts have done in consolidation situations.
 - Many of the funding options used in the past are no longer available.

No Public in attendance. The Public Informational Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

Continuation of Regular Meeting – 7:33PM

▪ Principal’s Report

Mr. Beal shared that the Winter Sports Program is going well and that the time the teachers are using for professional development has been very valuable. They are working on homework objectives, Math, Science, and Social Studies, and developing rubrics to connect to standards. Mr. Beal went to Berlin, VT for a Supervision/Evaluation Conference focused on ways to effectively evaluate teacher performance. On Feb. 10, the fourth graders took the NAEP tests; part of “The Nation’s Report Card.” Mr. Beal is hoping to bring PBL (Proficiency Based Learning) practices to our school; there will be a need to develop a team. Per the Energy Assessment Report, Mr. Beal and Mr. LaBate will be addressing identified areas to improve the efficiency of the school building. Mr. Smid has another contact for Mr. Beal for an ADA lift which could be housed in a custodial closet and work internally; thereby reducing the cost from approximately \$100,000 to approximately \$70,000. Mrs. Morgan asked if the Board should consider getting a feasibility study done for a pellet system. Mr. Beal will work on this. Mr. Haynes noted that the school newsletter stated that students in grades 4/5 could lose ski/snowboard/skating privileges due to tardiness.

▪ Business Manager’s Report

• Financial Statements

Mr. Milazzo distributed a Variance Analysis Report of current vs. budgeted expenses/revenues. Currently, we are showing a surplus of \$5,000; this number may increase as the end of the year approaches and purchase orders close. If all goes well, we may be able to move forward with the roof project this summer.

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

6. Approve Warrants: **(Action)**

- a. Warrant #201 in the amount of \$58,296.56 dated 12/10/2014
- b. Warrant #202 in the amount of \$26,798.66 dated 12/24/14
- c. Warrant #203 in the amount of \$5,996.75 dated 1/7/15

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #201 in the amount of \$58,296.56 dated 12/10/2014, Warrant #202 in the amount of \$26,798.66 dated 12/24/14, and Warrant #203 in the amount of \$5,996.75 dated 1/7/15, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

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

No Public Present

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

a. Planning for Town Meeting

The school portion of Town Meeting will be second; after the town's portion. The proposed budget will be presented. A slide show will be used. Mr. Beal may also present. The Board will submit Christopher Smid's article to the Free Press for publication. It will also be posted on Front Porch Forum. The "sandwich board" sign will be put up at the green to publicize the meeting.

9. New Business: **(Receive Information & Possible Action):**

- a. The School Board received a letter from parent and community member, Kathy Letendre. In this letter, Mrs. Letendre states that consolidation is often not successful; she cites a Penn State Study as well as a brief published by the National Education Policy Center in February, 2011. She hopes that we will not be guided by politics, emotions, or instincts; but rather by facts and evidence. The Board noted that we already consolidate services as much as possible, through bus contracts, sharing of itinerants, etc. To be considered, consolidation must be good for education and for taxpayers.
- b. A question was raised about trying to consolidate social services as a cost savings as opposed to schools/education. The Board will discuss this with Harry Frank.

10. Policies: **(for approval)**

- a. G-1 Curriculum Development & Coordination (revised – for input)
b. G-1A Curriculum Coordinating Council (to be rescinded)
c. G-1B Curriculum Management & Adoption (to be rescinded)
d. D-2 Professional Development (new/revised); D-2R procedure to be rescinded
e. D-205 Nursing Mothers in the Workplace (new for input)
f. C-2 Board Meetings (revised – for input)

The Board reviewed and discussed the above policies.

Sarah Haley moved to adopt above Policies G1, D2, D205, and C2, Christopher Smid seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to rescind above Policies G1A and G1B, and Procedure D2R, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

11. Action on Personnel Contract **(Action)** (if applicable)

None

12. Set Next Board Meeting (Regular) & Agenda Building:

The next MSD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00PM at MSES. This will be the reorganizational meeting.

13. Executive Session 1 VSA § 313 (1-9) (a) (b) if warranted **(Discussion & Possible Action)**

Clarence Haynes moved to have the Board enter Executive Session at 8:50PM for a student concern, Jennelle Carr seconded; motion carried 5-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to have the Board exit Executive Session at 9:15PM, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 5-0.

No Action Taken

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

None

15. Adjournment **(Action)**

Christopher Smid moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16PM, Sara Haley seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Minutes taken by *Sarah Haley*
Transcribed by *Susan Rosso*