

Middletown Springs Board of School Director's (Regular) Meeting

Date: November 10, 2011

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Middletown Springs Elementary School

Official Minutes

Present: Kimberly Mathewson, Clarence Haynes, Matt Peschl, Steve Letendre, Kendra Larson (Board Members); Superintendent Joan Paustian, Principal Rick Beal, Business Manager Louis Milazzo, Bob Bruttomesso, Teacher.

The meeting was **called to order** at 6:05 PM, with 5 members present, by Chairperson Kimberly Mathewson.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Steve Letendre to accept the minutes of October 20, 2011 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

The minutes of June 3, 2011 and June 6, 2011 are still pending receipt.

Report of the Superintendent: Dr. Paustian's written report was included in the Board's packet, in addition, she highlighted/reported:

- Writing Curriculum Standards are being finalized today and will be rolled out in December.
- The make-up day from August 29th will occur at the end of the year (a mutually common day for all schools, to be announced).
- AIMS Web training will be scheduled for all Title I and Special Education Teachers and they will share with all others.
- 2 Board Seats are coming due this year.
 - One 2-year seat
 - One 3-year seat

Report of the Principal: Mr. Beal's written report was included in the Board's packet, in addition, he highlighted/reported:

- Relighting project paperwork is expected on Monday, November 14th
- The control unit for the heating system failed, the estimated cost to replace with a new unit is \$18,000; Mr. Beal was able to locate a used unit for significantly less money which will allow needed repairs to occur for now.
- Irene Recovery Grants are available (up to \$5,000) – more information will be shared under new business.
- Halloween parade and celebration went very well. Principal Beal expressed appreciation to the Fire Department for their assistance in blocking traffic and general support during the parade.
- The final draft of the Action Plan will be provided to the board tonight for approval (to be discussed later in the meeting)
- The E-coli and chloroform issue with the water supply has been resolved. The last five tests have come back negative; the chlorination system has been shut off. Principal Beal will do additional testing above and beyond that which is required

just to ensure that the water continues to test fine. He will also be following up with the State.

- Efficiency Vermont will work with the school regarding the pump etc. Principal Beal has been in contact with the State regarding same.

Report of the Business Manager: Mr. Milazzo's written report was included in the Board's packet, his items of business will be covered later in the meeting (re: FY13 Budget and Announced Tuition).

- **Motion made by Steve Letendre, seconded by Kendra Larson to accept the reports of the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Warrants:

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson, to approve Warrant #117, in the amount of \$19,089.70, dated 10/21/11. Motion carried 5-0.**

General Public Comments: None.

New Business:

Approval of Action Plan - Principal Beal reviewed the plan with the Board and discussion ensued. The Board appreciates the work that was put into the Plan. It is important to have a benchmark in order that the goals can be measured for progress. Although the Plan is considered to be ambitious, Principal Beal, the faculty and Board are in agreement that it serves as a good benchmark. The Action Plan is considered a good working document.

- **By consensus, the board requested quarterly updates on the progress (rather than wait until the end of the year).**
- **Motion made by Kimberly Mathewson, seconded by Kendra Larson to approve the Action Plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

The Chair called for a change in the order of the agenda; the Board agreed (by consensus) to move the FY13 Budget review to the end of the agenda, after all other business has been completed.

A reminder was given that Town Reports are due to CO prior to December break if at all possible please.

Henderson Foundation: The board has received several applications. The Chair of the School Board and Chair of the Select board and the Superintendent are now to meet to review the applications and award the funds. Kimberly Mathewson will coordinate the meeting in the near future. Discussion ensued regarding the history of the fund, the intent and the award process.

Approve FY13 Announced Tuition Rate:

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson to set/approve the Announced Tuition Rate at \$14,500.00 (see approved change below*) for FY13.** Discussion ensued. The Board expressed that they did not want to have to pay money back if they set the rate too high, but also did not wish to bill back sending towns either. The allowable tuition rate will not be determined by the state until this time next year making it a bit difficult to project and set the announced tuition rates.

- ***Clarence Haynes changed the motion to read the amount of \$13,000.00, Kimberly Mathewson was in agreement. Motion carried 4-1 (Kendra Larson opposed).**

Other New Business:

Language Program: Kendra Larson inquired about the process for implementing a foreign language program at the school beginning FY13, as was requested by some parents. Discussion followed. Principal Beal will be researching how this might fit into the school day schedule and will collaborate with the Business Manager regarding estimated costs involved, and will present the design to the Board at the next meeting for further discussion.

Tuition Bill Back (Anticipated): Mr. Milazzo informed the Board that Mill River Union High School's allowed tuition vs. announced tuition rate is 3.0078% or \$385.00 per student higher (a difference of \$385/student (@28 students). West Rutland's allowable rate is \$1,343.00 more than their announced (@ 1 student). A total anticipated bill back of \$12,123.00.

Old Business:

Stream Bank Stabilization Grant funding: Clarence Haynes and Principal Beal informed the Board that Grant funding may be available. The stream bank had some erosion due to Hurricane Irene damage and there is concern that the sewer force main line will become exposed and may freeze during the winter months. The Town is working with Hillary Solomon, who has expertise in grant writing for stream bank stabilization; it is the recommendation of Clarence Haynes and Principal Beal that the Board consider authorizing Ms. Solomon to complete some grant writing on behalf of the School Board for this purpose. The plans are available on-line from a state website link; further research will be completed to gather all required documentation.

- **Motion made by Matt Peschl, seconded by Kendra Larson to authorize Hillary Solomon to complete grant work regarding the sewer force main; stream bank stabilization on behalf of the Board. Motion carried 5-0.**

Policies (for Adoption):

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson to adopt policy D-1 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Criminal Record Checks and D-6 Substitute Teachers as revised and presented. Motion carried 5-0.**

Policies (for input): E-11 Electronic Communications Use and Retention. The Board shall review and provide any suggested changes, comments, etc. to Superintendent Paustian, Kimberly Mathewson or Jan Dente before the next meeting.

Action on Personnel Contract:

Other:

Eva Gonova – ASP Assistant

Kelly Service Substitutes:

Joseph Pentzak

Heather Reynolds

Alyssa Ede

Jodi Cushing

Julie Black

Robert Field
Gabnal Marder
Tracy Gioffi-Baker

- **Motion made by Kimberly Mathewson, seconded by Kendra Larson to approve Eva Gonova as the After School Program Assistant and the above listed Kelly Services substitutes. Motion carried 5-0.**

FY13 Budget: Mr. Milazzo handed out draft #2 of the FY13 budget. The board reviewed and discussed at length. The Board also received input, suggestions and questions from Bob Bruttomesso. The majority of the increases to the budget (secondary tuition, health insurance expenses, and special education costs) are not expenses that the board can control. The elementary level expenses are level funded or decreased and the board does not wish to make cuts which would negatively impact the elementary students' services in order to account for the increases at the secondary level, special education, and other areas which are not within their control. There is not a significant surplus to offset the budget for FY13. The Business Manager was asked to research if the 2-vote rule was still in effect, and if so, how it would factor into the FY13 budget. Further data will be known and entered into the budget before the next board meeting. It is recommended that the Board approve the budget in December, if possible. The Board Members will continue to review the budget line by line before the next meeting (on their own) and are encouraged to submit any questions to Mr. Milazzo or Principal Beal.

Mr. Bruttomesso was thanked for his participation and he left the meeting at this time. Mr. Milazzo was also thanked and excused at this time.

Executive Session:

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson to move the board (to include Principal Beal, Superintendent Paustian and the Recording Secretary) into executive session at 8:00PM for the purpose of discussing negotiations, legal matters (1 VSA § 313 (1)(a)(b)). Motion carried 5-0.**
- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Steve Letendre to move the board out of executive session at 8:18 PM. Motion carried 5-0.**

No action taken.

Other Lawful Business: None.

Set Next Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM at MSES.

Adjournment:

- **Motion made by Steve Letendre, seconded by Matt Peschl to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dente
Substitute Recording Secretary