

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

January 20, 2011, 6:30 P.M.

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Present: Kimberly Mathewson (Board Chair), Steven Letendre (Vice-Chair), Jim Gilmour (Clerk), Matt Peschl (Member), Clarence Haynes (Member). Also present: Joan Paustian (RSWSU Superintendent), Louis Milazzo (Business Manager), Aaron Boynton (MSES Principal), Susan Rosso (Recording Secretary).

1. Call to Order: Kimberly Mathewson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda: (Action)
  - a. Approval of Minutes:

Correction: Under #2A "Approval of Minutes" delete the line "Minutes not received to date." Clarence Haynes moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2010 as corrected, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried.

- b. Report of the Superintendent

Supt. Paustian reported that it is expected that Vermont schools will receive \$19 million in federal ARRA funds; they should arrive this fiscal year but cannot be expended until next year. MSES' share is approximately \$28,000 and must be used for job retention/creation. RSWSU and PHS staff have met in teams regarding "Breaking Ranks" a new model for 21<sup>st</sup> century secondary education. Curriculum Coordinating Council meetings will be held on Jan. 21 & 22.

- c. Report of the Principal

Mr. Boynton addressed the board regarding the Action Plan. For the second half of this year, staff will work on scope and sequence for Guided Reading instruction to ensure consistency and follow-through on each grade level. The Health & Wellness Committee is creating a Draft Nutrition Action Plan, including the potential cost impact of purchasing fresh produce instead of canned or frozen. Students in grades 3-6 have been issued their laptops; procedures for use at school and at home were shared with students and with parents at evening meetings. Mr. Boynton would like to thank FFE for another spectacular artist-in residency, senior luncheon, and community event. Musician and songwriter Jon Gailmor worked with each class to create and perform original songs. MSES has been working cooperatively with the Rutland County Parent Child Center on parent resources. Joanne Matteson from RCPCC attended a meeting with PIRC (Parent Information Resource Center) and informed them about benefits of our Cradle to Cubby Program. A project manager from the Academic Development Institute will be here in February to film MSES' program for their website. Mr. Boynton spoke to the board regarding the benefits of a full-day kindergarten program to provide increased time and opportunities to meet the increased standards/expectations for kindergarten and beyond.

- d. Report of the Business Manager

Mr. Milazzo distributed the draft of next year's budget, a copy of the figures for the town report, the FY12 tax rate sheet, and the CLA information. Based on the CLA of 83.83, our budget, and state recommendations, the tax rate is estimated to increase by approximately .0013 cents (one tenth of a penny). The latest variance analysis shows we are running at a deficit this year; Mr. Boynton is looking at ways to reduce costs in an effort to come in at/near budget.

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the reports of the Superintendent, the Principal, and the Business Manager as presented, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried.

3. Approval of Warrants:

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #93 in the amount of \$28,387.28 dated 12/3/10, Warrant #94 in the amount of \$49,096.84 dated 12/17/10, and Warrant #95 in the amount of \$19,164.21, dated 12/31/10, Kimberly Mathewson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

4. General Public Comments: None

5. Old Business:

a. Scheduling of Support Staff Negotiations: tabled.

b. There are three school board seats open this year. Matt Peschl and Steven Letendre filed petitions to continue to serve. Jim Gilmour is not currently planning to run for another term. The School Board will be sorry to see Mr. Gilmour leave the board and appreciates all of his hard work and dedication. Mr. Gilmour stated that he has appreciated working with this well-functioning board.

6. New Business

a. Approve Substitute List

Jim Gilmour moved to approve the substitute list as presented, Kimberly Mathewson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

b. Plan Town Meeting

Pre-Town Meeting/Information Night will be held on February 28, 2011 at the Firehouse. The board discussed ways to communicate with the community this year. An Informational Open House will take place at MSES on Thursday, Feb. 24 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. so that community members may ask questions about elementary and secondary school education and budgets.

c. Review/Approve Town Meeting Warning

The warning for this year's town meeting was presented for review and signature as follows: "Shall the voters of the Middletown Springs Town School District appropriate \$1,810,936.72 necessary for the education of students Pre-K – 12, the sum of \$1,400,962.95 to be raised by taxes, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012?" The warning was signed by all school board members and returned to the Superintendent for distribution.

d. Facilities Update

The attic insulation job is nearing completion; workers are installing insulation under the sub-floor. The workers discovered leaks and wood damage along the roof of the connector between the old and new buildings; this will be addressed. Some broken window panes replaced over the break. The board noted that a comparison of fuel consumption between this year and last year (beginning in February) could be helpful in determining the impact of the insulation.

e. E-Vermont Grant

This community-wide technology grant has been received by the town of Middletown Springs and will benefit the town library and school, as well. Supt. Paustian thanks Mrs. Mathewson for her part in writing this successful grant.

7. Policies:

The policies were reviewed and discussed. Clarence Haynes moved to adopt policies E-518: Mileage and Travel Reimbursement, F-105: Life Threatening Allergies, G-14: Optimum Class Size and D-1: Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment and Criminal Records Checks, Kimberly Mathewson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

8. Master Facilities Planning

a. Planning for capital improvement

Mr. Letendre suggests that at the next meeting the discussion of painting and other summer projects take place with an eye towards finalization and preparation of bid specs. Mr. Boynton, Mr. Letendre, and Mr. Peschl will meet separately before the next board meeting.

9. Personnel and Contracts: None.

10. Anticipated Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1-9)(a)(b) Mr. Haynes moved that the Board enter Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for personnel issues, Mr. Letendre seconded

the motion; the motion carried. At 9:35pm, Mr. Letendre moved the board out of Executive Session, Mr.Peschl seconded; motion carried. No action taken.

11. Other Lawful Business: None
12. The next board meeting will take place on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at MSES.
13. Adjournment: Mr. Gilmour moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36pm, Mr. Haynes seconded; the motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Rosso*  
Board Recording Secretary