

Middletown Springs Board of School Directors' Special Meeting

DATE: April 8, 2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Middletown Springs Elementary School

*Note Date change this month due to Spring Recess

Official Minutes

Present: Kimberly Mathewson (Chair), Jim Gilmour (Clerk), Clarence Haynes (Member). Also present: Aaron Boynton (Principal), Public Present: Bob Bruttomesso, Matt Peschl.

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order Kimberly Called to order 7:08 PM

Clarence moved that Matt Peschl be appointed to the vacant seat, Kimberly Mathewson seconded the motion; motion carried. Matt Peschl will need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk before being able to fully participate as an active board member.

2. Consent Agenda: (Action)

a. Approval of Minutes:

- i. December 1, 2010; December 10, 2010; January 25, 2010 (special); March 1, 2010 (emergency); March 8, 2010 (special); March 18, 2010 (regular) and March 24, 2010 (special).

- b. Clarence Haynes moved minutes of Jan 25, 2010, March 1, 2010, March 8, 2010, March 18, 2010 be adopted as presented, Kimberly Mathewson seconded. Motion carried. December 1, December 10 and March 24 - tabled until next meeting.

- c. Report of Superintendent – Superintendent is attending a previously scheduled conference and is unable to attend today's meeting. Report in the packet. Aaron on the hiring committee for the Director of Educational Advancement. Clarence on the committee for Director of Student Services. 19 candidates have submitted applications for the position. Should have a report prepared by the regular SU meeting.

- d. Report of Principal – In the packet – Water pump malfunctioned and had to be replaced. Tom Ransom came back and deemed it needed to be replaced \$3250+/- the pump wasn't drawing water and had electrical issues. It had been intermittent since around the time the water system was installed. More information is forthcoming as an electrician is coming to review and suggest a solution. Community Presentation was well received and attended. Focused especially on science as a result of the feedback from the state evaluation of test scores. Kids enjoyed the work and so it seemed did the folks that attended. More events are scheduled. Graduation date is June 10th. On April 26, 27, 28 the 3 & 4 graders will be involved with watershed alliance program put on by Green Mountain College. April Michael Caduto, a musician, will be presenting a program on co sponsored by Friends for Education. Cradle to Cubby committee has met and are collecting different items to bring to new families. May 20 at 3 – 7 PM is Dr. Seuss Day at the Rutland County Child Center. Student and parents will come and learn about different Rutland County programs that provide services. May 26th is the Pre K informational day. Field Day plans are still in planning. The 5&6 grade class trip to Philadelphia is April 21 – 26.

- e. Report of the Business Manager

- i. Finance Report – In the packet. Also not available for tonight's meeting due to previously scheduled events. Reports we are coming in with a small surplus, though much closer to the projected budget.

- ii. Discussions on the hi deductible health insurance plan will be tabled until the next meeting.
- iii. Sovernet – Jim is to follow up with Sovernet.
- iv. Comcast vs. Vermontel. Bob Bruttomesso agreed to perform a speed test with DSL and Kimberly will do a comparison test at the library with Comcast to bring to the discussion.

3. Approval of Warrants: (Action)

- a. Warrant # 73 in the amount of \$8,334.49, dated 3/12/2010.

Clarence Haynes moved the adoption of the minutes as presented Kimberly Mathewson seconded; Motion carried.

4. General Public Comments (Listen and Defer Action to Future Meeting)

Bob Bruttomesso asked about the Director of Curriculum Advancement. It sounds like a position that was removed years ago to save the Supervisory Union from “top heavy” positions and money. He is concerned that this is a return to this type of spending. Bob noted that grant money isn’t “free money” and it can be spent on kids rather than management.

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

- a. Land Transfer

- i. Kimberly Mathewson received an email from Select Board member Chris Larson reminding of deed language offered language of the past. Clarence made a motion to have our attorney draft deed language in keeping with the previously town voted articles for land transfer for board review and submission. Jim 2nd the motion. Discussion ensued regarding choice of legal council. Motion carried.

- b. Building use

Aaron Boynton reports we have one person who is an authorized key holder. A second parent has gone through brief training required for key holders. Aaron asks how can we create more interest in the building use? Aaron agreed to write a draft article for inclusion in the Magnet. We had a “test run” of an Open Activity Night in the gym and it was a success. The expectation that in the winter the activity nights would have more attendance.

6. New Business

- a. Approve Substitute List – Kimberly Mathewson moved the adoption of the Substitute list as presented, Clarence Haynes 2nd; motion carried.

- b. NECAP Scores – Principal Aaron Boynton, via smart board, presented a report on the NECAP scores. Hard copy passed was also passed around for review. Aaron Reminds that NECAP testing is only one measure of assessment. Other measurements used include VCAT scores, – Reports can be looked at other ways, Free and Reduced Lunch program, students on IEP (individualized Education Programs), Male/Female, for example. Looking at the scores in these different ways shows some results that provided targeted ways to provide more and better services where needed. Using the Title One teacher for targeted instruction, using the Fast Forward program more effectively, supporting the teachers specically meeting monthly to discuss individual teachers to discuss progress of specific students. Discussed what classroom accommodations we are taking to improve student education. Some of the points to that ende were: A full time title this year has allowed for more opportunity this year to allow us to do a better job at knowing what specific students are and how and when to provide target services. We have used the findings of the Root of Success study done recently across the state to compare what we are doing to match up with the successful schools noted in the study. Science was not included as the data range was different than the Math and Reading. Clarence asked if the 7 and 8 graders were being picked up and being added into the sum. Aaron did not think so as the numbers didn’t add up. Clarence asked if by adding in a full time Title 1 reading position if we would see a reversal in the downward trend. Aaron thought so, in addition with the aggressive work in identifying and providing support to younger and

younger students. Aaron noted that a full day Kindergarten program would greatly benefit the kids and their reading and math skills; with the real potential of saving many support dollars in later years. Next steps: Ed Support team continues to identify our youngest and setting up support in identified areas – focused strategies in reading instructions for individuals receiving support – Professional development in reading, consistency across grade levels – continued focus on Roots of Success data – all day kindergarten.

- c. 21st Century Funds – The Supervisory Union was not awarded the 21st Century Grant. We have not gotten the feedback as to why. This will cause a shortfall of monies to provide for After School Program, Drama Club, Odyssey Pottery Club, Nature Club, Environmental Club, Before School Program, and Summer Program. Kimberly moved that we approve the use of \$10,000 of Medicaid funds to cover shortfall of the shortfall from the loss of 21st century grant.

7. Policies: None

8. Master Facilities Planning

We have received the Energy Efficiency grant in the amount of \$50k energy efficiency building improvements. Aaron was asked to attend a small ceremony at Rutland City Hall.

Building meeting was determined that the best use would be to insulate the attic and put down floorboards replace rotted spots on the exterior, takes down the failing chimney. Work on providing more insulation in the exterior walls. Next step was to put together a project description to put out to bid. There are monies in the budget handle maintenance (deferred) slate work, hot water tank replacement, and other projects. We need an update on hiring of a project management to get the work done on a speedy timetable.

9. Personnel and Contracts (Action, if warranted)

- a. New Hires - None
- b. Terminations/Resignations - None
- c. Transfers – None
- d. Leave of Absences: None

10. Other Lawful Business: None

11. Set Next Meeting (Action) (**May 20, 2010 6:00 PM**), and Agenda Building

12. Anticipated Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1-9)(a)(b)

Kimberly Mathewson moved that the board enter executive session for the purposes of discussing personnel issues, Clarence Haynes seconded the motion; motion carries at 9:40 PM. Invited Aaron Boynton and Matt Peschl to attend. Kimberly Mathewson moved to exit out of executive session at 9:57 Clarence Haynes 2nd; motion carried.

Jim Gilmour made motion to consider special and vendor contracts upon completion and review with the School Board by the superintendent of a report from the Principal concerning the special and vendor's performance. Kimberly Mathewson 2nd; motion carried.

13. Adjournment Clarence Haynes moved to adjourn at 10:03 PM Kimberly Mathewson 2nd. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Gilmour (Clerk)