

Middletown Springs School District
Board of School Directors Regular Meeting

Date: May 27, 2010

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

Official Meeting Minutes

Present: Kimberly Mathewson (Chair), Steven Letendre (Vice-Chair), and Clarence Haynes (Member). Also present: Joan Paustian (RSWSU Superintendent), Louis Milazzo (RSWSU Business Manager), Aaron Boynton (MSES Principal), and Susan Rosso (Recording Secretary). Tracey Tinsley, PE Teacher and Michael Beattie, Community Member were also present. Grade 5/6 Teacher Bob Bruttomesso arrived at 6:50 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Kimberly Mathewson called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
2. Consent Agenda: (Action)
 - a. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. December 1, 2010; December 10, 2010; March 24, 2010 (special). April 8, 2010 (regular) and May 6, 2010 (special). (No minutes received to date for 12/1, 12/10, or 5/6)

Kimberly Mathewson moved to accept the minutes of March 24, 2010 with the addition of Thomas Gallagher's title as "Director of Educational Advancement" and the minutes of April 8, 2010 with no substantive changes; minor grammatical and typographical corrections to be made as noted on the marked copy, Clarence Haynes seconded the motion; the motion carried. 12/1, 12/10 and 5/6 meeting minutes are pending.

b. Report of the Superintendent

Supt. Paustian informed the Board that Susan McKelvie will be the new RSWSU Director of Educational Advancement (60%) and will continue as Tinmouth Principal (40%). The Superintendent has completed all of the administrators' evaluations for this school year. She reported that the state has mandated cost shifts from the general fund to the education fund of at least \$25 million over the past two years. The voluntary school district merger proposal is still very much alive; with provisions regarding merged contracts and class sizes. The small schools grant will stay in effect for four more years. A meeting regarding supervisory union-wide teacher negotiations will be held on Monday, June 28 at 5:00 p.m. at Poultney High School.

c. Report of the Principal

Mr. Boynton reported another successful year with the Cradle to Cubby Program. EEE Outreach Coordinator, Jan Krantz spoke with him about how the outreach program is having a favorable effect on family-school connections. The school held a "Dr. Seuss" event and a Pre-K Open House which were both well-attended and received. The Science NECAP was administered to the fourth graders over two days and it appeared that the students put forth good effort. Mr. Boynton would like to revisit the Action Plan as much time has been spent this year on aligning the GE's with the curriculum; the areas of Social Studies and Science in particular need updating. Professional Development will be an area of concentration, as well. Regarding building maintenance, Doran Roofing came and replaced a number of worn-out slate shingles on the old section of the building. Mr. Boynton invited the board members to attend the kindergarten and sixth grade graduation programs and the Celebration of Success Ceremony.

d. Report of the Business Manager

i. Finance Report

Mr. Milazzo included an updated budget printout in the board packets. The surplus for FY10 should increase over the current anticipated amount of \$23,000. Also included is a printout of the anticipated effects of current legislation on the 2011 and 2012 budgets. The fuel bid was discussed at the last RSWSU meeting; it was suggested that we stay with Local Fuel as our provider with a price of 18 cents over the wholesale rate. Steven Letendre moved to retain Local Fuel as our provider, Clarence Haynes seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Discussion then ensued about internet providers for next year; Mr. Bruttomesso tested the speed of our current V-Tel broadband connection while Mr. Boynton checked with Comcast. It was determined that with Comcast, the speed that accompanies the discounted educational price is significantly slower and that comparable speed at the regular rate costs more than we are currently paying V-Tel. The consensus to date is to stay with V-Tel.

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

3. Approval of Warrants: (Action)

- a. Warrant #74 in the amount of \$25,813.60, dated 3/26/10
- b. Warrant #75 in the amount of \$240,128.03, dated 4/09/10
- c. Warrant #76 in the amount of \$40,466.72, dated 4/23/10
- d. Warrant #77 in the amount of 7,640.32, dated 5/7/10

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #74 in the amount of \$25,813.60 dated 3/26/10, Warrant #75 in the amount of \$240,128.03 dated 4/9/10, Warrant #76 in the amount of \$40,466.72 dated 4/23/10, and Warrant #77 in the amount of \$7,640.32, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried.

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

Mr. Bruttomesso requested that, as discussed at last Town Meeting, information on District/SU salaries paid by grant funds be disseminated to the public. Supt. Paustian replied that she and Mr. Milazzo can compile and provide that information for next Town Meeting.

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

- a. Land Transfer

Clarence Haynes spoke to the School Board attorney and is awaiting further information. Clarence Haynes moved to table the item pending receipt of further information, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried.

6. New Business (Receive Information and Possible Action)

- a. Approve Substitute List

Substitute list was not included, item tabled by consensus.

- b. 21st Century Funds

Mr. Milazzo spoke about the need to encumber funds before the grant deadline is reached, so that the money can be put into the local budget and utilized. He and Mr. Boynton have discussed appropriate expenditures. Although we did not receive the 21st Century Grant, the majority of our afterschool program components can be sustained through local and other funds.

- c. Health and Wellness Model

Mr. Boynton explained to the board that he and PE Teacher, Ms. Tracey Tinsley had been working together on a new health and wellness initiative. Ms. Tinsley shared her PowerPoint presentation on the proposed initiative. She discussed the public outcry regarding the obesity problem in our country, especially among children. Ms. Tinsley has taught children in our district with high blood pressure and diabetes. Goals of our health/wellness initiative are: 1.) increase physical activity, 2.) educate students, staff, and community on wellness concepts, 3.) establish the link between nutrition and health and adjust breakfast, snack, and lunch food choices, and 4.) implement other areas of the wellness policy. Ms. Tinsley is very excited about the potential of the new initiative and believes it can have a major, positive impact on the children, staff, and possibly the community.

7. Policies: (Action, if warranted)

- a. **DRAFT (for input and review only)**

(DRAFT for review only)

E-202 Animals in School

F-101 International Exchange Student

F-101R Procedures International Exchange Student

E-516 Sales Tax Reimbursement
A-1a Policy Development, Adoption, Dissemination, Administration and Review
F-104 Entrance Age
F-104R Procedure Entrance Age
E-9 HIV/AIDS

The above policies are open for suggestions and input from the local boards. Kimberly Mathewson noted that we should have bite and scratch procedures in the Animals in School Policy and that the Procedures for International Exchange Students needs to reflect that although the School Board supports and encourages international study, the district would not be required to pay for services. Regarding the entrance age policy, Mr. Boynton will review the policy to see how it aligns with our current school procedures. Mr. Haynes asked about the policy to reimburse employees for sales tax on school-related purchases and was assured by Mr. Milazzo that this practice has been approved by the auditors.

8. Master Facilities Planning (Discussion, possible action)

Steven Letendre shared information on the energy efficiency project funded by the recent grant award. The project was put out to bid; bid specifications were distributed to Smalley Construction of Rutland, Naylor & Breen of Brandon, and Otter Creek Engineering of Pittsford. We received only one bid. Kimberly Mathewson moved to send the project out for a re-bid with expenses to occur in 2011, as recommended by the Building Committee and in accordance with grant requirements, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried. Ground Up will have a report to us by June 4. Mr. Boynton and Mr. Letendre will meet with Mr. LaBate to prioritize repair projects. The Safe Routes to School grant has been submitted to the state. The Board would like to acknowledge all of Mr. Letendre's work on this grant and with the master facilities planning process.

9. Personnel and Contracts (Action, if warranted)

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

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

Steven Letendre moved to enter executive session for personnel issues, Clarence Haynes seconded the motion; the motion carried. The Board moved into executive session at 7:45 p.m.

11. Other Lawful Business (Information Gathering Only)

12. Set Next Meeting (Action), and Agenda Building

Next meeting set for Thursday, June 17, 2010^{at} 6:00 p.m. at MSES.

13. Adjournment (Action)

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rosso
Recording Secretary