

Middletown Springs School District
Board of School Directors Regular Meeting

Date: September 16, 2010

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

Official Minutes

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

1. Call to Order: Kimberly Mathewson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes:

August 12, 2010 (regular) (as edited by Chair)

May 27, 2010 (regular- tabled in August until properly edited)

June 17, 2010 (regular – tabled in August until properly edited)

July 15, 2010 (regular – tabled in August until properly edited)

Minutes were reviewed and minor corrections noted. Steven Letendre moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2010, July 15, 2010, and June 17, 2010 with corrections, Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried. Clarence Haynes moved to table the minutes of May 27, 2010, Kimberly Mathewson seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Minutes not received to date:

i. December 1, 2010 (special)

ii. December 10, 2010 (special)

iii. March 24, 2010 (special)

Above minutes tabled by consensus.

b. Report of Superintendent (Written):

Supt. Paustian reports a very positive school opening with the SU-wide faculty/staff meeting held at Tinmouth this year. Feedback showed that teachers embraced taking ownership of student learning and school improvement. Recognition of teachers and support staff members with more than fifteen years of service was part of the meeting for the first time. Julia Chamberlain and Lisa Edge, Pre-K teachers from MSES and Tinmouth, were named UVM teachers of the year; they will be recognized at a ceremony later this fall. Supt. Paustian reports that the Admin. Team is working collaboratively and effectively. The new SU-wide policy manual has been reviewed at the school level.

c. Report of Principal (Written):

The 1st Day Celebration was successful. The MSES faculty in-service goals included: understanding students better, optimizing relationships with students, collaborating with staff, improving reading scores. Many families attended Parents Only Night. Soccer has begun with Mr. B. coaching and Ms. Tinsley scheduling games and referees. Three parent workshops are

coming up, presented in conjunction with the Rutland County Parent Child Center; one on behavior and a two-part workshop on bullying.

Exterior repairs and painting on the new section of the building were completed quickly; results are very satisfactory. Three painting bids were received in the amounts of \$14,377, \$9,499, and \$8,800. The job was awarded to the lowest bidder. Mr. Boynton thanked Mr. Peschl for his assistance with the specifications.

A Harvest Celebration took place at lunch on September 16. Students sampled foods from the school garden. Ms. Rosemary Moser has assisted students in maintaining and expanding the garden each year.

We received a letter from the state regarding our lunch program nutrition analysis and we more than met the guidelines in all areas. MSES will use this standard as a basis for the new Health & Wellness Committee which will focus on nutrition in the school; utilizing local resources and fresh food, and decreasing the use of processed products.

Steven Letendre asked and Principal Boynton agreed to update the Board on a quarterly basis regarding progress on the school's Action Plan.

d. Report of the Business Manager (Written):

Mr. Milazzo reported on the recently completed audit which went well; a preliminary report will arrive in early October. He thanked Mr. Boynton and Mrs. Rosso for their help. The next SU finance meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at MSES; topics include first draft of 2011-2012 SU budget. Mr. Milazzo distributed budget preparation timelines. A first draft of MSSD budget will be presented at the November board meeting. Mr. Milazzo asked the Board for general direction or specifics for the '11-'12 budget. Discussion took place about cuts being requested by the State of Vermont. Currently, the Board hopes to be able to level-fund the budget.

Clarence Haynes moved to accept the reports of the Superintendent, Principal, and Business Manager as presented, Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried.

3. Approval of Warrants:

a. Warrant #85 in the amount of \$10,496.01, dated 8/13/2010

b. Warrant #86 in the amount of \$63,327.46, dated 8/27/10

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #85 in the amount of \$10,496.01, dated 8/13/2010, and Warrant #86 in the amount of \$63,327.46, dated 8/27/2010, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried.

4. General Public Comments: None.

5. Old Business: None.

6. New Business

Approve Substitute List: Steven Letendre moved to accept the sub list as presented, Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried.

7. Policies: (**DRAFT for Input only**)

- a. Truancy
- b. Grade Advancement, Retention, and Acceleration of Students

Area schools are being asked to follow the county truancy plan, the Rutland County Regional Truancy Project, which was reviewed and discussed. The Advancement/Retention/ Acceleration policy was discussed; in particular use of the Light's Retention Scale to standardize retention decisions, and measures for investigating/providing enrichment alternatives when considering acceleration. The policies will be returned to the Systems Management Committee with board comments.

8. Master Facilities Planning

- a. Planning for capital improvement:

Mr. Letendre is willing to work on a draft capital improvement plan.

- b. Prioritize maintenance plan:

The Facilities Plan incorporates a routine maintenance list. A small-group meeting including Mr. Letendre, Mr. Boynton, and Mr. LaBate will take place to review and discuss the plan and to create a checklist, and ideally, a maintenance manual. Gutters may need to be installed to protect the paint job on the building addition. Mr. Boynton will obtain prices.

Mr. Letendre and Mr. Boynton will work together to coordinate cleanout and create a schedule for attic insulation as provided for by the grant. Mr. Boynton discussed the need for a shed for storing seasonal equipment and the attic contents (at least temporarily). Discussion ensued about the cost-effectiveness and visual impact of renting a storage trailer vs. erecting a shed. Mr. Peschl is willing to help build a storage building for the school utilizing community volunteers. The Board supports the plan to have a community-built storage building at the school.

9. Personnel and Contracts

- a. New Hires: None
- b. Terminations: None
- c. Resignations: None
- d. Transfers: None
- e. Leave of Absences: None
- f. Other: Confirm hiring of ASP personnel:
 - i. Austin, Netta - ASP Homework Club Teacher
 - ii. Bruttomesso, Robert – ASP Homework Club Teacher
 - iii. Crandall, Holly – ASP Site Coordinator
 - iv. Crandall, Meghan – ASP Assistant
 - v. Robert Bruttomesso – Soccer Coach
 - vi. Cheryl Mahoney – ASP Assistant

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the hiring of Netta Austin, Robert Bruttomesso, Holly Crandall, and Meghan Crandall, Kimberly Mathewson seconded the motion; the motion carried. Kimberly Mathewson moved to approve the hiring of Cheryl Mahoney, Steven Letendre seconded the motion; the motion carried, Clarence Haynes abstained.

Clarence Haynes suggested meeting with teachers and support staff as an opportunity for open discussion. An invitation will be extended for Oct. 14, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at MSES.

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

Steven Letendre moved to have the Board enter Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. for personnel issues, Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried. Steven Letendre moved to have the Board exit Executive Session at 9:02 p.m., Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Action Taken: Steven Letendre moved to authorize Kimberly Mathewson and Clarence Haynes to negotiate the teacher's contract on behalf of the district board. Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried.

11. Other Lawful Business: None.

12. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 6:00 PM at MSES.

13. Adjournment: Steven Letendre moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m., Matt Peschl seconded the motion; the motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rosso