

Middletown Springs Board of School Directors (Special) Meeting

Date: February 27, 2014

Time: 6:00PM: Presentation/7:15PM: Meeting

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. Presentation – School Budget Information prior to Town Meeting (dialogue, Q&A): 6:00PM
Community members listened to a presentation by Superintendent Joan Paustian, Business Manager Louis Milazzo, Board Members Meredith Morgan and Sarah Haley, and Principal Rick Beal. Community members had an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns. The School Board would like to express their appreciation to those community members who attended to share their questions and comments. Joan Paustian and Louis Milazzo left at 6:55PM. Clarence Haynes arrived at 7:07PM.

Present: Clarence Haynes (Board Chair), Meredith Morgan (Vice-Chair), and Sarah Haley (Member).
Also present: Rick Beal (Principal) and Susan Rosso (Recording Secretary). Public Present: None

2. Call to Order (**Action**)

Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:15PM.

3. Consent Agenda: (**Action**)

Approval of Minutes – December 19, 2013 (Special); January 9, 2014 (Regular); January 27, 2014 (Special)

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the meeting minutes from Dec. 19, 2013, Jan. 9, 2014 and Jan. 27, 2014, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 3-0.

a. Superintendent's Report (Written):

Supt. Paustian's written report was reviewed. In her written report, Supt. Paustian stated that NECAP results for Fall 2013 have been received and that the southwest superintendents will be meeting with legislators from Bennington, Rutland, and Addison counties to continue discussions about education and education funding. Previous meetings have been productive. Peter Mello has been working with a group of RSWSU administrators and teachers to update the current teacher supervision and evaluation model. Kathi Marcoux has been working with RSWSU principals and teachers to discuss curriculum and supporting materials. Some schools are reviewing new curriculum materials.

b. Principal's Report (Written):

Principal Beal reported that teachers will participate in additional math professional development with Loree Silvis and Jean Ward. Students had their last day of snowboarding/skiing on Feb. 27. Mr. Beal is going to ask the students to write about their experiences. This "found" time with the staff has been very beneficial. Jerry Kreitzer gave a parent presentation on bullying the evening of Feb. 26 and has also worked with staff and students. Due to the NECAP scores, a lot of attention is being paid to helping students improve writing skills. Regarding the water project, we are required to follow the same design process as a multi-million dollar project, although our project is on a much smaller scale. Therefore, the engineering design cost was more than anticipated. Mr. Beal has contacted a leasing company to finance this cost. We can remove the old railing for the lift; we need to create a new plan. Lisa Myette, who has many years of experience, has been hired as our new Food Service Director. A part-time Instructional Assistant, Kathleen Cronin, has been hired to meet student needs. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra was scheduled to perform at MSES on Feb. 14, but we were snowed out. The performance will be rescheduled. Mr. Beal discussed the failure of the router for the e-mail system; an inexpensive router will be purchased to replace it. We will also be looking to contract with a new notification system company to replace Blackboard Connect, with which we have had many problems. Mr. Beal is trying to be as frugal as possible while continuing to effectively meet school and student needs.

c. Business Manager's Report
Financial Statements

Mr. Milazzo's written report included next year's budget as well as financial statements for the current year. There was an error in the town report where an "Instructional Assistant's" salary was listed *incorrectly* under "Sports Coordinator."

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 3-0.

4. Approve Warrants: **(Action)**

- a. Warrant #176 in the amount of \$26,493.09 dated 1/2/14
- b. Warrant #177 in the amount of \$59,943.62 dated 1/15/14

Clarence Haynes moved to approve Warrant #176 in the amount of \$26,493.09 dated 1/2/14 and Warrant # 177 in the amount of \$59,943.62 dated 1/15/14, Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 3-0.

5. General Public Comments **(Listen & Defer Action to Future Meeting)**: None

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

Clarence Haynes moved that the school district pay \$11,000 to the town for paving the portion of the driveway right outside of the school (about 1/3 of the driveway), Sarah Haley seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

7. New Business: **(Receive Information & Possible Action)**:

Board members signed the A/P board orders. We will need to assist with parking on the night of town meeting to ensure that as many cars as possible can be parked. Mr. Beal will ask Mr. LaBate to direct cars for town meeting. The board would like to have Supt. Paustian follow up on the feasibility of adding a pellet system to the existing heating system at the school.

8. Policies **(for input or approval)**: None anticipated: None

9. Action on Personnel Contracts **(Action)** (if applicable)

- Heather Makovec-House (*Temporary Cook*)
- Lisa Myette (Food Service Director)
- Kathy Cronin (Part-Time Instructional Assistant)

Clarence Haynes moved to approve the three hires, Meredith Morgan seconded; motion carried 3-0.

10. Set Next Board Meeting (Regular) & Agenda Building: (Anticipated March 6, 2014 at 6PM)
Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 6:00PM at MSES.

11. Executive Session 1 VSA § 313 (1-9) (a) (b) if warranted **(Discussion & Possible Action)**

Clarence Haynes moved the board into Executive Session at 8:00PM for personnel matters, seconded by Meredith Morgan; motion carried 3-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to have the Board exit Executive Session at 8:15PM, seconded by Sarah Haley; motion carried 3-0.

Clarence Haynes moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Karen Wilder from the School Board. Sarah Haley seconded; motion carried 3-0.

12. Other Lawful Business **(Information Gathering Only)**: None

13. Adjournment **(Action)**

Meredith Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM, Sarah Haley seconded motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rosso
Recording Secretary