

**SOUTH MIDDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
4 Forge Road, Boiling Springs, PA 17007**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 5, 2008**

The South Middleton Board of Directors met on May 5, 2008, in the Board Room of the Iron Forge Educational Center for a Regular School Board Meeting. The President called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The Secretary called the roll with all members present except as designated:

**School Directors**

Mr. Michael Berk

Mrs. Shelly Capozzi

Mr. Joseph Fay, Jr.

Mr. Mark Juliana

Mrs. Elizabeth Knouse- **Absent**

Ms. Pamela Martin

Mr. Paul Slifko, III - **Absent**

Mrs. Kimberly Vensel

Mr. Robert Winters

**Administrative Staff**

Dr. Patricia B. Sanker, Superintendent

Dr. Sandra Tippet, Assistant Superintendent

Janet Adams, Principal

Eugene Barrick, Food Services Director

David Boley, Assistant Principal

Dean Clepper, Principal

Mark Correll, Assistant Principal

Scott Govern, Athletic Director - **Absent**

Joseph Mancuso, III, Principal

Frederick S. Withum, III, Principal

Randy Zook, Director of Buildings and Grounds

**Student Representatives to the Board**

Jeremy Wallace

**Visitors**

See attachment to the minutes.

**Board Secretary (Non Member)**

Jeffrey Ammerman

**Solicitor**

Philip H. Spare

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### INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Amy C. Morton, Executive Director of the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, gave an overview of the programs offered by the IU and a status update on their current building project.

### ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Winters made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fay, that the Board accepts the minutes from the following meeting:

-April 21, 2008

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION- None

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Berk made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fay, that the Board approves the agenda of May 5, 2008 with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Berk made a motion, seconded by Mr. Juliana, that the Board approves the Athletic Schedules for the 2008-2009 school year. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Berk made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Capozzi, that the Board approves a change in the 2007-2008 calendar that designates Saturday, June 7, 2008 as a back-up date for Commencement in case of inclement weather on the Thursday, June 5, 2008 and Friday, June 6, 2008. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Fay made a motion, seconded by Mr. Berk, that the Board approves the following personnel items:

#### PERSONNEL

#### PROFESSIONAL STAFF

##### Substitute Teachers

The Board employed the following substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year at \$85.00/day.

Name: Barbara Kulik  
Certification: Social Studies

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Name: Sarah Hill  
Certification: Spanish

### **Leave Request**

The Board approved the request of Connie Shuff, Kindergarten teacher at W.G. Rice Elementary School, for a childrearing leave of absence beginning August 20, 2008, through November 30, 2008, returning on December 1, 2008, as per Article III, Section D of the Articles of Agreement between the SMSD and the South Middle Education Association.

### **CLASSIFIED STAFF**

#### **Change of Status from Substitute to Full-Time Employment**

The Board approved the employment of Dean Burd as full-time custodian effective April 28, 2008. Rate of Pay: \$9.39/hr.

**All of the items in the personnel motion passed unanimously.**

### **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION-**

Erma Hollingsworth stated that the students who helped out at the polls on Election Day did a great job and that her 65th class reunion was coming up shortly.

### **TOPIC DISCUSSION – Proposed 2008-2009 General Fund Budget**

Mr. Zook reviewed the Maintenance Budget. Most increases in his budget were due to the increased price of oil and utilities. He is also looking to replace some vehicles that were nearing the end of their usefulness.

Mr. Barrick presented the Cafeteria Budget. He mentioned that the increased price of food and milk were driving the need to increase lunch prices by .10 and milk by .05. He also stated that the removal of Swiss drinks from vending machines will have a negative impact on overall revenue.

Mr. Ammerman reviewed three budget options. The first option was to raise the real estate tax rate by 1.9%. This would generate a median residential real estate bill increase of \$33. This would be offset by property tax decreases from gambling funds of \$125 for a net decrease of \$92 for the median approved homestead. Total expenses were \$27,560,141 with total revenue at \$27,247,456 and a fund balance use of \$312,685.

A second option was a 1.0% real estate tax rate increase. The median homestead would get a net tax decrease of \$107 and the District would use \$445,458 of fund balance.

The final option was to not increase the real estate tax rate at all. That would leave a \$587,733 use of fund balance, while providing the full \$125 tax decrease for approved homesteads.

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Mr. Juliana asked about the ability of the District to absorb the larger fund balance use. Mr. Ammerman indicated that it was a possibility because the District was not bumping up against the Act 1 limit this year. He did say the price of utilities was looming in the near future and the retirement rate jump in 2012 was also another concern.

Mr. Fay and Mrs. Vensel expressed concern about using that amount of fund balance and felt a small tax increase was justified because of the increase in expenses the District is facing.

A discussion ensued about whether to approve the proposed budget at this meeting or delay it to the next meeting. The need for the proposed budget to sit for 30 days made it more compelling to take action at the current meeting. Mr. Ammerman indicated that changes could be made to the final budget when it was adopted.

Mr. Winters favored the budget option that did not increase the real estate tax rate. He made a motion, seconded by Mr. Berk, as follows:

### NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

That the Board of School Directors of the South Middleton School District, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania hereby tentatively adopts the annual budget of and for said District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008, as more fully set forth in PDE Form 2028 which was presented at this meeting;

Further, that said Board of School Directors hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$27,560,141 dollars during the school fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, and more particularly and fully detailed in the proposed annual budget as aforesaid; and

Further, that said Board of School Directors does hereby levy a real estate tax of 11.38 Mills of the assessed valuation (\$1.138 per \$100 of assessed value) on all real estate within the South Middleton School District, pursuant to the authority of "The Public School Code of 1949", as amended for the school fiscal year as aforesaid; and

Further, that said Board of School Directors continues to levy the following taxes heretofore levied pursuant to the authority of "The Local Tax Enabling Act", as amended: (1) Realty Transfer Tax - 1/2%; (2) Earned Income Tax - 1.1%; and (3) Occupational Privilege Tax - \$10.00.

That said proposed taxes as levied and continued to be levied shall provide revenue for the proposed expenditures authorized above.

Further, that said the Board of School Directors does designate \$6 million of Unreserved Fund Balance for GASB 45 funding requirements, debt service options, and upcoming retirement rate increases.

**The motion passed 4-3, with Mr. Berk, Mrs. Capozzi, Mr. Juliana, and Mr. Winters voting in favor and Mr. Fay, Ms. Martin and Mrs. Vensel voting against.**

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Winters made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Berk and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey S. Ammerman  
Board Secretary