

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

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 4, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The South Middleton Board of Directors met in Regular Session on June 4, 2007, in the Board Room of the Iron Forge Educational Center. The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**School Directors**

Mr. Michael H. Berk

Mr. Derek R. Clepper

Mr. Joseph F. Fay, Jr.

Mrs. Eleanor L. Hartman

Mr. Mark A. Juliana

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Knouse

Ms. Pamela C. Martin- **Absent**

Mr. Paul J. Slifko III

Mr. Robert P. Winters

**Administrative Staff**

Dr. Patricia B. Sanker, Superintendent

Janet Adams, Principal

Barbara Alitto, Special Education Supervisor - Absent

David Boley, Assistant Principal - **Absent**

Mark Correll, Assistant Principal

Dean Clepper, Principal

Joseph W. Mancuso III, Principal - **Absent**

Frederick S. Withum III, Principal

David Boley, Assistant Principal

Scott J. Govern, Athletic Director - **Absent**

**Student Representatives**

Jayson Schaufert

Jeremy Wallace

**Visitors**

See attachment to the minutes.

**Board Secretary (Non Member)**

Jeffrey S. Ammerman

**Solicitor**

Philip H. Spare- **Absent**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITION**

Mr. Slifko welcomed Jayson Brent Schaufert as the student representative to the Board.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

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

May 21, 2007 – Regular Meeting

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Agenda**

Mr. Clepper made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, that the Board approves the agenda of June 4, 2007 with all corrections as indicated. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Installment Payment of Taxes**

Mr. Winters made a motion, seconded by Mr. Berk, as follows:

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

by the Board of School Directors of South Middleton School District, that a plan is adopted providing an option for installment payment of real estate taxes on approved homestead and farmstead property pursuant to the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

**Real Estate Tax Installment Payment Plan**  
**(for approved homestead and farmstead property real estate tax)**

For the real estate tax levied by the South Middleton School District, other than interim real estate tax, taxpayers may elect an installment payment option under the following rules:

1. **Installment payment dates.** A taxpayer electing the installment payment option may pay the real estate tax in three (3) equal installment payments of one-third (1/3) of the full tax amount. The installments are due on or before August 31, September 30, and October 31 of the year in which the tax is levied. Any installment not paid in full by October 31 is delinquent.

2. **Taxpayer election of installment payment option.** Payment of the first installment in full by August 31 will constitute taxpayer election to pay tax in installments. Installment payment is permitted only if the taxpayer elects by paying the first installment payment in full by August 31. If the taxpayer fails to meet this requirement, the full amount of the real estate tax is due on or before October 31, and the real estate tax is delinquent if not paid in full on or before October 31.
3. **No discount.** No discount applies to installment payments.
4. **Penalty on delinquent installments.** If a taxpayer makes the first installment payment by August 31 and fails to pay in full any subsequent installment by October 31, the installment not paid by October 31 is delinquent, and a penalty will be added to the tax in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the installment not paid by October 31.
5. **Ineligibility.** A taxpayer who is delinquent by more than ten (10) days on all installment payments is ineligible for the installment payment option in the following school year.
6. **Option limited to approved homestead and farmstead property.** A taxpayer may elect installment payment only for real estate tax payable on real estate approved by the County assessment office under the Taxpayer Relief Act as a homestead or farmstead property eligible for a homestead or farmstead exclusion.
7. **Effective date.** This plan will become effective July 1, 2007, and will continue in effect thereafter for real estate taxes levied for the school year beginning July 1, 2007, and for real estate taxes levied for future years, until amended or repealed.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Knouse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Berk, for all of the following:

#### **Cyber Charter School Resolution**

The Board adopted the Resolution Supporting Pennsylvania House Bill 446 to transfer funding responsibility for cyber charter schools to the Commonwealth and require greater accountability from cyber charter schools (see attachment).

#### **Labor Day Start Opposition**

The Board adopted the Resolution Opposing Pennsylvania House Bill 258 which requires school districts to begin their school terms for students no earlier than the first day after Labor Day each Fall (see attachment).

#### **Student Representative**

The Board approved the appointment of Jayson Brent Schaufert as Student Representative to the Board for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years.

**Board Policies**

The Board approved the Second and Final Reading of the following Board Policies:

- Policy #203.1 – HIV Infection (Pupils)
- Policy #217 – Graduation Requirements (Pupils)
- Policy #227 – Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia (Pupils)
- Policy #247 – Hazing (Pupils)
- Policy #250 – Student Recruitment (Pupils)
- Policy #314.1 – HIV Infection (Administrative Employees)
- Policy #414.1 – HIV Infection (Professional Employees)
- Policy #514.1 – HIV Infection (Classified Employees)

The Board approved the South Middleton School District to enter into a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education, under the No Child Left Behind Act for Title I Improving Basic Programs monies for the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board approved the South Middleton School District to enter into a grant Program with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education, under the No Child Left Behind Act for Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality monies for the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board approved the South Middleton School District to enter into a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education, under the No Child Left Behind Act for Title V Innovative Education monies for the 2007-2008 school year.

The Board approved the South Middleton School District to enter into a grant with the Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Consortium, for monies for the 2007-2008 school year.

**PERSONNEL**

The Board approved the following personnel items:

**PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

**EMPLOYMENT**

That the Board employs the following personnel:

Name: Joyce Raser  
Address: 107 Duck Creek Road  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
Position: ESL Teacher – District-wide  
(New position)  
Salary: \$53,891 – Step 21, Master’s  
Starting Date: 2007-2008 School Year  
Experience: See attached

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Name: Bethanne Sellers  
Address: 109 Constitution Avenue  
Reading, PA 19606  
Position: English/Remedial Reading Teacher  
(New Position)  
Salary: \$44,441 - Step 9, Master's  
Starting Date: 2007-2008 School Year  
Experience: See attached

The Board accepted the resignation of Cathy J. Suever from the extra duty position of High School Drama Production Coordinator, effective immediately.

The Board accepted the resignation of Susan Reutter from the extra duty position of High School Drama Director, effective immediately.

The Board accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Cowie from the position of High School Math teacher, effective June 8, 2007.

### **CLASSIFIED STAFF**

#### RESIGNATION

The Board accepted the retirement of Nancy P. Rea, classroom aide at the Yellow Breeches Middle School, effective July 13, 2007.

The Board employed the following teachers for the Extended School Year program for Summer 2007 at a salary of \$31.00/hr., to be paid through IDEA-B funds.

Robyn Krohn  
Paula Mihalik  
Amanda Grove  
Patricia High  
Cathy Woodson

The Board accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Cowie from the extra duty position of 2007 Remedial Summer School teacher, effective immediately.

The Board employed Jeffrey Matzner for the 2007 Remedial Summer School at a rate of \$24.00/hr., teaching H.S. Algebra II, Integrated Math, and M.S. Math. (replacing Elizabeth Cowie)

The Board accepted the resignation of Brooke Yellets, District Psychologist, effective July 1, 2007.

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

**CITIZENS PARTICIPATION** - None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

The Board went into an executive session for a personnel matter at 7:17 pm. The Board resumed regular session at 8:18 pm. Mr. Berk made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey S. Ammerman  
Board Secretary

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE BILL 446**  
**BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTH MIDDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Representative Karen Beyer (R-Northampton and Lehigh Counties) has introduced House Bill 446, PN 494 that amends the Public School Code to transfer funding responsibility for cyber charter schools to the Commonwealth and require greater accountability from cyber charter schools; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the Commonwealth outlaid approximately \$74.12 million dollars in the 2004-05 school year to underwrite the costs of students attending cyber charter schools and less than 30% of those were reimbursed by the Commonwealth;

**WHEREAS**, the payments made to cyber charter schools are unrelated to the actual operational costs of those schools and result in exceptionally large fund balances held by them; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Middleton School District's cyber charter school expenditures reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows:

<b>School Year</b>	<b>District Expenditures</b>	<b>Commonwealth Reimbursement</b>	<b>Number of Cyber Students (Regular/Special Ed.)</b>
2001/02	0	0	0
2002/03	0	0	0
2003/04	23,650	7,095	4
2004/05	12,629	3,791	2
2005/06	17,557	4,564	3
2006/07	84,000 (EST.)	22,000 (EST.)	12
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>137,836</b>	<b>37,450</b>	<b>21</b>

**WHEREAS**, only two of the eleven cyber charter schools in the state met their Adequate Yearly Progress standards in 2006 and this district has met the thresholds created by No Child Left Behind Act; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the South Middleton School Board supports House Bill 446 and encourages its elected officials to become a sponsor and vote favorably for this bill and other legislation that attempts to relieve the financial burden on school districts created by cyber charter schools.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Middleton School Board directs its Board President to take immediate action to alert its district's state legislators about its position on this legislation and provide a copy of this resolution to them.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Middleton School Board will encourage others including parents and teachers to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support this legislation.

**Adopted** this 4th day of June, 2007.

Signed,

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 School Board President  
 (seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Board Secretary

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE BILL 258**  
**BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**

SOUTH MIDDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**WHEREAS, House Bill 258**, which requires school districts to begin their school terms for students no earlier than the first day after Labor Day each Fall, has been introduced; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts around the state are affected by the entertainment and tourism industries to varying degrees; and

**WHEREAS**, this issue should be addressed locally, through a dialogue between school boards and their local business communities, in order to set policies in the best interests of both students and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, a later start to classes each fall will reduce instructional time to prepare for PSSA testing from 134 days to 130 days, potentially hindering our district's efforts to meet No Child Left Behind Act-mandated Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals; and

**WHEREAS**, based on our most recent PSSA results, 39 (R), 31 (M), of our 11<sup>th</sup> graders rated "proficient," 14 (R), 19 (M) were "basic," and 30(M), 13(R) rated at a "below basic" performance level - numbers we are working to improve; and

**WHEREAS**, a post-Labor Day start for students would result in the following important events, among others, being rescheduled:

- Graduation date
- Graduating Seniors' ability to begin college classes in the summer
- Fall Athletic games could not be scheduled until September and would conflict with the start of the Winter season

**WHEREAS**, thirty percent of our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (the group typically most likely to obtain jobs) are expected to participate in fall sports and other extracurricular activities, meaning they will need to abandon summer jobs prior to Labor Day.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of School Directors of the South Middleton School District opposes **House Bill 258**, and any other legislation that attempts to usurp the authority of local communities to determine the best interests of their students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Middleton School Board directs its Board President to take immediate action to alert its state legislators about its position on this legislation and provide a copy of this resolution to them.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the South Middleton School Board will alert and encourage their community members to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly in opposition to this and future similar anti-local control legislation.

**Adopted** this 4th day of June, 2007.

Signed,

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Board President  
(seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary