

MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Athletics/Activities Committee Meeting
April 11, 2017 - 6:28 p.m.
MINUTES

Members in attendance: Mike Corradi, Melvin Fager, Dr. Brian Keating and Jennifer Scott

Members not in attendance: None

Non-Voting Members in attendance: David John, Christopher Lupp, Linda Mehaffie, John Ponnett and Darnell Montgomery

Staff/Public in attendance: David Franklin, Jeremy King, Chris Mostoller, Dr. Lori Suski and Heidi Zula, District Administrators; Jeff Litts, District Solicitor; Seth Hartman and Jim Morrissey, The Nutrition Group; Carla Zlogar, Interested Citizen

**Board Operating
Guidelines**

Discussion Item – Board Committee Structure: Mr. Litts stated that the School Code is silent on School Board committees, but noted that the Sunshine Act specifies that all meetings (including committee meetings) require advertisement of the place, date and time when the meeting will be held in a newspaper of general circulation and at the principal business location. Mr. Litts said that the School Board’s own policies #005 and #006 specify that the School Board will meet in committees. Mr. Litts said that the policies can be revised if there is a desire to have a different structure at this time. Mr. Litts pointed out that there is no requirement to have School Board committees. Mr. Litts said that there are also several options for operation by the School Board – standing committees (as currently utilized), committee of the whole, and possibly some type of hybrid format. Mr. Litts commented that there could be implications associated with the current committee format under the Sunshine Act because some meetings do not have a specified start time. Mr. Fager asked whether the committee of the whole would mean that there are no more committees. Mr. Litts said that technically the whole School Board is now meeting, but there could still be a “chair” leading the discussion by topic (i.e. committee). Mrs. Mehaffie asked for clarification about whether the advertisement needs to specify a time for each meeting to start. Mr. Litts confirmed that is the case. Mr. Litts said if the committee structure is retained, the meetings could be spaced 15 minutes apart and that would comply with the Sunshine Act even if the meetings run long and meetings do not start on time. Mr. Franklin explained that the current advertising with meetings starting immediately following another meeting was done so that meetings could start as soon as the previous meeting concluded instead of waiting for a specified time. Mr. Franklin said that he failed to consult with the solicitor when this advertisement method was picked. Mrs. Mehaffie asked for feedback on the meeting preference. Mrs. Mehaffie explained that she believes it is important for all Board members to be present at the meetings. Mr. Fager said that he was concerned about the administrators if the meetings would run late. Mr. Montgomery said that he liked the explanation that Mr. Ponnett recently provided about meeting structure at his employer. Dr. Suski said that the administration has been doing something very similar to what Mr. Ponnett suggested with different wording for the categories – information item, discussion item and action item. Mr. John suggested that any presentations be front loaded so that people would be able to leave as soon as their topic is covered. Dr. Keating said that he prefers

the two-night committee format because having all the committee meetings on one night might impede discussion. Mr. John and Mr. Fager concurred with Dr. Keating on maintaining the two night structure. Mr. Lupp, Mr. Corradi, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. Scott, Mr. Ponnett and Mrs. Mehaffie preferred meeting on one night. All members present agreed to try a new format based upon the opinions of the group. The decision was made to retain committee chairs for the purpose of leading discussion, but to use a committee of the whole format and to hold the meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Mr. John asked when Executive Sessions should be held. Mr. Litts said that Executive Sessions can occur before, during or after a meeting. The School Board preferred having Executive Sessions prior to the meetings at 5:30 p.m., as needed.

**Opportunity for
Public Comment**

No one from the public addressed the committee at this time.

Communications

Discussion Item – CBS 21 Advertisement for Big 33: Dr. Suski said that the District was contacted by CBS 21 to sponsor an advertisement congratulating Jaelyn Thompson for being selected to play in the Big 33 Football Classic in June 2017. Dr. Suski said that the cost of the advertisement is \$2,500. Dr. Suski said that the Borough of Middletown was also contacted by CBS 21 and has agreed to pay ½ of the cost of the advertisement. Dr. Suski suggested that perhaps the Middletown Area Blue Raider Foundation could help fund the advertisement. Mr. Corradi and Mrs. Scott expressed support for the District paying for the advertisement. The committee suggested that the Foundation be contacted for possible assistance, but that the District agree to sponsor the remaining cost whether or not the Foundation agrees to share in the cost.

Employment

Action Item – Employment: Brian Keyser was presented for employment as the Boys' Assistant Junior High Soccer Coach at a stipend of \$1,815 (step 3) for the 2016-2017 school year. The committee recommended that the employment be moved to the Board agenda for approval.

**Equipment
Purchases**

Discussion Item – High School Weight Room Equipment: Mr. King said that as follow-up to earlier conversations about replacing equipment in the weight room at the High School he obtained four quotes. Mr. King said that he consulted with the strength coach and other team coaches regarding the needs for the weight room. Mr. King reviewed the quotes, which ranged in price from \$14,971.59 to \$133,898.11. Dr. Suski noted that only one of the quotes is lower than the bid threshold, so replacement of all of the equipment would require a bid process. Mr. Corradi said that the space needs to be utilized in the most efficient way and supported making an investment in the facility. Mr. Corradi said he believes only mediocre equipment was purchased before and some is near end of life. Mr. Ponnett asked whether the replacement could be phased with an allotment being made in the budget for annual replacement. Mrs. Scott agreed with a phased replacement model. Mr. Montgomery questioned whether replacing the equipment in that manner would cost more. Dr. Keating said that it would most likely cost more, but may be necessary given budget limitations. Mr. Corradi suggested that companies be brought in to design the space to determine the needs. Mr. King said that the space was designed with consultation from a

company and that the design has evolved with feedback provided by District staff to the point that a recommended space layout does exist. Mr. King said he is not certain whether the equipment can last during a phase-in period. A question was raised about whether the equipment is serviced regularly. Mr. King said that the equipment is serviced every three months. Mr. Franklin said that he had not reviewed this portion of the agenda in advance and suggested that he work with Mr. King to develop a plan for phase-in of equipment after determining what, if any, equipment requires immediate replacement based upon condition and remaining useful life. Dr. Suski said that a plan would be developed and brought back to the committee for further discussion.

Discussion Item – Concession Stand Shed: Mr. King confirmed that the Lower Swatara Township Athletic Association (LSTAA) has an available shed that is currently located at Glad Tidings Assembly Church. Mr. King noted that the shed is split, providing both concession facilities and storage facilities. Mr. King said that currently when LSTAA uses the softball field they require access into MAMS in order to get to stored items. Mr. King said that the shed would allow for LSTAA to use the softball field without accessing MAMS. Mr. King said that a location had not been determined. It was suggested that internal discussion occur with Mr. Meiser to determine a location and what utility needs might exist for that site. Mrs. Mehaffie said that she would be working on pricing for another shed for the District.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.