

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010
BOARD ROOM MINUTES**

PRESENT: Committee: Mr. Fred Dewey, Mr. Richard Sokorai, Mr. John McDevitt, and Mr. Dave McGinley

BOARD: Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Dana Kauffman, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Joseph Rufo, and Mr. Edward Partridge (6:55PM)

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Michael Dumin, and Mr. Lance Freeman

PUBLIC: 6

PRESS: 0

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Dewey at 6:40PM

2. Approval of the April 13, 2010 Minutes

Mr. Dewey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2010. Motion made by Mr. McGinley, seconded by Mr. Sokorai
With little discussion on having a format for minutes the motion was approved.

3. Bills for payment:

Mr. Dewey asked for a motion to take to the full board the General fund and Capital Fund Bills for March 2010.
Motion was made by Mr. Rufo, seconded by Mr. McGinley
With no further discussion the motion was approved.

4. Taxpayers Abatement ~ Folio #25-00-02845-24

Mr. Driscoll explained that he does not have a full amount due. The taxpayer is not a resident, and owns several rental properties. Taxpayer claims tax bill was never received. Brief discussion by the Board concluded, if was an elderly person or someone sick maybe, but thought that it was decided by the Board not to accept these request any longer.
With no further discussion it was denied to take the request to the full Board.

5. School Board Treasurer

Mr. Dewy asked for a motion to elect Denise Lane as School Treasurer and Custodian of Student Funds, Section 404 of the school code stipulates "...and shall annually, during the month of May, elect a Treasurer to serve for one (1) year beginning the first day of July the selection..."

The motion was made by Mr. McGinley, seconded by Mrs. Galbraith.

With little discussion the motion was approved.

6. Food Services

Mr. Driscoll explained that Mrs. Bellew was unable to make the meeting. This will be postponed until June.

7. PDE School Demonstration Grant

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is a grant from PDE. Dr. Horowitz explained that we applied for a grant with the help of local leaders, explaining the challenges we have with the Gauntlett Center and we received the grant which needs to be used by June 2011 and can only be used for the Administration building. Mr. Driscoll also explained that the money has been received. He further explained that an account would have to be opened for tax escrow for a taxpayer that is paying under protest. We have to have 25% escrow of the tax amount.

A brief discussion on how much the escrow would be, also if we could confirm that the date of June 2011 for the grant. Does the money have to be spent or committed?

Mr. Dewey asked for a motion to establish a new account with Beneficial Bank for the PDE School Demonstration Grant and also a Tax Escrow account with TD Bank

With no further discussion the motion was approved.

8. IBC Funding

Mr. Driscoll explained that this was Independence Blue Cross. This is for our Annual Health Care bill. Prepaying would be a 1.5% discount. We are requesting that Blue Cross consider extending the prefund date to August 31st.

9. Tax Revenue Anticipation Note

Mr. Driscoll explained that this ties into number 8. Should Blue Cross not extend the prefund date to August 31st we may have to borrow to pay for the cost of our annual health care bill.

10. Commonwealth Budget Letter

Mr. Driscoll explained that this letter was received from the state letting us know that the state has a billion dollar short fall.

11. 2010-2011 Preliminary Budget Adoption

Mr. Driscoll explained that there is gambling money coming out for the Homestead credit and the amount per household has dropped.

Mr. Dewey asked for three motions. 1. To approved the General Fund Budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year for the Marple Newtown School District to be adopted in the amount of \$65,050,000. 2. To approved the 2010 Annual Tax Levy Resolution as presented, and 3. To approve the 2010 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokorai, seconded by Mr. McGinley.

With no discussion all three motions were approved.

12. New or additional business

Discussion ~ Would it make sense if we have the opportunity to save certain amount of money to give you, (Mr. Driscoll) the authority to go with it. Mr. Driscoll will talk to Bond Council as well as our Solicitor to see the legality of this issue.

13. Public Comment

Mr. John Butler of Marple Township would like to know if we have looked into Benchmark for Energy Star? West Chester School District is the model in the country.

Also, he watched a Special Meeting of Radnor School District their tax increase is 5%. We are increasing 7.8%, which is high in this economy. As far as Health Care, with an 18% increase we should push to see if we can get better cost. An example is that New Jersey shops it. One other thing is Natural gas, do we shop that?

Comment: While Radnor tax increase is at 5% ours is 3.76%, plus 4.11% is for the high school renovation.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM

