

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010
BOARD ROOM MINUTES**

PRESENT: Board: Mr. Richard Sokorai, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Dana Kauffman, Mr. Ed Partridge, Mr. John McDevitt, Mr. Joseph Rufo (7:45PM)

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Michael Dumin, Dr. Constance Bompadre

Press: 0

Audience: 21

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Nancy Galbraith called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present were Mr. Richard Sokorai, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Dana Kauffman, Mr. Edward Partridge, Mr. John McDevitt. Mr. Joseph Rufo arrived at 7:45PM

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Gallbraith asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mr. Partridge.
With no further discussion, motion was approved.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

None

6. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

6.01 Discussion of Capital Projects – Gauntlett Center

At this time Mrs. Galbraith turned the meeting over to Mr. McDevitt. Mr. McDevitt thanked all of those who were in attendance for coming on such short notice. He then introduced Mr. Rich Enow from Marple Newtown Leisure Services who introduced the Marple Newtown Rec Board. Mr. Bob Jordan then explained what the MN Rec Board was and how they operate. He said that there are two divisions operating under separate budgets. If one was to be eliminated the other would have to incur substantial cost. He explained that Kid Stop has been in existence for 25 years and has been self-sustaining through those 25 years. Mr. Jordan then introduced Suzanne Vanaman to speak about Kid Stop. Ms. Vanaman gave an impact statement to the board members regarding Kid Stop going to a multi-location. If there were 4 locations each location would need a director, assistant director and aides. Each location would also require being license which there

is no cost to obtain. Also, all the equipment presently at the one location would have to be in 4, examples, copier, phone, TV, and fridge. Ms. Vanaman spoke about the Kid Stoppers which are the infants, toddlers, and kindergarten and how that part of the program would be affected. Also, if there are 4 locations, while the space was being used for Kid Stop it could not be used for anything else while in use. An example she used was that if Kid Stop was in the room the Girl Scouts could not share the space.

A discussion was held with regards to the number of students/children serviced by Kid Stop. Also some of the figures of the budget, what the income is and what would be lost if Kid Stop would not be a central location. It was also suggested that the School District Administration and the Administration of Leisure Services meet and get all the information needed for the Board to make a decision.

Mr. Jordan continued and in his opinion that Kid Stop could not operate if it went to multi-location. Asking that the additional 6,000 square feet be put in the plans for the building, that here are funds available to help pay the debt service for the space.

A lengthy discussion regarding cost of that space, that as of right now is not included in the plans. What the townships would be willing to do to assist in the cost of the space that is being requested. Again it was suggested that a meeting take place with both administrations to get the specific needs to continue Kid Stop in one location.

Mr. McDevitt then introduced Mr. Ray Gionta, Varsity Football coach, Marple Newtown High School. Mr. Gionta explained his concern with the space for practice. The team would be required to change at the high school, come down to the Gauntlett Center, practice, and then return to the high school. There are also times that classroom space is used. Mr. Gionta's main concern was the additional time that would lengthen the day of the student. Another concern is the storage for equipment used at practice.

Suggestion was made that this can be worked out with the Athletic Director and the Operations Department.

Mr. McDevitt then introduced Damion Spar, Pete and Don from Bonnett Associates. The question that they answered was could 6,000 square feet be added to the space. Yes it could, as the lower level. Approximate cost would be around \$928,000. plus soft cost.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding space, cost, and funding. Damion gave a figure of \$9,995,000. as a total for completing project. Again the question of what the townships would offer. Suggestion to discuss with the townships.

Mr. Driscoll explained that he had updated the Capital Budget Summary, track at Paxon Hollow, band uniforms, roofing, wiring, vehicles. We would have \$5,000,000 left for capital projects. To complete a project of \$10,000,000. we would have to borrow \$5,000,000. which would add \$400,000 to the school district. If we did not get an exception, we would have to ask the taxpayer for referendum. The discussion continued regarding the savings once the building is completed. Mr. Driscoll explained that the operating expenses would possibly be \$150,000. if we had a smaller footprint. The energy constraint does not include the high school right now or the Gauntlett Center because we rent out space. We are not looking at an increase in electricity, looking a small reduction. We also have to consider that we may need these savings to balance the budget next year. Mr. Driscoll explained that he thinks that all of the items listed are important and explained why. Doesn't mean that we can't close the delta, but I think that it is too early to say how we are going to close that delta.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Suzanne McCutcheon, Newtown Township. Thank to Mr. McDevitt for bringing all these people together. Remember this is a community center, plans don't seem to have the community there. Talking about a pole barn, can we make it longer? Having Kid Stop in the buildings, means extended time for heat, etc. Also, playgrounds, the PTO has raised money for playgrounds, can this be added on every tens years so we do not have to do this ourselves. Also, there are more people that use Kid Stop and that should be a concern as well.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Dr. Horowitz will contact Rich and Suzanne to check out calendars for a meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President Nancy Galbraith adjourned the meeting adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Board Secretary