

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – Immediately following Budget and Finance

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meeting – Immediately following Facilities and Transportation

Administration Building – Board Room

MINUTES

Present

Board: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf, Mrs. Tomasco

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Mrs. Gina Ross

Press: 0

Audience: 12

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3.01 Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

Mrs. Alberti turned the meeting over to Mr. Driscoll

3.02 Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Driscoll explained that the Audit Report will be on the agenda at the end month. It was a clean audit and will be made public once the Board has approved.

3.03 Approval of Section 3 of the agenda relating to Budget and Finance

3.04 Approval of Minutes
Minutes were approved with no discussion

3.05 Bills for Payment

Mr. Driscoll asked to take to the full Board for approval of the following motions:

MOTION: To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$6,194,135.49, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$490,503.21, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$242,584.66, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$65,019.91.

3.06 Financial Reports

MOTION: To approve the monthly financial reports for October 2021 and November 2021, informational financial report for December 2021, Budget Transfers and Treasurers Report for November 2021.

3.07 Request for Abatement of Penalty

MOTION: Request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01643-00 in the amount of \$366.38.

MOTION: Request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-00938-00 in the amount of \$363.99.

MOTION: Request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-04540-01 in the amount of \$270.86.

MOTION: Request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01973-19 in the amount of \$205.62.

MOTION: Request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-02315-00 in the amount of \$277.81.

MOTION: Request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-03557-14 in the amount of \$2,753.83 and Folio 25-00-04912-62 in the amount of \$1,810.29.

Mr. Driscoll explained that some of the above were Title Company issues as well as some from the elderly.

3.08 2021 Tax Appeal

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-00867-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$485,000 assessment/\$485,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$118,770 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,302 to our District for tax year 2021.

Will take all of the above motions to the full Board for approval

3.09 Public Comment

There was none

3.10 Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

4. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

4.01 Committee Report – Nicholas J. Reynolds, Sr., Chairperson

In the absence of Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM and turned the meeting over to Mr. Gallagher.

4.02 Additions to the Agenda

There was none

4.03 Approval of Section 4 of the agenda relating to Facilities and Transportation

4.04 Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with no discussion

4.05 Facilities - Discussion Item(s)

1) Lower Turf Field Renovation Update

Mr. Gallagher advised the Board that the project is moving along, the weather has been good and they have made a lot of progress. Light polls have been installed, electric installed. Footers have been poured for the Field House and concessions and we are on time for completion. Turf should be in at the end of March.

Mr. Orwig asked to take to the full Board for approval:

4.06 Transportation - Proposed Motions/Discussion Item(s)

1) Bus Lease (2022-2023 school year)

MOTION: To reapprove the renewal of the three (3) – year bus lease agreement with Santander Bank and to approve the related agreement with Wolfington Body Company, under the same terms and conditions as set forth in the original lease agreement approved on February 26, 2013.

This Three (3) year lease provides 36 buses at an annual lease cost of \$374,400.

2) Transfinder Plus Professional Services

MOTION: To approve the Statement of Work as presented by Transfinder Professional Services not to exceed the amount of \$9,250.00 as stated in the proposal, and to authorize the necessary transfer of funds from the budgetary reserve.

Will take all of the above motions to the full Board for approval

4.07 Informational Item(s)

Mr. Orwig advised the Board that the following has been submitted to PDE.

- 1) The School District End-of-Year reporting form (PDE-1049) and the Certification of Intent to Provide Pupil Transportation for the 2022-2023 school year has been submitted to PDE.

4.08 Other Business

Mr. Gallagher advised the Board that the Worrall project that the plan has not been yet decided on. The meeting with the land development has been received a approved by the Delaware County Land Development office. Have checked the storm water management. Bonnett will come in to the February meeting and Mr. Driscoll will have a financial presentation.

4.09 Public Comment

There was none

4.10 Adjournment

This meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

5. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

5.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

In the absence of Mr. Siano, Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

5.02 Additions to the Agenda

There were none

5.03 Approval of Section 5 of the agenda relating to Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

5.04 Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with no discussion

5.05 Discussion Item(s)

1) Teaching and Learning Mid-Year Update

Dr. DiBartolomeo gave the following presentation:

- Implementation of goals for 2021-2022 school year
- Focus on three goals, Student Achievement, Academics, Curriculum and Instruction, Teacher Training, and School Culture and Wellbeing, Social Emotional Learning
- Academics: Reading Intervention Programming (K-8), Tutoring (1-3), Summer Enrichment for year 2021, 2022, and 2023 (K- High School), and MNConnectedED as well as STEM programming (K-12)
- Teacher Training: Social Emotional Wellbeing and Professional Development
- Social and Emotional Learning: Student Programs such as Second Step (K-8), Classroom meeting (K-5), Defined Learning (K-12), at the High School can join clubs at any time during the school year, as well as additional staffing.
- Finally, the expenditures using ESSER grant dollars have been or will be approved in advance of expenditure. Information about MNUSD's use of ESSERS can be found on the Teaching and Learning webpage.

Mr. Bilker asked to take to the full Board for approval the following motions:

5.06 Contracts

MOTION: To approve the Lending Library contract with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) in the amount of \$500 for the 2021–2022 school year. This contract has been reviewed by Marple Newtown School District's solicitor and provides K-12 MNUSD teachers with access to the DCIU's STEM materials' library. MNUSD teachers will have the opportunity to use these materials to support the District's K-12 STEM instructional programs. The DCIU will use this deposit to replace and repair materials that are damaged during use in our schools.

MOTION: To approve a contract to hire PSBA in the amount of \$2,125 for the purpose of auditing the Marple Newtown School District Administrative Regulations Manual to be completed during the 2021-2022 school year. This contract has been reviewed by our District's solicitor and will conclude by the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. All approved changes to existing School Board Policy and Administrative Regulations shall be brought before our School Board at future public meetings. The audit of MNUSD's Administrative Regulations will include, among other services:

- A review of all Administrative Regulations to identify missing or outdated documents
- Provision for any Administrative Regulation templates issued since 2015
- A listing of recommendations

MOTION: To approve the contract to hire Professional Learning Partnerships (PLP) in the amount of \$25,000.00 for teacher and administrator training, and a community information presentation during the 2022-2023 school year. This contract has been reviewed by our District's solicitor. Teachers, instructional staff, and administrators will learn current research and methods designed to motivate student engagement and support social-emotional learning using brain-based learning strategies. PLP will deliver a Zoom presentation in September of 2022 to our MNSD school community that provides families with information on the science of the brain and learning, and the role of social emotional wellbeing in learning. MNSD teachers and Administrators will work with PLP throughout the 2022-2023 school year in professional development workshops to create and align lesson plans and delivery with current research on learning and wellbeing.

5.07 Athletic Trips

MOTION: To approve Rick Zimmerman to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Baseball Team to travel to Florida on March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 2022 for pre-season games and team bonding. The total cost of the trip including transportation and lodging is \$1800.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

MOTION: To approve Michael Snow to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Softball Team to travel to Florida on March 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 2022 for pre-season games and team bonding. The total cost of the trip including transportation and lodging is \$1974.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

5.08 L.I.N.K. Trip

MOTION: To approve Tracy Jacobson, Michael Winterbottom and Brian Isselmann to accompany the Marple Newtown High School members of L.I.N.K to travel to South Mountain YMCA in Reinholds, Pennsylvania on April 2, 3, 4, 2022. The cost per student is \$25.00 paid, by the students. The cost of the activity is \$175.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

5.09 Music Trip

MOTION: To approve Jordan Marmelstein, Georgia LaRue and Dan Peters to accompany the Paxton Hollow Middle School Music Department Students and the Elementary District Chorus to travel to Allentown, Pennsylvania on June 3, 2022 to participate in the “High Note Festival” then travel to Dorney Park. The cost of transportation is \$32.00 per student, paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$54.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

5.10 Clubs

MOTION: To approve the Marple Newtown High School Do Something Club. The purpose of this club is to raise social awareness in an effort to make social change. The club advisor is Dr. Killough.

MOTION: To approve Marple Newtown High School World Language Honor Society Club. The purpose of this club is to recognize high achievement in World Language by students of secondary schools and to promote continuity of interest in French and Hispanic studies. The club advisors are Traci Dubs and Kerri Confora.

5.11 Disposal of Books

MOTION: To approve the disposal of the list of books from the Marple Newtown High School Library, as presented.

Will take all of the above motions to the full Board for approval.

5.12 Other Business

There was none

5.13 Public Comment

There were two questions from a community member to Dr. DiBartolomeo. Virtual success, how is that measured? Also, Loomis was just named as one of the best elementary schools by US News. Are there any plans to take the best practices from Loomis for the other schools?

Dr. DiBartolomeo advised the community member that the students that are virtual are measured by assessment benchmarks that are given to our other students. We do get reports on how our students are doing and are updated on their interactions and responsiveness to the program. Their grades are also sent to use so that we can monitor their progress.

On the question about Loomis ~ yes we work on professional development with the teachers. In the November teacher in service, we had all of the elementary teachers working together to align the curriculum and

assessments. We will be working on that again for the in service in February.

A community member asked that the Health and Safety plan that was approved in February 2021 for the guidance of masking, it was the CDC, PA Dept. of Health and PDE, now the masking for this month of January added Dr. Rubin from CHOP, why the additional guidance.

Dr. Kane responded by advised the community member that we always consider CHOP, the American Pediatric Assoc., and CHOP policy lab. They have always given us guidance since our shut down in March of 2020. It may not always be documented but have always been considered. The CDC is not Delaware County and the Dept. of Health has not always been responsive. CHOP has always been very supportive. Many of our students are patients of CHOP and they give us very accurate information.

The community member also wanted to know who is looking at the medical exemption request. Are there any medical professional looking at them to make a determination.

Mrs. Ross advised that there is a team, the building principal, the building nurse and herself. The principal looks after the academic portion while the school nurse looks at the medical. If there are questions sometimes the solicitor may be contacted to give guidance, the nurse may also contact the family to check in the condition, which is one that we may not be aware.

The community member wanted to know what the qualifications of the school nurse is.

Mrs. Ross stated that the nurses are all certified school nurses, they have their BSN, some have their masters and there is one nurse practitioner.

A community member played a segment from CNN regarding the wearing of masks for children and how they are harmful. He also wanted to know who voted to bring the mask mandate back.

Mr. Bilker explained that when they voted in August it was to empower the Superintendent to make decisions on a short term basis, for instance if there was an emergency or for something unforeseen that occurred. When we went back to the mask mandate it was because in the 1st week we were mask optional, we were back to contact tracing how many students did we send home just from the high school?

Dr. Kane explained that there were 300 students sent home and that they were students who were close contacts, not ones that tested positive.

Mr. Bilker continued, that is the reason we went back to wearing masks. We want to keep the students in school. We are revisiting this and have been having discussions about the contact tracing. This Board and Administration doesn't want more than to have this behind us and that is what we are working towards

The community member understands the difficult situation that the Board and the administration are all in; we just care about our kids.

A community member wanted to make a statement. She works in a public school district that has never been mask optional. Many of the teachers wear N-95 masks, many students wear N-95 masks, I wear cloth. In December it went through our school and I got it and brought it home to my entire family. I wear a mask and got it; my kids do not wear a mask and got it from me. The masks are really working great.

A community member spoke, she must have not turned on the microphone, cannot hear her statement.

A community member spoke and she is for the mask. I work downtown and I am a nurse. I don't go by any news feeds, I go by what I see every day. We are inundated every day. My kids got Covid they got it the week that masks were off. My Christmas was ruined and some of their friends got it as well. Most ER's are closed in Delaware County and if you get sick there are no beds for you. I work in the maternity ward and some of the patients had to go to the ICU with Covid. I am working 16 hours a day, we need help, the nurses need help. I am not talking from any news feeds; I am stating what I see every day. I think that the masks will help us get over this hump.

A community member spoke and said he has two students at Worrall. There was one student at Worrall that had Covid before the break; there was zero students that had Covid after the break. Those numbers do not warrant wearing mask. My one student had a breakout on her face from wearing a mask; it went away when no mask were required to be worn. Once she had to wear mask again, the breakout returned. My 3rd grader came home from school all excited because she got to see what her teacher looked like without a mask. The district has worked hard, holding clinics for vaccines for the staff and students. We are not legally obligated to wear masks, we are not legally obligated contact trace, and we are not legally obligated to quarantine someone. The wearing of mask will have a long term effect on our children.

A community member stated that he is immune compromised. He got Covid over break and he is not blaming anyone. You can get this virus anywhere, just walking into a restaurant. I agree with the other community member that that the wearing of mask is harming our kids.

Mrs. Tomasco stated that she wanted the community to know that their voices are being heard. This virus has affected everyone. Her Christmas was ruined as well; they have had people pass away from Covid. It works both ways. She will follow up with the community member that spoke.

5.14 Adjournment

Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.