

# MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

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:** Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf, Mrs. Tomasco (by phone)

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

**Press:** 0

**Audience:** 5

#### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bilker turned this portion of the meeting over to Mr. Driscoll

**3.01** Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

**3.02** Additions to the Agenda

There was none.

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

**3.04** Approval of Minutes

With no discussion minutes were approved.

**3.05** Bills for Payment

**MOTION:** To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,043,232.42.

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is the first round of bills to be paid, there will be more at the end of the month.

**3.06 Financial Reports**

**MOTION:** To approve the monthly financial reports for December 2022, informational for January 2023 and Budget Transfers.

Mr. Driscoll explained that everything is caught up in this motion.

**MOTION:** To approve the June 30, 2022 Audit report, as presented.

Mr. Driscoll explained that we had a clean audit and a positive year.

**3.07 Purchase**

**MOTION:** To approve the purchase, and necessary budget transfer, for additional district record storage. Datum Shelving System from Nextgen Furniture in the amount of \$ 15,147.17 per CoStars Contract No. 035.

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is the last cost for finishing out the racks to finish the project.

**3.08 Public Comment**

There was none.

**3.09 Adjournment**

**4. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bilker turned this portion of the meeting to Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Orwig

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

**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**

With no further discussion minutes were approved.

**4.05 Facilities - Informational/Discussion Item**

1) District-wide Capital Projects update

Mr. Gallagher explained that they are wrapping up the field projects, finishing the bunch list items. He continued with that we broke ground with the Culbertson project and ready to move forward for completion in 2023. The Pupil Service Department new offices has been completed.

**4.06** Transportation - Informational/Discussion Item

1) Bus Patrol

Mr. Orwig explained that the State Police are not accepting new contracts with this company at this time.

**4.07** Proposed Motion - Bus Lease (2022-2023 school year)

MOTION: To approve 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 57 buses at an annual lease cost of \$594,500.00.

Will take to the full Board for approval.

**4.08** Other Business

There was none.

**4.09** Public Comment

There was none.

**4.10** Adjournment

**5. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bilker turned this portion of the meeting over to Dr. DiBartolomeo

**5.01** Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

**5.02** Additions to the Agenda

There was none.

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

**5.04** Approval of Minutes

With no discussion minutes were approved.

## 5.05 Informational/Discussion Items

- 1) Marple Newtown High School Block Schedule Presentation – John Beltrante and Christian Jaspersen

Mr. Beltrante and Mr. Jaspersen gave a recap on the Block Scheduling at the High School. They explained the block scheduling timeline, consideration of the administration at the high school, hiring a schedule audit and consultation, getting the results of the same and visiting neighboring schools. Scheduling a presentation to the Board, professional development for faculty, consultation with Infinite Campus scheduler, and built and tested block scheduling in Sandbox. Districtwide communication, presentation, and FAQ. MNHS student input, hosted family information session and another presentation to the Board. The next steps are the approval of the Board, districtwide communication to families, begin the course selection process at the high school, issue schedules to the student at the high school, and finally begin block scheduling format in September, 2023.

There was a discussion regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> block and how it would be used. Mr. Beltrante and Mr. Jaspersen explained that it could be used for multiple things. It would be considered advisory. The information session that was held was positive, mixed feelings about the block scheduling with a strong consideration and questions about students and AP courses. The 5<sup>th</sup> block can be used for students who would need a refresher before taking AP examines, catching up on projects, having assemblies, use for music, band, and choir. Could also be used for some clubs if needed. There are over 61 clubs at the high school, some are after school, but we could also use the 5<sup>th</sup> block for clubs. A PLM would be held for the teachers for lesson planning.

Will take a motion to the full Board for approval at the end of the month.

- 2) Technology Projects – Chris Lee  
Mr. Lee explained the following.

### **eRate**

- FCC program that provides discounts for telecommunications, internet access, and internal connections for schools and libraries
- Based on economic status of families in the district
- Discount range is 20 to 90%. MNHS's rate is 50% on eligible services

### **Wireless**

- Last major upgrade was in 2012
- Have added more access points over the years
- Vendor announced that they are no longer supporting about 2/3 of the models that we currently use
- To support the 1 to 1 for years to come, new upgrade is needed
- Requested quotes for wireless infrastructure and the best proposal came back with a solution that would support the district for at least the next five years
- Cost approximately \$631k. Includes all necessary hardware and installation
- eRate would reimburse the district with approximately \$258k

### **Firewall**

- The firewall contract for services and support are set to expire June 2023
- In addition to security services, it provides the district with web content filter which is required as part of the Child internet protection Act or CIPA
- Have been evaluating different solutions since last August
- Requested quotes for new firewall
- Cost approximately \$347k

### **Fiber Renewal**

- MNBSD participate in county wide fiber optic project in 2001
- Privately own fiber optic cabling that physically connects our schools together with high speed network access
- The contract is up for renewal
- With eRate discounts the new cost of the contract would be \$3,769 per month for a term of three years
- This is a 16% increase over current costs however, we receive services that we don't get now such as, proactive network monitoring, and DDoS protection

### **Lease**

- Refresh our servers every five years
- Photography lab at the HS
- New software to work with our firewall and content filtering
- Cost \$150,612.28 for a term of five years starting in July 1<sup>st</sup>.

3) Gaggle – Chris Lee

Mr. Lee explained the following:

- PDE funded initiative to provide schools with the ability to screen students school google or Microsoft accounts for content that may indicate if a student intends to harm him\herself or someone else
- Also screen for abuse
- There are multiple layers with the final layer being an actual human calling designate personnel in the district for proactive response
- First year is fully funded with no cost to the district
- Gaggle is working on continued funding year two and beyond
- District could use Title IV or the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency as sources for funding

## **5.06 Health and Safety Plan**

**MOTION:** To approve MNBSD's Health and Safety plan, including its components, as presented, which is identical in substance to the Health and Safety Plan which was previously approved on August 3, 2022.

## **5.07 High School Schedule**

MOTION: To approve the adoption of the recommended Marple Newtown High School block schedule, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.

#### **5.08 Administrative Trips**

MOTION: To approve Jonathan Ruths to attend the PA Music Educators Conference in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania on April 20-22, 2023. The cost of the conference is \$170 and paid by the district. The cost of lodging is \$310 and paid by the district. The total cost to the district is \$480.

MOTION: To approve Teresa Ferry, Administrator of Federal Programs, and Brooke Tocci, Supervisor of Special Programs, to attend Pennsylvania Association Federal Program Coordinators 2023 Annual Conference on April 16-18, 2023 in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania. The cost of transportation is approximately \$150 per person. The cost of the conference is \$400 per person. The cost of lodging is \$350 per person plus meals. The approximate cost to the district is \$1800.

#### **5.09 Student Trips**

MOTION: To approve Jordan Marmelstein, Georgia LaRue, Daniel Peters, Joe Borrell, and Morganne Piestrak to accompany the elementary schools and Paxon Hollow Middle School band, orchestra and chorus members to attend the High Note Festival in Allentown, Pennsylvania on June 1, 2023. The pupils involved will perform at the festival then go to Dorney Park. The cost of transportation is \$12,670 and paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$58 each and paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Paxon Hollow Middle School 8th Grade to go to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania on June 8, 2023. The cost of the transportation is \$45.00 per student and paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student and paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Anita Stum to accompany the FBLA team to the PA FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania on April 17-19, 2023. The cost of transportation is \$968 and paid by the district activity fee. The cost of the activity and lodging is \$2,357 paid by the students and high school student activity fund. The total cost to the district is \$2,345.

#### **5.10 High School Club**

MOTION: To approve the Video Production Club at the High School. The purpose of the club is to learn the basics of editing and

movie making through creating and sharing short films. They would like to use these skills to, potentially, restart Tiger TV. The club advisor will be Tyler Mertens.

#### **5.11 Technology**

MOTION: To approve the financing of servers, computers, and security software with HP Financial in the amount of \$145,385.59 for a term of five years starting July 1, 2023.

MOTION: To approve the contract for fiber optic network services from Crown Castle (Houston, TX) in the amount of \$3,796 a month (with erate discounted billing) for a term of three years starting July 1, 2023

MOTION: To approve the contract with Gaggle, a student security monitoring service. Funding is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the first year.

The above motions will be taken to the full Board for approval.

#### **5.12 Other Business**

There was none.

#### **5.13 Public Comment**

A community member wanted to know when the vote for Block scheduling would take place.

It was explained that the vote would take place at the Regular Board meeting at the end of the month.

Several community members were concerned about the AP refresher and other things like music and sports. Also, wanted to know if the schedule includes a prep and lunch period for the teachers.

Mr. Beltrante and Mr. Jaspersen explained that the schedule does include a prep period as well as lunch for the teachers. They explained how the teachers will prepare for a refresher time for the students for AP courses if necessary. They also explained that some of the clubs are supplementals which are held after the school day while others could be held during the 5<sup>th</sup> block period. They also explained that there should not be any interruptions to the music or sports programs.

Mr. Maalouf asked a few questions ~ was unable to hear Mr. Beltrante response on the recording

#### **5.14 Adjournment**

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.