

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Marple Newtown School District Board Room
Minutes

Board: Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Vice President, Mr. Anthony Maalouf, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Nicholas Reynolds, Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

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

Press: 0

Audience: 3

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and advised the public that the Board met in Executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. McKenzie led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Siano, Mrs. Tomasco

All Board members present

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Congratulations to the cast, crew, pit orchestra, production staff, and student designers on a successful high school musical, Matilda. It was wonderful to have such a large cast of approximately 100 students. The performances were very well attended, despite the snowy weather. The elementary students truly enjoyed the opportunity to see a few scenes before the musical official opened. It was also exciting to see that the musical was featured in the Marple Friends and Neighbors magazine.

Congratulations is also in order for Mrs. Taylor Amabile, MNHS social studies teacher, was recently selected as a Class Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The organization seeks to advance the goals and aspirations of high-achieving students through unique learning experiences, scholarships, internships, and peer networks. Each year student members of NSHSS are invited to nominate the educator who has made the most significant contribution to their academic career.

7. COMMENDATIONS

Dr. Kane advised the Board that the Federal Credit Union recipients would attend the meeting in April.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Ms. Collins gave the following report

- All spring sports have started practicing for their season
- MNHS Diver Alex Pastras has won the State Championship for the second time in the 1 meter dive.
- Both Baseball and Softball have already completed their Spring training in Florida
- After a great season for both teams, the boys and girls basketball teams made it to the state championship. Unfortunately, the girls lost to Springfield after a very close game and the boys lost to Imhotep, almost handing them their first loss of the season. To the coaches and players congratulations on such an amazing season.
- Matilda the musical was a great success for MNHS Drama. Although there was some snowy weather, all four shows were able to be shown on their normal time and dates.
- MNHS Hi Q came in third place in the central league behind Haverford and Garnet Valley. Great season.
- The Murph basketball tournament will be held the day before spring break in honor of STEM teacher Mr. Murphy.
- Marple Newtown LINK trip is finally happening after going a year and a half without the trip due to the pandemic. Linkers will be leaving the weekend of April 2nd
- Today was Assistant Principal Mrs. Pallidino's last day. Students and faculty would like to thank her for all that she has done.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

It is with great excitement that I share that Stephanie Sturdivant, Worrall Elementary Principal, has earned her doctorate. Congratulations Dr. Sturdivant.

Congratulations on the historical accomplishments made by our MNHS teams:

- Alexandra Pastris won the AA State Championship for the second straight year, breaking numerous Central League records along the way.
- Cheerleading qualified for States and Nationals, finishing in the top 17 in the U.S.
- HI-Q advanced to the Delco Championship and lost on the very last question.
- Bocce won multiple medals this season, including Silver at the Delco Championships.
- Ice hockey won the D2 Division Championship with a victory over Archbishop Carroll
- Girls basketball finished a record-setting season by qualifying for the state tournament for the first time and winning a tournament game, another first for the program.
- Boys basketball qualified for the state tournament for the second time ever and won two state tournament games, losing to the #13 team in the country by five points.

Our high school juniors participated in their Junior Initiative experience today. There were a dozen speakers, many of whom are local to our community and several of them were alumni. The sessions were wonderful to see today.

Thank you to the Loomis and Worrall Elementary students and art teachers for sharing their fantastic and creative artworks that has been on display here in the Boardroom. Students and families attended a small gallery walk, were awarded certificates, and shared how they created their projects.

Paxon Hollow Middle School has been preparing to transition and welcome the 5th graders. Dr. Gretchen and Mrs. Wigo recently visited each elementary school to speak with the students about the middle school.

Our younger elementary students celebrated the 100 day of school.

Culbertson School has been enjoying a March (book) madness month. During their scheduled library class, students then voted for the books they enjoyed the most, hoping to advance them to the next round. By the end of March, mystery guest readers will read the final two books aloud as they compete for the championship.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the proposed Adjudication of Student No. 883988.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

12.02 Agreement

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve an agreement between Sue Fliess and MNSD for a total of \$1,000 for a virtual visit to all four (4) elementary schools during the 2021-2022 school year as a visiting author to present “Fun with STEM”.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.03 Contract

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the contract with the Responsive Classroom organization (Morning Meeting) in the amount of \$2,400 for teacher training. The contract has been reviewed by Marple Newtown School District’s Solicitor.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.04 Club Funds Transfer

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the closing of the MNHS Drama Club on February 22, 2022 and transferring the funds to the Stage Production Account No. 81-0496-008.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.05 Student Trips

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Anita Stum to accompany two (2) FBLA students to travel each day to Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania on April 11 and April 12, 2022. They will be competing in numerous events and attending leadership development seminars. The cost of transportation will be \$1,353.82. The total cost to the District will be \$1,353.82 minus any amount received through MNFBLA fundraising campaign.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Samantha Partridge to accompany the 5th grade

class at Russell Elementary School to travel to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania on June 3, 2022. The cost of transportation is \$1,283.00. The total cost to the student for transportation and activity is \$81.90. There is no cost to the District.

Motion was made by Mrs. Tomasco, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.06 Donations

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve a donation from Rafferty Subaru to Wilmer F. Loomis Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$7,500. This donation is to be divided among 15 teachers who will each receive a \$500 stipend to AdoptAClassroom.org to be used for the purchase of classroom materials.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the donation of a Gaga pit to Loomis Elementary School by the PTO that has a cost of \$1,989. Gaga is game played in a large fenced-in area (usually an octagon or hexagon) called a gaga pit. The gaga pit generally consists of flat walls atop a smooth dirt, turf, sand, or rubberized surface.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the donation of a water bottle filling station to the High School that will replace a second floor water fountain.

Motion made by Mrs. Tomasco, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.07 Marple Newtown High School – Changes in the 2022-2023 Course Selection Guide

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve High School course selection guide changes for the 2022–2023 school year, as per the Teaching and Learning presentation shared at the March 8, 2022 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology (CIT) meeting.

- 1) Remove the prefix “STEM” from the following STEM Academy courses listed in the course selection guide. Courses will instead be identified by a numerical code.
 - a) Introduction to Engineering Design
 - b) Global Entrepreneurship
 - c) Introduction to Java
 - d) Health Sciences
 - e) Audio Engineering and Composition
 - f) Gaming and eSports

- 2) Adoption of a new STEM Academy course (below).
 - a) STEM-Ology
- 3) Name change only: Replace Seminar 9 with Design Thinking I
- 4) Name change only: Replace Seminar 10 with Design Thinking II

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

13.02 Retirements

Mr. McKenzie asked for the following motions to be approved:

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified retirement(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Paul Philiposian - Custodian
Operations Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 4, 2022
Reason: Retirement

13.03 Resignation(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional resignation(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Brigid Duffy – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: March 25, 2022
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Christine Napoli – Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: June 21, 2022
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Diane Cellini – Food Service Worker II
Food Services Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 22, 2022

Reason: Reassigned to another position in the District

- 2) Gary Simmins – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: February 28, 2022
Reason: Resignation

13.04 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Kathy Moore – Special Education Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: March 24, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Reason: Medical: March 24, 2022 through and including
June 21, 2022
FMLA: March 24, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leave(s) item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Keonna Mitchell – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: February 25, 2022 through and including May 23, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Walter Ritter – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: February 15, 2022 through and including March 20, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 3) Denise Cerrone – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: February 15, 2022 through and including April 29, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 4) Alex Edwards - Van Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: February 14, 2022 through and including March 20, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 5) Kelly Small – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: January 20, 2022 through and including May 3, 2022
Reason: FMLA: January 20, 2022 through and including May 3, 2022
- 6) Donna Alpini – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School

Effective: March 9, 2022 through and including May 2, 2022
Reason: FMLA: March 9, 2022 through and including May 2, 2022

- 7) Marian McGee – Special Education Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: March 31, 2022 through and including April 29, 2022
Reason: Medical: March 31, 2022 through and including
April 29, 2022
FMLA: March 31, 2022 through and including April 29, 2022

13.05 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional return from leave(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Marie Kozak – School Nurse
Worrall Elementary School
Return date: March 31, 2022
Returning from: Medical Leave
- 2) Jill Mascio – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Return date: March 29, 2022
Returning from: FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s) item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Theresa Cogliano – Health Room Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
Return date: February 8, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Lisa Connelly - School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Return date: April 4, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave
- 3) Alex Edwards – Van Driver
Transportation Department
Return date: March 21, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave

13.06 Appointments

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the following administrative appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1.

- 1) Stefanie McDevitt - Assistant Principal
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$115,000.00 (prorated)
Effective: Start date contingent upon release from present employer
Replacing: Christa Palladino (Resignation)

CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES – ACT 93

Motion to approve the following confidential employee appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1.

- 1) Timothy Long - Desk-side Technician
Technology Department/Loomis Elementary School
Salary: \$45,000.00 (prorated)
Effective: April 7, 2022
Replacing: Michael Thomas (Resignation)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Victoria Messina - Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$55,720.00 (MA; Step 2 prorated)
Effective: March 25, 2022
Replacing: Brigid Duffy (Resignation)
- 2) Kerri McCormick – LTS ELL Teacher
Culbertson and Worrall Elementary Schools
Salary: \$53,930.00 (MA; Step 1 prorated)
Effective: April 18, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Replacing: Jenny Kim (Medical/FMLA)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Nicole Paul - School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$12,485.00 (prorated)
Effective: March 2, 2022
Replacing: Carla Kleinschmidt (Reassigned)
- 2) Katherine Fusaro - School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$12,485.00 (prorated)
Effective: March 21, 2022
Replacing: Donna Alpini (Reassigned)

- 3) Christine Gibbs - Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Salary: \$17.84 per hour
Effective: March 14, 2022
Replacing: Marilyn Pastore (Retirement)
- 4) Amber Johnson - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$27.59 per hour
Effective: March 7, 2022
Replacing: Kristyn Miller (Resignation)
- 5) Fajr Minnis - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$27.59 per hour
Effective: March 28, 2022
Replacing: Sandra Brassell (Reassigned)
- 6) Robert Gamble - Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Salary: \$17.84 per hour
Effective: March 14, 2022
Replacing: Anna Montanaro (Reassigned)
- 7) Diane Cellini - Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$15,746.00 (prorated)
Effective: March 23, 2022
Replacing: Gracene Sirianno (Resignation)

13.07 Summer Learning Program 2022

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the appointment, pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, of the following professional personnel for the 2022 Summer Learning Program, as presented. The staff will be used on an as-needed basis as determined by student enrollment and program needs.

13.08 Supplementary Contracts

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement. In the event of any COVID-19 related school closure or cessation of the particular activities which are the subject of each contract, these activities contracts are subject to suspension or cancellation, with payments due thereunder prorated for services actually provided.

13.09 Substitute Teacher Service Agreement

Motion to renew the two-year agreement, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024, with Substitute Teacher Service (STS) to provide the district with qualified substitute teachers to fill absences among the District's regular professional faculty. STS will provide the substitute teachers from a pool of individuals who are certified as teachers by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and who additionally maintain any and all other certifications and clearances required by the Commonwealth for teachers.

Motions were made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

Mrs. Alberti asked for the following motions to be approved:

14.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,503,654.65, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$961,162.00, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$5,349.50, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$390,608.10.

14.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for January 2022 and February 2022, Budget Transfers for February 2022, and Treasurer's Report for January 2022.

14.04 2022-2023 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget

Motion to approve the resolution regarding the 2022-2023 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget in the amount of \$10,049,100.00.

14.05 2022-2023 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Special Education Agreement

Motion to approve the agreement regarding the 2022-2023 Special Education Service Agreement in the amount of \$585,989.00.

14.06 2022-2023 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical Schools Budget

Motion to approve the resolution regarding the 2022-2023 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical School Budget in the amount of \$15,492,198.00.

14.07 Actuarial Services

Motion to approve the agreement with Conrad M. Siegel, Inc. and Pennsylvania Trust to provide actuarial services for GASB 45 in the estimated amount of \$7,525.00.

14.08 2021 Tax Appeals

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio No. 30-00-02021-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$560,000 assessment/\$560,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$169,350 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1857 to our District for tax year 2021.

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio No. 25-00-00861-01 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows.

2021 \$800,000 assessment/\$800,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$787,150 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$8,633 to our District for tax year 2021.

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio No. 25-00-01836-01 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows.

2021 \$1,010,000 assessment/\$1,010,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$137,720 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,510 to our District for tax year 2021.

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio No. 30-00-00592-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$2,350,000 assessment/\$2,350,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$1,487,780 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar gain of approximately \$16,316 to our District for tax year 2021.

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio No. 25-00-04468-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$50,000 assessment/\$50,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$97,763 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,072 to our District for tax year 2021.

Motions made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Reynolds asked for the following motions to be approved:

15.02 Facility Use

Motion to approve From the Top Dance Studio, 3603 Chapel Road, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073 access for high school auditorium rental on June 2, 2022 and June 5, 2022 in the amount not to exceed \$2,800.00.

15.03 Worrall Elementary School Project – Solicit Bids

Motion to approve Bonnet Associates Incorporated to solicit bids for the Worrall Elementary School renovation and additions.

15.04 Loomis Elementary School – New Baseball Cage and Dugouts

Motion to approve Miller Sports Construction with the demo and installation of a new baseball cage and dugouts at Loomis Elementary School, in the amount of \$38,800.00. This will be completed under Costars Contract No. 014-171 and will be funded through the capital reserve.

15.05 Russell Elementary School – New Parking Lot Lighting (Upper Playground and Parking Lot)

Motion to approve Goldhorn Electrical Construction with the installation of new parking lot lighting in the upper playground/parking lot at Russell Elementary School. This will include excavation and saw cutting, concrete and six (6) new 25 foot poles and 12 new LED lights. The amount for this project will be \$33,565.00 under Costars Contract No. 008-638 and will be funded through the capital reserve.

15.06 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 37 buses at an annual lease cost of \$380,000.

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Maalouf advised the Board that there was a legislative breakfast at the DCIU on May 20th, 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

18. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was none

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Maalouf wanted to also, along with Dr. Kane, congratulate the cast and crew of the musical Matilda.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary