

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Newtown Square, Pennsylvania**

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 11, 2014**  
**Board Room, Administration Building**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: Committee: Mr. A. J. Baker, Mr. Robert Sack, Mr. Matthew DeNucci,**

**Board: Mr. Leonard Altieri, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe**

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

**Press: 0**

**Audience: 8**

**1. Call to Order:**

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 7:18PM and stood on the Pledge from the Special Meeting.

Mr. Baker asked if there were any additions to the Agenda

Mr. Driscoll explained that there was addition for Tech needs~Wireless in the buildings

Mr. Lee and Mr. Driscoll explained the following

- That the needs in the building were not being met.
- Working with HP for a solution
- Problems at the Middle School and High School
- Increase access points at both the Middle School and High School
- Cost with HP \$165,000.00 capped at 1000
- Cost \$135,000.00 with a different solution to move to a new platform (Cisco)
- Would not see a difference
- Controller itself is \$65,000.
- Wireless goes down everyday
- Increase from 800 lap tops to about 2500
- Increase amount of lap tops at the High school
- Make room for growth for future needs
- Funds not readily available
- Capital reserve ~ this is not considered infrastructure
- Possible budgetary transfer which is a Board action

- Has been a problem from November
- Only found out in last couple of days that the controller from HP will not accommodate the needs at the Middle School or High School.
- Looking a possible end of February to implement
- Have requested demo units
- Will address again in the CIT meeting

## **2. Approval of the minutes from the January, 2014:**

Mr. Baker asked that the minutes be approved as presented.

With no discussion the minutes were approved.

## **3. Bills for Payment:**

Mr. Baker asked to take to the full Board for approval.

### **a. Motion: To take to the full Board for approval the General Fund**

Will take to the full Board for approval.

## **4. Financial Reports:**

Mr. Baker asked to take to the full Board for approval.

### **a. Motion: To approve Financial Reports for December 2013 Informational for January 2014. Treasurer's report for December 2013, Budget Transfers.**

Mr. Driscoll explained the looks good for financial reports slightly increase in collection rate, are in a big tax appeal with Toll Bros. and reported that things are normal.

Will take to the full Board for approval.

## **5. Advertising Update**

Mr. Driscoll explained that the agreements with vendors, approved by the Solicitor, base contract in place. Will have to have Board approval for these vendors. Mr. Driscoll will bring the request for vendors to the board and separate them out. Looking at the web ads, what they will look like and the interest will be more once they are seen. Will continue to receive e-rate reimbursement as long as ads do not take over the website. Banner ads should be okay. Will continue to work with Mike to get a brochure together. Trying to determine what the market is for the web ads. We are not committing to anything long term. Timing, when it will start. Wanting to start getting the Board to approve vendors and content.

We can put it on the School Board Agenda for February. The advertising would be in places that is not instructional space. No advertising would be approved without the Board's approval.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding a policy about advertising. Also, having a committee to deal with the advertising along with someone from the district. There is someone that is working at the district to handle the advertising. We have the thought of web advertising, it is not approved yet. Mr. Driscoll also explained that we have been in contact with School Media, thought about using them but there was a contractual problem. They were too commercial and the legal problems that may occur could be very expensive.

Will take to the Board for approval

## **6. Major and Mastro**

Mr. Baker asked to take to the full Board for approval.

**a. Motion: To renew the district's contract with Major and Mastro, LLC to provide auditing services for fiscal year's ending June 30, 2014, 2015, and 2016 at \$18,000.00 per year**

Mr. Driscoll explained that this was on the agenda for last month, was asked to check on the fee. There was a survey around the county and we are at the lowest for that fee. This figure is what we have been paying for years and think that it is a reasonable fee. They have been here as Major and Mastro for 9 years.

Will take to the full Board for approval

## **7. 2014-2015 Proposed Final Budget Update**

Mr. Driscoll explained that this process is frustrating. That is why we talked about the timelines several times. The next step in the budget process is the Board's input, we have 2 more votes. One would be in April and then again in May or June. Possibly have special budget meeting because it can take time to discuss the budget and the time limited when there are 2 committee meetings in one night. Special request from the Board can be accommodated. This is an on going process. Hard to have administrators do a budget in November when we just started school and classes have not been selected by students for the following year. Before Act 1 budgets would be done in May. Now with the Act 1 timelines there are more votes to be taken. We are constantly trying to keep up with the interruption of the law. Proposed final and final budget vote has to be 30 days apart. The building level budgets are a small part of the budget. Maybe a little over 1% of the budget. Special Ed and the transportation budget are higher. 85% is based on what we are at today. Salaries per contract, benefits, pension, debt service, lease payments, these figures on

locked. The remaining 15% is for final changes. Mr. Driscoll continued to explain some the variances.

Dr. Horowitz explained when the processing of classes will start taking place in February for classes at the High School. Also, in March we will know what the registration for Kindergarten classes. Dr. Horowitz along with Dr. Bompadre will follow what the increases/decrease will be in the next few months.

## **8. Donations**

Mr. Baker asked to take to the full Board for approval.

**a. Motion: To accept \$500 from Bentley Systems, Inc. for STEM Grant for Loomis Elementary.**

Will take to the full Board for approval

## **9. Taxpayer Request for Abatement of Penalty**

Mr. Baker asked to take to the full Board for approval.

**Motion: To abate the penalty for Folio 25-00-05612-00 \$224.48**

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is a new one. Continuing to look into a policy for these requests. Would like to be on board with the townships and work with them so that we handle these requests the same way. One from last month ended in a tie vote and didn't know if the Board would like to bring it back this month.

Will take to the full Board for approval

## **10. New Business**

Dr. Horowitz spoke about the make up of snow days. There will be a presentation next Tuesday on how to make up the days. It has been very difficult to determine how to make up these days. Please share with others that this discussion will take place.

Mr. Altieri commended Dr. Horowitz on the handling of these days and in making the right decisions when closing and knowing that we will no be able to make everyone happy with trying to make those days up.

## **11. Public Comment**

None

## **12. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM