

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Reorganization Meeting  
Monday, December 2, 2019  
Administration Board Road  
Minutes**

Board: Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless,  
Mr. Matthew DeNucci, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. John McKenzie,  
Mr. Nicholas Reynolds, Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mrs. Desiree  
Tomasco

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr.  
Jake Gallagher

Press: 0

Audience: 13

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Driscoll led the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. PRESENT**

Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Chandless, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds, Mr.  
Siao, Mrs. Tomasco

**4. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM**

Mr. Sereni explained the election of the Board officers

**4.01** Board Secretary Joseph Driscoll called for:

- a. Mr. Driscoll asked for nominations for President Pro Tem (no second required)
- b. Mr. Bilker nominated Mr. Reynolds
- c. Mr. Driscoll called the vote
- c. Vote called 8 – 0

**4.02** Mr. Driscoll declared Mr. Reynolds elected President Pro Tem.

**5. ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT FOR 2020**

**5.01** President Pro Tem calls for:

- a. Mr. Reynolds asked for nominations for President for 2020 (no second needed)

Mrs. Chandless nominated Mr. Matthew Bilker

- b. Mr. Reynolds called the vote
- c. Vote called 8 – 0
- d. Mr. Reynolds declared Mr. Matthew Bilker elected President for 2020.

**5.02** Newly elected President assumes chair.

**6. ELECTION FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2020**

**6.01** Newly-elected President called for:

- a. Mr. Bilker asked for nominations for Vice President for 2020 (no second needed)

Mr. Reynolds nominated Mrs. Barbara Harvey

- b. Mr. Bilker called the vote
- c. Vote called 8 – 0

**6.02** Mr. Bilker declared Mrs. Barbara Harvey elected Vice President for 2020.

**7. APPROVAL OF THE 2020 MEETING CALENDAR (Majority Vote)**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2020.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Mr. Bilker made the following statement:

I'd like to thank the school directors for their faith in voting for me to be the President of this School Board. I was first appointed to this School Board in 2014 and became Vice President in 2015. I mentioned this to some friends and family after this past election, but running for public office is exhilarating and humbling. Serving as a public official is a responsibility that I have never taken lightly.

I'd also like to thank the President of this School Board for the past seven years. Kathy Chandless has served with integrity and class since she became Board President in 2012. Since that time, the District has accomplished many great things, including the assessment of, and development of, capital needs; the weathering of a pension crisis without overburdening our tax payers; and the addition of programming and educational opportunities for our students. I have learned a lot from Kathy and I am looking forward to continuing to serve with her on this Board. He also thanked his

family for allowing him the opportunity to serve on the Board.

The major responsibilities of a school board include overseeing the operations of this School District, being responsible for assessing and apportioning budgetary needs and setting worthwhile plans and policies. To that end, this Board will continue to assess our capital needs for all of our school buildings, even while the renovations at Loomis and Culbertson are coming to completion. We are going to maintain our reputation of responsible spending when necessary.

I think the best credit we, as a Board, get, is when we make good hires and those hires thrive in our district; hire the right people and try to stay out of their way. However, there are times where the Board can help develop that talent. To that end, it is my goal to increase in-house professional learning opportunities by allocating more time during the year for our teachers to have continuing education, so that they are given every opportunity to make themselves better teachers while educating our kids.

I have also discussed with Dr. Kane whether this District can do some things to increase our district's state-wide rankings. She and I both believe this to be possible. To that end, I am announcing the creation of a new Ranking and Reporting Sub-Committee. Dr. Kane will be the lead, and one of our newest board directors who is particularly passionate about this topic, Desiree Tomasco, is going to be the board representative for this committee, which will investigate short term and long-term solutions to increasing our school's profile, rankings and state-wide standing. Disclaimer – this has less to do with PSAA scores and more to do with and more to do with professional reporting and maximizing educational opportunities for our kids.

The School Board is the governing body of this School District, but I, and all of us, are aware that the real credit for the accomplishments of this District belong to our administrators, teachers, staff and students. I am eager to continue pushing forward and doing everything possible to help support them in an attempt to make this District better in any way that I can. Thank you to my colleagues on this Board for this support – I will work hard at this job to continue earning your trust.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted

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Joseph Driscoll  
Board Secretary