

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Zoom

Minutes

Board: Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Vice President, 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. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Dr. Heather Logue,

Press: 0

Audience: 220

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. He advised those in attendance that the Board met in Executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENT

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

All 9 members present

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Before the public comments, Mr. Bilker explained that there are 2 public comment sections. The first one is for agenda items only, the second at the end of the meeting are for all other comments, concerns, and questions.

A community member had 2 questions ~ one on the Resolution, he congratulated Mr. Bilker for letter he penned, thought that he summed up the situation perfectly. Others being put before the

teachers I think is a great disservice to our staff. My question, has the district or MNEA surveyed the teachers so that we know the percentage of them that plan to get the vaccine.

Dr. Kane explained that she submitted to the Health Department every employee we have. Showed how many employees we have and this is the number of employees would be interested. The plan that they gave us which we coordinated with them was to survey the staff, the survey is ready to go, how many people wanted it, what department and what location would be in because of the 4 locations. The plan we had developed, I am not sure that it still going to be the plan, we selected 4 school districts, they were geographically selected in coordination with the Health Department, the County and the Superintendents. They were Radnor, Ridley, Upper Darby, and Garnet Valley because they were geographically located. We knew they wanted the exact number of who was interested, we gave them everyone so that they could aim high. After that, we would open up the registration for our staff to pick what location that they wanted to go to, so to answer your question it is ready, we just have not done it yet. They changed things, added different categories in 1A, we have employees in the different categories, so those employees may be getting the vaccine at different places now.

The second question ~ there was an agreement with Chester County Chop with the testing program. I understand the benefits of the program from a Pandemic prospective, however I have a couple concerns about it as everyone knows the district had to the state attestation back in November which mandates automatic shutdown of the school buildings based solely on case numbers, example the elementary schools that were recently had to be closed. I have seen in our district and the CDC just confirmed today that systematic masked spread is extremely rare in school settings with these precautions that we are maintaining. So, I am having a difficult time understanding how this testing program when combined with the state attestation to shut down co-exist.

Dr. Kane explained that today she had a conversation, it was about 2 hour meeting, with the health department, superintendents, and the county. We asked specifically about that. We said that we are proactively going to test our staff, I will give you an example. We are going to contact trace and if one person was positive and it affected 6 staff members, this is with 6 feet apart, masked, and less than 15 minute contact, we wanted to know quickly if those are close contact. Would they have to quarantine or could they have less of a restriction that is just an example. We asked that if they never entered the building, even after 2 days off over the weekend, would that count against us. They are now writing about this, coming up with how that will affect cases to count numbers. We are reporting on student and staff cases even if they haven't come back into our buildings. So every number matters, we are reporting our positive and probable's, so to your point how much will those test affect our case counts. They are going to let us know.

The community member thanked Dr. Kane for summing it up. How can we co-exist if we are looking for systematic cases and all of a sudden it's going to shut us down. CHOP just flipped their guidance and are now saying most kids are safer in school then they are staying at home. That virtual school is seeing higher Covid transmission in kids than those attending school.

Dr. Kane said that she has been in meetings with Susan Kauffman and she has said the complete opposite. It's a lot to keep track of.

Community member had a question about the fencing at Culbertson.

Mr. Gallagher explained that the existing playground will remain the same. Adding a chain link fence from the Culbertson property parallel with Robinson Lane. Mr. Wigo was having some issues with students running through the backyards there. Adding an autistic playground outside

the 4th & 5th grade hallway, back by the emergency exit. The fence will only be the length of the playground. The access area will remain as it is now.

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

School board directors are unpaid elected officials who dedicate an average of six to 10 hours a month to the governance of our district. School directors regularly engage in complex decision-making involving a variety of areas from budgeting and finance to policy and personnel. This year has been a particularly challenging one for school boards, as the pandemic affects how schools operate and meet students' needs.

Many school directors are also parents in the district, and cite public service and a desire to give back and contribute to public education as the primary motivating factor in their decision to run for school board. In fact, many would say that their highest goal is to do what's best for the students. Research supports this idea.

Because school boards play a crucial role in helping schools provide a quality education to every student, January is once again being declared School Director Recognition Month.

Thank you Marple Newtown Board of School Directors!

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Ms. Fay and Mr. Tomasco gave the following report:

- Indoor percussion and Winter Color guard has started
- Jazz Band starts in February
- Cheerleading sent a tape for competition in April
- Girls track and field handle practices with poise and determination
- Boys track and field enjoying the season
- Girls Basketball 3 – 1
- MNSD Swim and Dive training hard
- Boys Basketball off to a great start
- Wrestling off to a great start
- Congrats to 3 MNSD top scholar Science search
- Congrats to the Future Business Leaders of America 20-21 conference winner
- College Board cancelled SAT and SAT essays
- Ivy League college postponed decision date until April
- All other college has May 1st as decision date

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Vaccines

The Superintendents of Delaware County, along with the Chester County Health Department and Delaware County's COVID Task Force, have developed a vaccination plan for our staff that would begin on February 13, 2021. The plan calls for four school-based vaccinations sites, located in Garnet Valley, Radnor Township, Ridley, and Upper Darby, to be opened concurrently over the course of 3 to 4 weekends. In order to begin on February 13, the County will need approximately 25,000-30,000 doses of vaccine by February 3. We have been advocating for the proper amount of vaccines so that we can begin to secure our schools. Unfortunately, we have not been allotted the necessary number of doses to begin our plan. We know that the vaccine is not a cure for the virus, but it is another important tool in the fight against COVID-19. Although receiving the vaccine is voluntary for our staff, we realize that this mitigation effort is a game-changer when it comes to opening our schools to a greater degree for our students. We will continue to advocate for the supply to catch up with the demand.

Antigen Testing

MNSD has partnered with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the CCHD to provide antigen tests for use in our schools. The CHOP Project is called ACE-IT (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing). We have had several members of our MNSD Leadership Team and a few of our nurses participate in the training. We do not have any tests available for use yet, and plan to begin the process with willing staff members. The availability of tests on site will provide our District with a quicker mitigation strategy.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2020 Regular Meeting, the December 7, 2020 Reorganization Meeting, and the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for Student No. 883819 to attend Private School for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release, In Lieu of FAPE, between the District and the parents of Student No. 883819 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the agreement with CCRES, Inc., a staffing agency

used to fill various positions such as PCAs for students placed out of district. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release, In Lieu of FAPE, between the District and the parents of Student No. 884507 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the proposed Adjudication of Student Nos. 883873, 883875, 883876.

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

Mr. Sereni asked the Board members if they had read the transcript from the hearing. The following members advised that they had read the transcript, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Alberti, Mrs. Chandless, and Mrs. Tomasco.

Motion passed 8 – 0 – 1

Abstention: Mr. Siano

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane, Superintendent, to attend the virtual 2021 AASA National Conference on Education on February 18 and February 19, 2021. The cost of the conference is \$524.00 paid by the district.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to adopt the proposed Resolution that supports the immediate and full vaccination of our educators. Accordingly, the Marple Newtown Board of School Directors calls upon the PA General Assembly to immediately secure the proper amount of COVID-19 vaccines in order to fully vaccinate our educators now.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

RESOLUTION TO VACCINATE OUR EDUCATORS NOW BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Marple Newtown School District Board of School Directors desires to record in the minutes of its regular meeting a Resolution of respect and safety for all educators in the Marple Newtown School District; and **WHEREAS**, the Superintendents of Delaware County, along with the Chester County Health Department and the Delaware County COVID Task

Force, have developed a vaccination plan for our staff starting February 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, all plans have been submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, have been vetted through the school leaders, and have accounted for the details associated with such an enormous effort; and **WHEREAS**, we know that receiving the vaccine is voluntary for our staff, but we simultaneously realize that this mitigation effort is impactful when it comes to opening our schools to a greater degree for all of our students; and **WHEREAS**, we have been advocating for the proper amount of vaccines so we can begin to better secure our schools; and

WHEREAS, we have not been allotted the necessary dosages to begin our plan; and **WHEREAS**, we have not been given a single dosage as of today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marple Newtown School District Board of School Directors calls upon the General Assembly to secure the proper amount of COVID-19 vaccines in order to Vaccinate Our Educators Now.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the elected Senators and Representatives of the Marple Newtown School District in the General Assembly and to the Governor of Pennsylvania. Adopted the 26th day of January 2021

Matthew J. Bilker, School Board President

Joseph Driscoll, Board Secretary

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement presented this 26th day of January, 2021 which sets forth the terms of the understanding between the Marple Newtown School District and the Chester County Health Department regarding the District's participation in the Project ACE-IT (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing) program, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

12.02 Curriculum Review Cycle

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve revisions to the Curriculum Review Cycle, as presented.

Motion made by Mrs. Chandless, seconded by Mrs. Alberti

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.03 2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

13.02 Terminations

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional terminations(s) item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Michael Hebron – LTS Social Studies Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: December 23, 2020
Reason: End of Assignment
- 2) Michael Harding – LTS English Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: December 23, 2020
Reason: End of Assignment
- 3) Courtney Rehm – LTS Elementary Teacher
MNSD Elementary Schools
Effective: December 23, 2020
Reason: End of Assignment
- 4) Jamielynn Sauer – English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 3, 2021
Reason: Deceased
- 5) Melissa Roth – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: March 17, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment
- 6) Danielle Colon – LTS Special Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: February 2, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment
- 7) Marina LaVecchio – LTS Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: February 17, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Dr. Kane made the following remarks about Jamielynn Sauer. Jamielynn was only with us for a short period of time, but made an immediate and lasting impression for her students and colleagues. She showed an energy and passion for teaching. She will be truly missed.

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified terminations(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Rosemarie Marley – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: January 16, 2021
Reason: Deceased

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Dr. Kane made a comment that Rosemarie loved her job as a bus aide and she was an amazing sweet woman. She was well known for helping her students by reading to them on the bus to and from school. She will be missed by her students and those in the transportation department.

13.03 Retirements

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified retirement(s) item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Marilyn Pastore – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: Retirement
- 2) Daniel Hiller – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 7, 2021
Reason: Retirement
- 3) Lillian Gervasi – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Service Department/Russell Elementary School
Effective: June 18, 2021
Reason: Retirement
- 4) Michael Burke – Bus Driver

Transportation Department
Effective: January 20, 2021
Reason: Retirement

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.04 Resignations

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional resignation(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Edward Duffy – English Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: December 23, 2020
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Carol Perrelli – Van Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 25, 2020
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Shirley Ayers – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: December 22, 2020
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Adrian Scipione – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: December 5, 2020
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Najashia O'Neal – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: December 22, 2020
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Gail Gorson-Marrow – Title I Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: December 23, 2020

Reason: Resignation

- 6) Bruges Ramos – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 15, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 7) Tyler Cheyney – Equipment Mechanic
Transportation Department
Effective: January 21, 2021
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.05 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Adam Murray - Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: 2021-2022 school year
(specific dates to be determined once the 2021-2022 school calendar is approved)
Reason: Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development
- 2) Rachel Gardner – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: April 26, 2021 through June 22, 2021
Reason: Medical Leave: April 26, 2021 through May 26, 2021
FMLA: April 26, 2021 through June 22, 2021
- 3) Kimberly Trigone - Art Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2021 through January 29, 2021
Reason: FMLA: January 4, 2021 through January 29, 2021
- 4) Jessica LaRosa - Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: February 1, 2021 through June 22, 2021
Reason: Child Rearing Leave: February 1, 2021 through June 22, 2021
- 5) Nicole Caromano – Family & Consumer Science Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 25, 2021 through and including June 22, 2021
Reason: Child Rearing Leave: January 25, 2021 through and including June 22, 2021

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified leave(s) item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Dana Chirico – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: December 9, 2020 through and including
January 29, 2021
Reason: FFCRA: December 9, 2020 through December 23, 2020
Medical Leave: January 4, 2021 through January 29, 2021
- 2) Bobbie McBride – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021 through February 3, 2021
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 3) James Burch – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021 through February 3, 2021
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 4) Vera Kostyukov – Custodian (part-time)
Operations Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2021 through June 30, 2021
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 5) Donna Spera – Food Service Worker II
Food Services Department/Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2021 through February 3, 2021
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 6) Sandra Dunnkosky – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021 through February 3, 2021
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 7) Lydia Otu – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021 through February 3, 2021
Reason: Uncompensated Leave

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.06 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional return from leave(s) item(s) 1 through 6.

- 1) Rachael McCarron – Family and Consumer Science Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: December 7, 2020
Reason: Medical Leave
- 2) Kerri Ward – English Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: FFCRA
- 3) Dana Locher – Social Studies Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: FFCRA
- 4) Jena Foley – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: March 15, 2021
Reason: FMLA
- 5) Julie Numerato – Special Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: February 16, 2021
Reason: FMLA
- 6) Nina DerHagopian – Special Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: February 2, 2021
Reason: Child Rearing Leave

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s) item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Kristyn Miller – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: FFCRA
- 2) Linda Thompson - Cook
Food Services Department/Marple Newtown High School

Effective: January 4, 2021

Reason: FFCRA

- 3) Nickolas Jekogian – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: Medical Leave
- 4) June Giosa – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: FFCRA
- 5) Kathleen Mongeluzi – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2021
Reason: FFCRA

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.07 Cancellation of Sabbatical Leave

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the cancellation of the approved second semester Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development for Carmen Bilc, Spanish Teacher assigned to Marple Newtown High School, due to personal reasons.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.08 Appointments

ADMINISTRATIVE

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following Administrative appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Gina Ross - Director of Pupil Services
Pupil Services Department
Salary: \$165,000.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: March 29, 2021
Replacing: Gerald Rodichok (Deceased)
- 2) Joel DiBartolomeo - Director of Administration and Academics
Teaching and Learning Department
Salary: \$175,000.00
Effective: July 1, 2021 or start date contingent upon an early release from present employer
Replacing: New position (MNSD Board approved 12/8/2020)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Georgia LaRue– Music Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$52,267.00 (BA+24 Step-4; pro-rated)
Effective: February 22, 2021 or start date contingent upon release from present employer
Replacing: Mary Anne Hrin (Retirement)
- 2) Derek Vannicolo – Technology Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA Step-1; pro-rated)
Effective: January 7, 2021
Replacing: Karen Nash (Retirement)
- 3) Stephanie Amen– LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA Step-1; pro-rated)
Effective: February 3, 2021 through and including June 22, 2021
Replacing: Jessica LaRosa (CRL)
- 4) Suzette Davis– LTS Family and Consumer Science Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA Step-1; pro-rated)
Effective: January 27, 2021, 2020 through and including June 22, 2021
Replacing: Nicole Caromano (CRL)
- 5) Riley McSorley – English Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA Step-1; pro-rated)
Effective: January 4, 2021
Replacing: Edward Duffy (Resignation)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 10.

- 1) Albana Leskaj - Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School

- Salary: \$15,475.00 (pro-rated)
 Effective: January 11, 2021
 Replacing: Barbara Diccico (Retirement)
- 2) Joshua Quigley - Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
 Salary: \$15,475.00 (prorated)
 Effective: January 11, 2021
 Replacing: Elizabeth Greenwald (Resignation)
- 3) George Hunt - Bus Driver
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$26.92 per hour
 Effective: January 27, 2021
 Replacing: Shirley Ayers (Resignation)
- 4) Alexander Watkins – Classified Substitute
 District/Operations Department
 Salary: TBD by assignment
 Effective: January 13, 2021
 Reason: As Needed
- 5) Gerard Koob - Van Driver
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$26.33 per hour
 Effective: January 12, 2021
 Replacing: Lydia Otu (Reassignment)
- 6) Carlos Sistrunk - Van Driver
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$25.12 per hour
 Effective: January 27, 2021
 Replacing: Carol Perrelli (Resignation)
- 7) Charles Egolf - Bus Driver
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$26.92 per hour
 Effective: January 27, 2021
 Replacing: Adrian Scipione (Resignation)
- 8) Christina Carafa - Bus Driver (in training)
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$17.41 per hour
 Effective: January 27, 2021
 Replacing: Najashia O'Neal (Resignation)
- 9) Patrick Eury - Van Driver
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$25.12 per hour
 Effective: January 24, 2021
 Replacing: New position (MNSD Board approved 10/27/2020)

- 10) Lilyan Divito - Bus Driver
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$26.92 per hour
 Effective: January 27, 2021
 Replacing: Gerard Koob (Reassignment)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.09 Extended School Year (ESY) 2021

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of the following professional personnel for the 2021 ESY Program. The following staff will be used on an as-needed basis as determined by student enrollment, item(s) 1 and 2

- 1) Danielle Marchese – ESY Coordinator
 Russell Elementary School
 Salary: \$31.00 per hour
 Effective: February 8, 2021 through August 2, 2021
 Reason: 2021 ESY Program
- 2) Nina DerHagopian – ESY Coordinator
 Russell Elementary School
 Salary: \$31.00 per hour
 Effective: February 8, 2021 through August 2, 2021
 Reason: 2021 ESY Program

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.10 Transfers

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the professional transfers, effective February 1, 2021, item(s) 1 and 2:

Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1. Jacqueline Pino	MNHS	Library Science	PHMS	Library Science
2. Christina Brennan	PHMS	Library	MNHS	Library Science

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.11 Position Creation

ADMINISTRATIVE

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the creation of one (1) Supervisor of Technology Support Services, in accordance with the current Marple Newtown Administrative Association Agreement (MNAA), effective March 1, 2021. (This new position has been recommended by administration due to the significant increase in electronic devices and systems introduced to the district.)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.12 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) – Special Sick Leave Designation

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the designation of (10) Emergency Paid Sick Leave days under FFCRA as PSERS-eligible, as defined by the PSERS Special Sick Leave policy, during the time of period of April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.13 Tuition Reimbursement

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the attached tuition reimbursement, in accordance with the Act 93, MNEA, MNAA and MNESPA negotiated agreements.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.14 Supplementary Contracts

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Kathryn V. Chandless, Chairperson

14.02 Bills for Payment

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$6,913,629.78, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$137,386.38,

Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$795,828.90, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$28,969.20.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 - 0

14.03 Monthly Reports

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the monthly financial report for October 2020 and November 2020, Treasurer's Reports for July 2020, August 2020, September 2020, October 2020 and November 2020, and Budget Transfers for December 2020 and January 2021.

Informational item monthly financial report for December 2020.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.04 Request to Close a Student Activity and Transfer of Funds

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to request to close the Humanities organization and transfer the funds equally to MN Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society and English Honor Society.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.05 Actuarial Services

Mrs. Chandless asked for a 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 \$7,250.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.06 2021 Tax Assessment Appeal

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-01164-50 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows: 2021 \$5,452,475 assessment/\$5,452,475 fair market value. This proposed resolution is an increase of 1,603,005 above the 2021 assessment.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.07 Request for Abatement of Penalty

Mrs. Chandless asked for the following motions;

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-05017-00 in the amount of \$248.05.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-04799-00 in the amount of \$90.69.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01837-45 in the amount of \$281.53.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-02518-76 in the amount of \$132.53.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty's on and Folio 25-00-05006-00 in the amount of \$218.43 and Folio 25-00-04199-00 in the amount of \$18.22.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-02889-00 in the amount of \$385.52.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-02916-04 in the amount of \$564.01.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.08 Rates of Compensation

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the rate of compensation for the Marple Newtown School District Tax Collector, as follows:

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023	\$4.82/parcel
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024	\$4.94/parcel
July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025	\$5.06/parcel
July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026	\$5.18/parcel

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.09 Preliminary Budget 2021-2022

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to adopt the resolution, pursuant to Section 311 of Act 1, limiting the increase in the rate of tax for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to no more than the index of 2.6%, as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the School District.

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Reynolds asked for the following motions;

15.02 Change Orders

Motion to approve the following change orders for the Culbertson Elementary School renovation project, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Garland / DBS, Inc. - Change Order No. RC-01 Summary:

COR 01 Phase 1 Metal Fascia and Wood Blocking

During Phase 1 in the summer of 2019, as roofing removals began, it was determined that 2 layers of additional wood blocking and fascia extender would be required to cover existing structure at the perimeter of the existing A Wing. Costs in accordance with Garland / DBS, Inc. proposal dated 8/9/2019 in the amount of \$12,760.00.

COR 2 Phase 2 B Wing Roof Duct Curb and Roof Drain Modification

During Phase 2 in the summer of 2020, it was identified that an existing roof drain location would conflict with a new roof top equipment curb and duct rail supports. The roofer was directed to modify the duct rail supports and roof drain location to accommodate equipment configuration. Costs in accordance with Garland / DBS, Inc. proposal dated 6/5/2020 in the amount of \$3,300.00.

COR 3 Main Entrance Canopy Modifications

Per Owner's request, the scope of work for the existing main entrance canopy was enhanced. These changes were documented in Bulletin GC-21 with revisions dated 9/15/20. Revised scope includes full replacement of roof at existing canopy and associated crickets, roof drain and perimeter wood blocking. Costs in accordance with Garland / DBS, Inc. proposal dated 10/23/2020 in the amount of \$5,500.00.

COR 04 Roof Permit Credit

Credit provided for permit costs included in Garland / DBS, Inc.'s contract since the permit costs were handled by the School District directly with the Township. Costs in accordance with Garland / DBS, Inc. proposal dated 11/30/2020 in the amount of a CREDIT for \$8,121.00.

COR XX E Wing Addition Wood Blocking Anchor Modification Professional Services

During Phase 1A construction of the new addition, Garland / DBS, Inc. requested permission to use a modified anchor detail for perimeter wood blocking. Bonnett Associates, Inc. and structural engineer, Elton-Thompson, Inc. reviewed the anchor method and coordinated the modifications. Cost for services were processed with MNSD and are hereby deducted from Garland / DBS, Inc. contract in the amount of a CREDIT for \$956.25.

Change Order RC-01 Total: \$12,482.75

- 2) John S. McManus, Inc. - Change Order No. GC-05 Summary:

COR 010 Cafeteria Door Credit

Owner requested change to keep existing hollow metal doors and hardware at the Cafeteria since these doors were recently replaced. Credit includes doorways 1/D113, 2/D113, 3/D113 and 4/D113 and includes wood doors and associated hardware sets. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 7/2/19 for a CREDIT in the amount of \$7,245.00.

COR 020 Classroom Addition Building Pad Soft Soils

During Phase 1A of the project, as the new classroom addition building pad was being excavated, the soils engineer, Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates identified unsuitable soils below subgrade elevations in the corridor area of the new addition located between column lines B and C. Despite attempts, these soils could not be successfully compacted so they were removed and replaced with engineered fill and a reinforcing fabric mesh as recommended by the soils engineer. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 10/24/19 in the amount of \$12,264.00.

COR 027 3531 Tyson Road Sanitary Repair

During construction of storm water modifications along Tyson Road as required by the project, the sanitary main for 3531 Tyson Road experienced blockages. These blockages were cleared, the pipe investigated, and the pipe was repaired. Costs

associated with these repairs are to be split between John S. McManus, Inc. and Marple Newtown School District. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 4/22/20 in the amount of \$3,468.00 (50% of total cost of \$6,936.00).

COR 040.1 Gym Tectum Wall Panels

During Phase 3, in the summer of 2020, the Owner requested to remove and replace existing wall panels in the gymnasium. Scope of work as documented in Bonnett Associates, Inc. Bulletin GC-17 dated 6/11/20 includes removal of existing panels and installation of new Tectum abuse resistant wall panels. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 6/11/20 in the amount of \$26,420.00.

COR 041.1 Cafeteria CMU Pier Repairs

During Phase 3, in the summer of 2020, existing CMU piers at windows in the cafeteria were found to have cracks and loose masonry and mortar. The mason was directed to remove and replace the affected CMU piers. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 6/16/20 in the amount of \$4,636.00.

COR 049.1 Kitchen Sanitary Line for Grease Trap

During Phase 3 of the project, it was identified that the planned routing of the new grease trap sanitary pipe from the kitchen to connect to an existing sanitary main would not achieve required ground coverage over the pipe due to the depth of the existing sanitary pipe tie-in and existing grading. To address this issue, a new path for the grease trap sanitary line was planned to tie into the existing sanitary main along the west side of the school property in accordance with Bulletin PC-06 dated 9/17/20 prepared by Bonnett Associates, Inc. Scope includes conversion of existing sanitary manhole to a drop manhole, installation of 160 linear feet of new 4-inch cast iron sanitary line and associated excavation and backfill. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 8/6/20 in the amount of \$41,197.00.

COR 051 Main Entrance Canopy

These changes documented in Bonnett Associates, Inc. Bulletin GC-21 with revisions dated 9/15/20. Revised scope includes steel reinforcement of perimeter of existing canopy, new masonry piers at existing columns, new rainwater conductor and modifications to concrete walkway to accommodate canopy rainwater conductor. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 10/6/20 in the amount of \$22,508.85.

COR 053 Boiler Room Exterior Handrail

Provide additional handrail at existing exterior stairs to the boiler room in accordance with Township Inspector requirements. Costs for work are in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 11/12/20 in the amount of \$4,058.24.

COR 055 Salto Lockset Installation Credit

Owner requested change have Delco Solutions install new Salto locksets in lieu of installation by the General Contractor. Costs for labor credit in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal dated 1/7/21 for a CREDIT in the amount of \$3,816.00.

COR 0XX Playground Surface and Chain Link Fencing

Owner requested change add fencing with gates to back playground and construct new playground on the west side of the new classroom addition. This playground will include fencing with gates, playground perimeter wood ties and mulch bed. All fencing components to be black PVC coated. Costs shall be in accordance with John S. McManus, Inc. proposal with revisions dated 1/14/21 in the amount of \$56,125.65.

Quantity Allowance Credit

Deduct for General Contractor's Quantity Allowance remaining balance of \$801.72.

Change Order GC-05 Total: \$158,815.02

Motion to approve USA Environmental 8436 Enterprise Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19153, in the amount of \$25,290.00 in asbestos abatement change orders for Culbertson Elementary school renovation project.

Motion to approve the following change orders for the Loomis Elementary School renovation project, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Garland / DBS, Inc. - Change Order No. RC-02 Summary:

COR 05 B and C Wing Roof Flashings

During Phase 3 in the Summer of 2020, existing roofing removals above the music classroom uncovered openings in the roof deck that required steel plates to be installed to span the openings. Costs for work associated with roof deck infills are in accordance with Garland / DBS, Inc. proposal dated 10/23/20 in the amount of \$9,681.00.

COR 07 Roof Permit Credit

Credit provided for permit costs included in Garland / DBS, Inc.'s contract since the permit costs were handled by the School District directly with the Township. Costs in accordance with Garland / DBS, Inc. proposal dated 12/18/20 in the amount of a CREDIT for \$6,716.00.

Change Order RC-02 Total: \$2,965.00

- 2) Accelerated Fire Protection, Inc. - Change Order No. FP-02 Summary:
Quantity Allowance Credit

Deduct for Fire Protection Contractor's Quantity Allowance remaining balance of \$3,500.00.

Change Order FP-02 Total: \$3,500.00 CREDIT

Motion to approve Plymouth Environmental Co. Inc. 923 Hawes Avenue, Norristown Pennsylvania 19041 in the amount of \$153,961.00 in asbestos abatement change orders for Loomis Elementary School renovation project.

15.03 Loomis PTO Donation

Motion to approve Loomis PTO with the donation of playground stencils and the attached sketch of the Loomis Elementary School exterior playground.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker thanked Mr. Gallagher for the nice finishing touches on the construction work from the summer and also thanked the Loomis PTO.

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker gave the following statement:

I would like to thank Tina for some of her comments earlier in her Superintendent's report involving her and other county Superintendents advocacy to the Chester County Health Department with regard to continuing to evaluate and re-evaluate under what circumstances that they return to full time instruction. It is as we all hear a novel virus and we all still learning new things every day and Tina, I appreciate the fact that you are there to remind the Chester County Health Department, should they need reminding, that it does constantly revisit, to continue to learn more, whether it is from articles, studies, and data, I think we are all hopeful that they going to continue to do so. I wrote a letter yesterday to a couple of representatives and higher level administrators of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The tenor of this letter was requesting vaccines for our School District employees and workers. The reason why I requested this, I like many of you are frustrated with some changes to the guidelines of how the vaccines were going to be administrated last week. This is not to say that those 65 and over can't get the vaccine, I know they are more at risk, but in terms of what our duties are here and the 9 of us as Board directors obligations are to the people of our school district, the employees of this school district, and the children of this school district. I understand that the sentiment that vaccines are not the only way this can get this done, to help us return to full time education, it is the simplest one. I am not going to give up on the fact that this type of late game change, the 11th hour change to bump 170,000 person cohort above our employees of Delaware County, our public school employees in Delaware County. I didn't like it, I don't think anyone here likes it. I am not giving up the fact that it is not reversible. So what we requested, on behalf of the Board, on behalf of the administrators for the Health

Department reconsider this as more vaccines become available. What we are asking for instead of the 300,000 vaccinations for 65 plus and the 18 to 64 year old with preexisting conditions, we are asking for 30,000 vaccines that will vaccinate all the public employees in Delaware County. That not only solves a lot of public health problems in the area, it brings our kids back to school. That is the position our Board is taking. We are extremely confident that the Department of Health assessing the risk associated with this virus and the fact that children are less at risk than adults, that this type of action would warrant a change in the guidelines. So we all feel confident in getting behind that position. It is not the only way, but we believe it is the faster way, we believe it is the simplest way, and we believe we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. If you share those sentiments, we encourage you to do the same. Many of you here contact the Board directors and that's okay that is what we are here for. I read every email, I take every call that I get, but we are not the only representatives, there are elected officials, there are administrators at many levels who need to hear from you, that you believe that the vaccines should be made available to public school employees, our teachers, staff, workers, and assistants, I would encourage you to do the same.

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

The following statement was read by Mr. Doug Killough, President of MNEA:

At the August School Board Meeting, I spoke on behalf of MNEA in support of the Board's decision to begin the school year in the virtual learning model. When the District transitioned to the hybrid model in October, I made no public comment because the decision was based on the metrics established by the CCHD and PDH. In November, when the District remained open despite the matrix indicating that the District should have gone back to the virtual model, again, I made no public comment. I withheld public comment at that time because you, Matt Bilker and Tina Sweeley, took the time to meet with our members and discuss the difficult decisions you had to make, and the variables you took into consideration in making those decisions. MNEA understands the difficult position this Board is in in having to make these decisions. There has been a great deal of cooperation between MNEA and the District's administration to ensure that the District stays open and provides the best education possible under these difficult circumstances. I want to take this time now, to publicly thank this Board and the administration for that cooperation.

MNEA understands the hardships that the pandemic is causing for the parents, students, and community of Marple and Newtown Townships. Our members are also parents of students that have been forced to learn from home. I've been at the Board meetings and have heard the parents explain the hardships they've faced, and the negative effects virtual and hybrid learning have had on their children; especially those with special needs. No one understands better than educators, the impact person-to-person contact has on the quality of education for a child. The members of MNEA very much miss our students and look forward to the day when we can safely return to face-to-face instruction with all our students.

Since Thanksgiving, the number of Covid cases in the state and country have gone up dramatically. Even within the District, cases have gone up resulting in the closing of buildings and the quarantining of teachers, students, classrooms, and sports teams. More and more members of this community and our faculty and staff have been touched by the gravest consequences of the virus, including severe illness and even the deaths of loved ones.

With the arrival of vaccines to prevent the virus, it finally appears that there is hope on the horizon. However, we are not out of the woods yet. As I said, we are still seeing rapid spread of the virus. Added to that, three new variants of the virus are now in the US. These variants are more contagious and possibly, more deadly. Unfortunately, there is still much we don't know about the virus, including its long and short term effects. In short, this is no time to let down our guard.

Last December, MNEA conducted a survey of our members' feelings about what learning model they felt more comfortable teaching in. At that time, less than nine percent of our members were comfortable with the idea of returning to the traditional learning model. More than 90 percent of our members wanted to stay in the hybrid model or return to teaching virtually. Much has happened since then and MNEA is in the process of conducting another survey to see how our members feel now.

Once the survey is complete, the leadership of MNEA will navigate whatever course our members set us on. That being said, I am confident that our membership would not want to return to a face-to-face learning environment without vaccinating all faculty and staff who want to be vaccinated. In the absence of being vaccinated, it is critical that the District maintain the mask and social distancing guidelines set forth by the Commonwealth and CDC. To return to a face-to-face model without the safety guidelines when we've done so much to prevent the spread of the virus in our schools, and when relief seems so close would be foolhardy, reckless and irresponsible.

Rather than venting our frustrations on each other in this time of crisis, I believe Matt Bilker has the correct idea, when he suggested that we spend our time and effort calling on the state to make vaccinating educators a priority so that we can get all of our students back to school as soon as possible; which would have the added benefit of allowing parents to get back to work too. That is the quickest route to the normalcy we all want so badly. A normalcy that cannot happen until everyone who wants the vaccine gets it. Thank you.

Community member had 2 questions. I understand getting the vaccine is a priority and having the teachers feel safe in school and getting the kids back full time, I am wondering if you are aware of the recent articles coming out, one as recent as today, from the CDC saying that there is no real evidence to say that if you don't have the proper precautions in place that there is no reason not to have kids in school full time. I feel at this point, I understand we want the teachers to feel safe, the vaccine should not be the deciding factor as to why the kids shouldn't be in school full time at this point. The precautions that the schools have taken are great and the cases have been really low. So, I think weighing the risk benefits it is a little bit dishearten and I think all the parents have been patient, it has gotten to the point when other decisions need to be made and it is not following the science. I was wondering if anyone could comment on that.

Susan Kauffman from the University of Penn has said as recently as last week that she doesn't think keeping schools closed if they have a strong safety plan, strong leaders and strong guidance, is needed. Wondering what your thought are about that.

My second comment is I know that Marple Newtown School District has received a considerable amount of grant money. I was wondering where you were going to focus, where is that money going to be allocated, any summer programs in place for catching up students who may have fallen behind this past school year with the way school has been going this year.

Mr. Bilker explained that he too has read a lot of those studies. I would encourage everyone to recognize that not one of us on the Board is a doctor so we need to rely on the medical advice that we are given. What Dr. Kane is doing along with the other Superintendents, I can't say this enough, it is more consistent to be trying to be sure the that Chester County Health Department is

also reading those articles, keeping abreast of all the new articles and studies that have come up. I agree with you that this issue has to be consistently evaluated and re-evaluated. I have said the vaccines are not the only way to return, it is the easiest way. It is going to solve the problem of the employees feeling at risk. The Chester County Health Department is ultimately the guidance that we rely on for our health and safety plan that we had to vote on this summer and it needed to be submitted to the health department as well as PDE. Mr. Sereni are you available to talk about the attestation, the implications of that and why it is legally what we need to comply with the certain things that are raised in it.

Mr. Sereni explained that he has 3 public school students and understand where the parents are coming from, I can understand where the President of the Teachers Union is coming from. Our Superintendent and Board President commented that there are tensions unfortunately with members of our school community and how they would like to see happen, but I think everyone would agree that we have to follow consistent standards. Where I come in as the main lawyer for the School District. At the very beginning the this Pandemic when it hit us in March and since our Superintendent has average about 3 hours of sleep per night, she has been working hard with dealing with all these changes and those difficult changes that all Superintendents have been dealing with, we must follow the basic public health and safety standards. Even though our Board and Administration is united in the desire to return our children to school as quickly as possible in a full time in person mode, like we were doing before the Pandemic hit, there are 3 sources of those standards to follow. One is Federal, the CDC, one is the State. Pennsylvania Department of Health and the 3rd is the local Health Department. Delaware County does not have its own health department and contracts with the Chester County Health Department. That is the Health Department that is the source of standards. The bottom line is when we take all these standards together, the standards are very clear right now, although they could change and obviously the Board and Administration want them to change, right now they include things such as face coverings, which the students that are in person learning are doing and the teachers and staff are doing, it includes a 6 foot distance requirement and that is the current standard, 6 feet physical distance. That is coming from the Chester County Health Department. That is not a standard that the district can legally ignore. When we take all these standards, many of which the district had to attest to abiding by the Attestation that President Bilker referred to, which by the way that arose out of the context of the worst level of transmissions that our county faced and the substantial level back in November when the State Department of Health recommended that the districts to go all virtual, that was merely a recommendation. The district decided to follow the standards that the Chester County Health Department permitted. The district maintained the recommendations from the State back in November was less favorable from our perspective of what the parents want for our children to be back 100% in person. Our district decided to follow the standards and the standards permitted to maintain the hybrid program allowing some in person learning, as long as we maintain that 6 foot physical distancing, same as the face coverings, the sanitization, and all the other things, many of which the State required us to attesting to. That Attestation is a fancy word for an affidavit that our Superintendent and our Board President are on the hook for. They are counting on me to give them the proper legal advice so that the district continues to comply with the law. That brings us back to the bottom line, we must continue as we always done, follow the standards and right now following those standards does not permit our district given the physical space, number of students back into the classroom in person and the primary barrier is that 6 foot distance requirement. Again, I can assure you that our Board and Administration are devoted to doing whatever is necessary to safely bring our children back in person 100% of the time while still complying with those standards. If the standards are amended and our district, I believe, although I don't speak for the district the Board does, I believe the Board will say we are going to modify our health and safety plan which based on the standards right now the Board and Administration have no flexibility under the law. So hopefully I have explained.

Mr. Bilker added that he should have deferred to Mr. Sereni because he was able to answer much better than he could. If I could follow up, this is a question I get a lot and I am not sure if you can answer. What about the School Districts in Bucks County and Upper Merion and my response is I don't know. I don't know how they are allowed to do it, I know that Bucks County has different rules so the districts can follow those rules which is what you are talking about. I don't know about Montgomery County and what their Health Department rules are. Mr. Sereni do you have any insight on that.

Mr. Sereni thinks that Mr. Bilker has hit on all the factors. One goes back to the standards. As you know President Bilker is an attorney, Ms. Chandless is an attorney. We want our clients abiding by standards, objective standards, not results orientated outcome. So as long as we follow the standards that are given by the authorities our clients, including the School District are legally protected. One difference is we are guided by the Chester County Health Department. Buck County is Bucks County and Montgomery County is Montgomery County and they each have their own Health Departments. Another difference may be, I am not certain about this, it is an educated guess, is related to physical facilities. I believe that one of these have 2 high schools, there could be a factor like that which permits one School District to follow what they are supposed to follow and have a different outcome. Marple Newtown is in Delaware County and have the standards they have to follow. So that is my educated guess as to what the differences. This could be the factors that dictate the different outcome here.

Dr. Kane explained that Bucks County, the last time I read the requirements that the 6 feet distance did not have to be followed for class seating. Our's do. And as far as the comment from Susan Kauffman, I was in a webinar with her for 2 hours on Friday and she said the kids need to be in school, but she never relaxes on the 6 feet, they are in giving in on that, even Dr. Rubin, on the 6 feet. We are trying to explain that we can't do both so please give us some flexibility, that is all we have been advocating for weeks, give us some flexibility.

Mr. Bilker added 2 points to what Dr. Kane said. The first is there is so much confusion on this. A lot of people talk out of both sides of their mouths, it's hard not to. You want to express, whether at the School District level, Health Department level, a state representative or a Health administrator, whenever you give your opinion that you want kids back in school, but you don't relax any of the rules. That has been really frustrating for me and my colleagues on the School Board. Going back to what Mr. Sereni said about the attestation form. This was put in our laps, we didn't ask for it back in November. We were forced to do this. Dr. Kane and my name is on the form and I care about that as I know Dr. Kane does as well. Sign it or you go all virtual, there were no option. I get frustrated when I watch the news briefings involving other government officials when they say we are turning over all of this to local control, no their not, they are making it impossible to get away from the standards that Mr. Sereni spoke about. And that is why we are all frustrated. That is why I keep going back to how strongly I feel about this, this is one way we get to the end of this, fighting them and all the red tape which Dr. Kane and her colleagues have been getting through the last couple of months has been really difficult.

Dr. Kane explained the following regarding the question of the grants. We have applied for every grant that we have been eligible for. I will share that sometimes we get very little time to get the grants in, they are very complicated. They required us to verify, describe what we are using the grant for and bet multiple bids and then we only have 10 to 12 days and there are times that we can't get information that fast. We have to pivot and all of our attention is focused on that grant. We have gotten all the grant money that we have requested. One became available last week. Every grant gives you categories of what you get to use the grant. One of the categories is

learning lost. You mentioned if there was any plan for summer school. We have been absolutely talking about what we can do for our students for summer school. Again, there are list with the grants, example PPE and this and that. We have more than enough PPE, so we as an administration have really been looking at learning lost and the future of what's to coming. We will apply for as much as we can. Dorie Martin-Pitone and Joe Driscoll are here also if you have more questions about the grants. Not sure you have additional questions.

Community member ~ no further questions, that answers it.

A community member want to first thank the teachers at Worrall, my kids love it. The principal has been great, learning support has been great, all the teachers have handled everything with grace, so I wanted to thank them. My question is if the CDC says you have to be exposed, I work for Jefferson Hospital and our exposure rate is 6 feet, unmasked, 15 minutes. So if all the children are masked and follow protocols then why can't more of them go back?

Dr. Kane explained our exposure is with masks. I have advocated for weeks on end, it has been a task, if we have been doing everything, and there are no exceptions, in fact we have a flow chart, it is still 6 feet, masked, 15 minutes or more.

Community member responded that she did not know that, ours is without masks in the hospital setting and I have treated hundreds of Covid patients, so that is why I was having a hard time with this.

Dr. Kane responded that it would be so helpful if it was without masks, we have people wearing 2 masks, some with mask and shields, they give us no exceptions.

Community member said that is understandable. I just didn't understand that fact of the knowledge. I just want to thank Worrall, their communication has been great. The have gone above and beyond.

Community member just wanted to thank you guys for calling yesterday and going all virtual. I was sick to my stomach thinking that they were not going to have school today. So thank you for waiting. Next, I have no doubt that you have been advocating for everything you been saying. I think its important that people know. Let me first say that I am a high school teacher in another district and it is important for people to know that. They already know that there are pages and pages of parents that are fighting the Union at this point and I am with them. It is the Union that is holding us back. I know you guys know this and won't admit it and that's fine. A lot of the schools that are open are following 3 feet and they have been safe, there haven't been any issues. It makes me sick to my stomach to hear teachers say that they care about our kids but they don't feel it is safe going back when plenty of other people are working through this. It makes me sick as a teacher, I can't defend these people anymore. It is the Union holding us back, I know you won't admit it and that's fine. A lot of the schools that are open are following the 3 feet and they have been safe and there have not been any issues. So it makes me sick to my stomach to hear teachers say that they care about our kids, but they don't feel safe going back when there are plenty of people out there in this. It makes me sick as a teacher, I can't defend these people anymore. If they don't feel safe go get another job. I just read about a 9 year old boy who killed himself, I have a son who is going to turn 9 in a month, I see how this affects him, teachers just don't care. Now understand that my son's teacher is amazing and I know she wants to be back full time, so she must be in the small percentage that MNEA was talking about. That made me sick to hear him speaking and I hope he hears me say that. I do know that is our main barrier, I have been pushing to get teachers vaccinated, your letter I went and did it. I don't see it happening

anytime soon. We are going to go into next year and I feel that this is going to be a barrier again. I have heard of a lot of parents pulling their kids out and putting them in private and charter schools. I could do this with my one child, but my other child is Special Ed and needs support. Another point is that kindergarten cannot be asynchronous. It is just too much. Thank you.

A community member spoke of her youngest daughter who is in first grade at Culbertson. I want to first say that I love Culbertson, I love her teacher, I have nothing but positive things to say about her. However she is my youngest, I have three older children that go to private schools. They have been back 5 days a week since August. They have had cases in both schools, every single one of has been isolated. They have not had any widespread cases in any of the schools. The Haverford School is pre-k to 12th grade and Notre Dame goes 6th through 12th, they are dealing with a lot of kids. St. John Neumann where she went for kindergarten last year, I heard such great things about Culbertson and how great a job the school district has been doing, so I took a chance and moved her. So I took the chance and I am not sure I should have moved her. St. John Neumann has been in school since September 5 days a week. I am a little flustered about it, I am now sort of regretting my decision to move her and I am concerned about the gap in her education that is occurring this year and everyone she went to school with last year is receiving a 5 day full education. I don't feel that she is getting that right now. That is my first frustration. My husband and I both work so there is a constant scramble the days that she is home. On the days she is home she misses the end of the day when my husband has to pick up our other children, I can't leave a 1st grader at home by herself, so that is a frustration. Lastly, I just want to touch base on the mask mandate, someone just asked about the 3 to 6 feet without a mask for 15 minutes. Chester County came into the Haverford School when they have had cases and said to us that when the boys are wearing masks they are not transmitting. My son could be standing with someone that tested positive and as long as he had his mask on he would not have to quarantine he was not at risk in getting that. I am not sure where the disconnect is and why private schools are held to different standards than public schools are held to.

Thank you for your comments

Community member just have a few comments. I am not sure how the vaccines is going to help us get back to school, Dr. Fauci says that it only lessens the symptoms, but does not prevent infection or transmission and we will still have to wear mask and social distance. So what I am afraid of once we get the teachers vaccinated, that they are still going to count numbers of cases and still keep our schools closed. If that happens we are going to have to help some of these teachers. The Science teacher who won the award last year has done an amazing job of doing the virtual learning. She has thought provoking questions, found videos on google that the kids can watch and that is fun. A lot of the teachers are struggling and grade point averages are going down. My daughter is at the High School in 10th grade and her grade point average has gone down because of some of these teachers. For Career Path they had to write a business plan, they had 2 weeks to do it, this teacher has not taken off late points for anything they have done so far. It was due on Friday, Monday she tells them for everyday it is later its going to be an additional 5 points off. My daughter was up until 1:30 in the morning. Now I watch my daughter, she is in the living room, take a break for lunch and dinner and is still up until midnight working. Last year the parents were mad if the kids had too much screen time. This year that doesn't seem to be the problem. So if we are not going to get back to school this year we have to help these teachers. So, my daughter is up until 1:30 finishing the project and it is has not been graded. One student scrapped something together and turned it in on Monday, said she was having a hard time submitting, got a 100. We will see what my daughter gets. The math teacher messaged her at 8:00 in the morning saying that she should consider not taking pre-calc and should take regular math. Is she seriously going to evaluate these kids after virtual learning math, when she doesn't

grade homework, she has 2 grades in there now the rest are test and 2 quizzes. My daughter bombed one test because she misunderstood the teacher, she told the teacher this and instead of the teacher talking to her she messages her at 8:00 in the morning and tells her she shouldn't take pre-calc. This teacher has done this to other students, one is dropping out of honors. The teacher has to stop saying this, when a student asks a question she says you should know that you are in honors. We were ready to go back in September. This virtual thing is not working, some of the teachers are getting worse. We need to look at this if we are not going back full time. Thank you

A community member with 2 students in district want to thank all of you for getting our schools open. I know that you are in your professions because you care about education and our children, they are our top priority. I have a question and point of clarification. Mr. Sereni spoke about the 6 foot recommendation and yes Bucks County Health Department went from the 6 feet to 3 feet with the World Health Organization recommended 3 ft. Upper Merion decided on its own to go the 3 feet and try to do their best at 6 feet. The point of clarification you use recommendation and standards interchangeably thought a standard was something we set our self and a recommendation was set by someone else, is the 6 feet standard in the attestation form we signed and the recommendation by the Chester County actually a law or that a recommendation that we are agreeing to follow as much as possible.

Mr. Sereni explained that he was using recommendation and standards separately. The recommendation I was referring to came from a health authority. What I was trying to point out was back in November when our county was at its highest level of transmission, the worst level in other words, the state recommended that all public schools go to 100 percent virtual. Our district did not accept that recommendation, they did not follow that recommendation. That was not a standard, it was merely a recommendation. The district decided to follow the standards set by the authority that I mentioned including the Chester County Health Department, as President Bilker pointed out, the state said that you are not going to follow the recommendation, and it applied to public schools, not private or catholic schools, have to attest to certain standards. In response to your question about the 6 foot standard, that was not in the attestation. The attestation spoke to such things as testing and face coverings. The attestation was merely promising to abiding by certain standards. The standards I explained is the 6 foot coming from different sources. That is reflected in the Health and Safety plan that the School Board adopted. So that is where it is currently is the standards set by the Chester County Health Department, that's the standard set by the state and that is the standard that set by the CDC. It has not lessen in light of the WHO.

I am not yet getting the answer I was looking for. It actually a law because we chose to go against the standard and did not get shut down by staying hybrid and I congratulate you guys for being brave and putting our kids first and realize what we are doing is working and looking out for our community. Is it a law? Is it a law that is legally enforceable?

Mr. Sereni explained that the recommendation back in November, the state wanted to go 100 percent virtual. That was a recommendation not a standard, it was a recommendation. The state said if the public school districts was not going to accept the recommendation must sign and file the attestation we referred to, The standard is not a law in this area it's a standard. When everything is taking together, when our district looks at what the standards to follow, that's what we follow. It is the solicitor's advice to the school district to follow those standards, at the same time to continue to advocate for appropriate revisions to those standards as we talked about already. In terms of the law it is my advice as solicitor to our school district, as it is the same advice from every Delaware County solicitor to every Delaware County school district to follow those standards.

Thank you, I did hear you say that it is not a law so thank you for answering that. My 2nd question that I have is you mentioned a program called ACT from CHOP where you would be administering nasal swaps to our kids every week. Would the teachers also have to do that?

Dr. Kane explained that we are not going to do students. We are going to start with our staff. We have a layered plan. When we would start with our staff as far as contract tracing, we would have to start out small. If we go forward with students we would have to have a policy, we would have to have parent permission and etc., etc.

In regards to the vaccine being the latest obstacle in addition to the 6 feet distance, the vaccine seems to be the issue. Do you have a plan "B" if we don't get a vaccine in the middle of February?

Mr. Bilker explained that a survey to families sent out by building principals requesting information of what the likelihood that you are going to remain in the "C" cohort regardless of any decision to go hybrid or full time learning. The design of the survey to figure out if we could with some degree of precision for the number of people in the classroom with the 6 foot requirements in some creative way based on the response of the survey. If you are saying that you are staying in cohort "C" and two weeks later you change your mind there is no enforceable way to say no, people have to make the decisions that are right for their family. So it becomes difficult to plan that out, by its important data to have.

We need to think long term for our children, how we think about our government, our politicians and following the recommendations for protecting our teachers. What are our options, allow our kids to miss the remainder of this year. Where does it stop? People have to make decisions, is it the vaccine all or nothing.

Mr. Bilker responded that is not what we said. The vaccines are the simplest way. I was reading CNN today and the new administration is to have the vaccine ready for anyone who wanted this that they would be available by the end of the summer. Again, not what we are looking for here, but in a very conservative one we are looking at. I haven't given up hope that they are going to reconsider our employees. Understanding that this is not what every individual wants and that we want to work on those distance mandates, the Chester County Health Department is going to follow the medicine. It is amazing that all those different opinions out there and you would think that science would agree with itself.

Community member just wants to be realistic right now and the vaccine being the only gateway to returning to school and try to think of other creative ways that would be feasible.

Dr. Kane commented that the community member mentioned using the Auditorium and Library. Our buildings are using them.

Community member was really referring to the elementary schools who seem to have the greater need for in person learning and I know they are not using the Library, which is large, the Art room, the Music room. They have partisan off the café that could be an additional classroom for each grade with a teacher. You could have another 20 kids in class with large spaces like that. I know it's not an easy solution, just wanted to know if the Board is open to or is it just a matter of the vaccine, to be like other districts that have plans to help parents and teachers, have everyone return or is it just the vaccine. There seems to not be a clear answer, so the answer now is that we are waiting for the vaccine and the 6 foot distance requirement. Thank you for all your information.

The president of MNNIEA had one question. You said that you gave them a list of everyone. Does that include all employees?

Dr. Kane responded that yes, she gave them a spreadsheet with everyone's position, example how many operations staff, transportation staff, administrators, what building they are in and what schools they are in, reported all employees.

Community member wanted to compliment the Board. You approved a split with the Counseling center at the High school, true counseling and Career, College placement and classes. I think it has been very successful. I have a Zoom meeting with one of my sons counselors for him to get on track for college. It was great, one of my highlights of 2020. I hope the one on one continues. It is very helpful even though I have already have a student that went through the process. It was a comfort. Just wanted to give you positive feedback, great decision.

Community member ~ more of a comment, then a question. I feel like a lot of the discussion is about how difficult it is getting the kids back to school. As a parent of 2 boys at Culbertson who are very bright and capable, our struggles are very difficult right now. My 2nd grader is having a difficult time with virtual learning and we have had to consult with Child Guidance to get some mental health support. His temper tantrums have gone back to like he is 2 years old again. We have touched base with the teachers and the principal but at the end of the day my home is not a classroom. I don't have the support, discipline, the structure, the schedule, all of the pieces he needs from in person services. I don't offer this at home, I don't have the ability. I work part time, my husband is home but he is working. We do our best, but sometimes our best is not enough from a perspective of wanting our child to succeed. My other son is in 4th grade and we have been talking about getting some mental health support as well as maybe some medication. He cries a lot, very unhappy, overwhelmed and stressed. Little assignments that he would get last year would not have been an issue but now it is blow ups, the worst thing that ever happen, can't get this in on time. It all stems from not be able to articulate what they are feeling and how they don't have the structure anymore. At the end of the day I am their Mom and we are raising them to be good people. I am their only authority figure along with their Dad. I am the teacher, café and recess lady, they don't have the structure. Parents don't talk about it because it can be embarrassing. This is hard for me and I am struggling right now. We are 2 college educated adults and we just can't do it. We feel like we are failing our kids. We are contacting private schools, how can I get my kids back to 5 days a week. I would like to know if the Board is collaborating with other districts, how to they do it and what can we do to mimic them. Even the catholic schools, I know of the Board members send their kids to catholic school, how are they doing it?

Mr. Bilker ~ thank you for your comments I am sorry that your child is struggling. I have a 1st and 3rd grader and I know it is difficult.

Community member was wondering if it would be possible to increase the days for the "A" and "B" group if the cleaning was done at night time? Alternating days each week to a least get the groups in a little more. The days my son is in school are is best days and he is having a hard time with virtual as a kindergartener. At this point I don't think it is age appropriate for them to be on the screen that much. Trying to look at it to see if we could give them more time, maybe rearrange the schedule to give them more time, not necessarily 5 full days.

Dr. Kane explained that Kindergarten is different because it is only a half day, that the tricky part. When planning we did not do "A" "B" ~ "A" "B" for contact tracing and the teachers thought it was better to have the students 2 days in a row.

Community member ~ can we eliminate the cleaning day on Wednesday.

Dr. Kane explained that on Wednesday's the teachers really communicate with the "C" kids. Kindergarten is really hard. It is the nature of Kindergarten in our district, it's more challenging.

Community member ~ is there any talk of extending the school day.

Dr. Kane explained that would be a big undertaking, but something I would explore. I want to get through the Pandemic first.

Community member wanted to recap a few things. One is that there is no law that you are behold to. That you are putting all your eggs in one basket as far as the vaccine and the challenge that we are all aware of the national roll out of the vaccine hesitations of the 1st and 2nd dose. You were directly asked by several parents if you had a plan "B" in the event this vaccination which appears to be where you are putting all you efforts into. You have said that this is not the case. Can you clearing tell us what your plan "B" or "C" is in the event the vaccination is not doable.

Mr. Bilker explained that he did not think that this is not a great representation of the statements that were made earlier. To say that there is no law, you are saying that there is not a Pennsylvania State Code statue or administrative regulations that exist, that does not mean that you can do things that are illegal by other means.

Community member ~ I am not saying illegal I am saying can you clearly tells us what is your plan "B" is if the vaccination is not doable for the reason I stated and more. It is clear that vaccination will take a long time because of the challenges that we are aware of, we all have a TV, a cell phone or newspaper and know that we are challenged nationally in many ways, the roll out and the logistics. What I am asking you is what is your plan "B". Many parents have asked this and you did not answer the question. Just give us a straight answer.

Mr. Bilker ~ I am not sure how to answer that question. If what you are asking, if the district is prepared to do something at this point in time, that our lawyer has said is illegal, is that what you are asking us to do?

Community member ~ I asked you a very clear question. Everyone here is very frustrated. What I am asking is what is your plan "B" in the event that the vaccine option is not successful, so that we can get our kids back into school. Another question that a parent asked is if you could collaborate with other school districts that have brought their kids back 5 days into school. No one answered that, can we please stop the pretenses here.

Mr. Bilker ~ with all due respect there is no pretense here. There are a lot of members in the community that have tuned in tonight and we are trying to respond to comments that are made. We are doing this so that we can have an open forum here, it is not traditionally a question and answer session, but since you asked we will do what we can to answer your question. My understanding of what is going on in Bucks County school districts and collaborating with those school districts is that Buck County is following the Bucks County Health Department who has reduced the distance mandate from 6 foot to 3 foot. I think 2 or 3 Buck County schools made those moves. It is my understanding that those moves were made against the advice of the superintendent.

Community member ~ are they breaking the law?

Mr. Bilker ~ I don't know the answer to that question, they are following the Bucks County Health Department and they reduced what their regulations are. Upper Merion who is in Montgomery County is a different situation. I don't know how they do it. My assumption is that they have been able to make the distance requirements work is because the attendance percentage is lower than ours and that they are able to abide by the class requirements. In response to the other question, we are surveying families to see who are committed to stay in group "C" to see how many families would project out in groups "A" and "B" over the course of the year to see if we could increase attendance while not violated the distance requirement. The results of this survey is not binding. If a family says that they are going to stay in group "C" and later in the year they change their mind and they want to come back into school they can do that. I know that Dr. Kane and the staff of the district spent ages mapping out the classrooms and hallways for the distance requirements in every building in the school district, they tried everything to get our students back more regularly than they are. Plan "B", Dr. Kane and the other superintendents in Delaware County have been trying to get the attention of the Chester County Health Department to see if the distance requirement still stands from what they put in place in the summer or if that can be modified. We are trying to work with not against the health department. I am dying to get our kids back to school. We all want this to occur, the Board, administration and the teachers all want to have the kids back in school.

Community member ~ with all due respect of this, if you find it so challenging to get it done maybe it is up to other people take on this responsibility.

Mr. Bilker ~ I don't know what you mean.

Community member ~ you stated that you are not relying only on the vaccine so I am asking you since that is the only thing you told us.

Mr. Bilker ~ I just gave you a different answer. I just want to make sure that we are on the same page. That is not what I just said. It is the simplest answer because it is not difficult to administer and once we have committed to it we believe we can open full time. What I said is to see if we can get the health department to change the rules, it is different than getting the vaccine and it is another option.

Community member ~ other parents have stated to use other spaces in the building, to be creative with these spaces so you can still bring kids into the school while still abiding by the 6 foot distance. Why are they not using the café, put up tents on the football field, use other rooms that are not be used as well. You mentioned that over the summer you looked at the arrangement and layout of the rooms you had available that was in the summer. Maybe it is time to bring in another assessor to look at this and possibly give us a different answer, maybe they didn't consider the spaces that I and other parents mentioned.

Dr. Kane ~ we looked at all our spaces and continue to look at all our spaces. The reason the Art room and Library are not use is that the health plan recommended that we don't go into those rooms because the many kids that would be using throughout the day. That's what those teachers are pushing into the classrooms. We have looked at so many possible solutions, there is only so many they can do under the 6 feet restrictions. As far as if there are any changes, our transportation department, food service is ready to go. Our schedules are built and I wouldn't want to change them on our parents, just trying to increase the amount of time the students go to

school. I would want to overhaul the food service or transportation. The administration and the teachers have been making adjustment as we go along.

Community member ~ I understand overhauling all of those things would be challenging, I am sure if you asked the parents to make a sacrifice, as opposed to the collateral damage their child has suffered under the current standards, and I don't want to speak for every parent, if anyone feels different speak up. I don't think that any parent would mind overhauling these things to get their kids back in school.

Thank you

Community member ~ I do appreciate all you guys are doing and I hope we can find a way to fight against the teachers union because that is obvious the issue. There is really no difference, they are still on their laptops, there is no class discussion although they are 6 feet apart so they can still speak, no demonstrations, they are still on their laptops. If we continue hybrid, are the students going to have teachers in the classrooms with them, to connect with them. We don't need babysitters. As per all our kids, my daughter and all her friends say it more depressing to be in school than it is to be at home alone.

Dr. Kane said she would really have to look into this, I don't know if the teacher is teleworking or is quarantined. Happy to meet with you and Mr. Beltrante. I know there was a shortage as the high school last week because of contract tracing, but if this is something that we need to know please tell us. I would start with the high school administration so they can look into this.

I am not saying that the teachers are not teaching, a lot of them are putting a lot of effort into this. I am saying when they are in-person they are still on laptops, and I assume that is why that letter was sent out because those students that were hybrid and now staying home and being comfortable. One of the teachers told students that he is staying home so he can see his mother. They shouldn't have that option, they have a job to do.

Mr. Bilker explained that why the test is so important, we will be able to know right away if a teacher test positive. Thank you for your comments.

Community member ~ I have 3 students at the high school and what Mrs. Tait just said is true. I am dealing with the same issue. I can't get any answer about these things. This system is not working at the high school. We want to help you, tell us what to do to get these kids back in school.

Thank you

Community member ~ Just wanted to make a clarification for a possible solution to an issue that was brought up earlier, the use of the rooms, Art, café, Library, Music. Why not have those rooms as classrooms with a Long Term Sub and you could get an additional 100 or more kids back at school. Something that should be considered.

Response ~ we have a hard time getting daily subs, they do not want to commit to something like this. The grant money has stipulations on how it can be use. Mr. Driscoll explained that the grant money received earlier was used to open up the schools. Any grant received has a list of requirements and what the grant money can be used for. We must meet as a team to determine where the money will be used.

Community member ~ My name is Lucy and I am a junior at the high school and in group "C". I just wanted to say that I have flourished during the virtual time. If you put in the time, effort, work, and pay attention in class it is not as bad as some of the parents make it. Virtual is tough on some kids, but the teachers are available for help in virtual help class. Just want to give a shout out to the teachers for working so hard to make this work. Safety is a priority, safety is important.

Thank you for your comments. It was nice hearing from a student.

Community member ~ One question about the vaccines. Also, good for you Lucy, but I think that it is different for the high school students. I don't understand why the teachers can't be at work. I go to work every day, I treat Covid patients and I come home every day and put my family at risk. There are grocery store workers, bank tellers that go to work every day, how can teachers have the option to stay remote. There has to be some kind of happy medium.

Mr. Bilker ~ thank you for what you do every day. The teachers union is not the decider here. Waiting for the vaccine come along, having the health department change the guidance, emotions are high, and everyone feels in different ways. I don't know what the happy medium is. I know that there are parents contacting the health department make sure that they have all the up to date information and studies.

Community member~ all of the discussion tonight about the health departments, would it be worth getting a petition together signed by the parents. Not a negative one, just letting them know that the kids would be better off in school

Mr. Bilker said it can't hurt. The more help the better.

Community member ~ with all of the discussion tonight about student mental health, is the district doing anything to help?

Dr. Kane explained that we have the 2 step program at the elementary level, child study, student assistance programs. The parents need to let the schools know that they need help.

Several teachers spoke ~ some of their point were:

- They were Parents and teachers
- They were not trained to teach like this, when they teach they don't teach for the income they teach for the outcome
- Would rather teach to a classroom of different personalities then to a square box
- Have taught for 30 years in Marple Newtown, and very proud to say that
- Feel that teachers are doing the best they can with what has been handed to them
- Teachers love their students
- Teachers are human
- Most teachers come to work everyday
- There are some that have circumstances that are working from home
- Thank you to the Board, administration, teachers and staff that is making this all work

Dr. Kane wanted to clarify that the teachers that have contracted the virus, it was not a transmission at the school. The Chester County Health Department did not confirm any cases transmitted in the school.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Tomasco urged parents to send their students to school.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 10:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary