

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, October 8, 2019
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

Board: President, Kathryn Chandless. Vice President, Matthew Bilker, Leonard Altieri, Barbara Harvey, Matthew Catania, Atsuh J. Baker, Matthew DeNucci, Nicholas Reynolds, John McKenzie

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. James Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Gerald Rodichok, Dr. Heather Logue, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone

Press: 0

Audience: 50

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mrs. Chandless called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Stood on the Pledge from the prior meetings

3. PRESENT

Mr. Baker, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Chandless, Mr. DeNucci, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

7 members present

Absent: Mr. Altieri

Vacancy: 1

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds made the following statement:

Many here tonight are for the hiring of the High School men's Lacrosse coach. Being an Alumni and Board member, I thought it was appropriate to make a statement. There are many factors that we look for when hiring the right candidate. The process consists of a multitude of rounds of interviews with district employees, administrators, and often times Board members. The hiring of the candidate is ultimately up to the Board members. I have personally interviewed the candidates to fill the rolls of Superintendent, Principals, Department Directors, Athletic Directors, and multiple coaches. Each time we have hired someone they have had something in common, they know how to be a Tiger and they know what being part of this great community

is all about. Some examples of former Tigers that are now coaches are Chris Gicking, Scott Williams, Joey Small, Jack Fallows, Rich Kelly, Katie Rose Thornton, Eileen Miller Chapman, Gia DeAngeles, Sam Mansach, Beth Greenwalt, Katie Klauss, John Slater, Austin Gallagher, Megan Goldhorn, Tara Laurie Wark, Pat Chelvis, Anthony Greco, PJ Dortone, Matt Glenn, Sean Vannicolo, and Sean Spratt, just to name a few. When Coach Hannan resigned we were forced to look for a coach and staff that would continue to take the Lacrosse program to the next level. We had multiple candidates apply and all were interviewed multiple times, by our administrators and also by some of our Board members. After careful consideration, one candidate and his staff really stood out. The recommended candidate, Kevin Merchant that is listed on the agenda tonight is not a new name to our district nor his Marple Newtown packed staff. If you were to walk into our High School gymnasium you will see Kevin's name hanging on a banner as the last Lacrosse All American to go through Marple Newtown. He was also All State and also Central League MVP while he played here. He went on to play college at UMiss and since then has coach various levels. In addition to all his accolades as a player, he is heavily involved in our community. As a Board member, we must take into consideration that our decision not only affects our current team, but also future teams and the program as a whole. We make decisions based on our community as a whole and will not be bullied, threaten, or divided by any individuals who wish another candidate be hired to their own benefit. As a lifelong resident and Alumni's of Marple Newtown, I can speak of how strong this community is, we are a community that will rally around each other when times are tough. We will make meals for each other when people are sick. We will raise money to help others when needed. We support our booster programs, we support our PTO's, and we support each other. Again, we will not be divided. To all the student athletes and the parents of the student athletes here tonight, I want you to always know that the best part of being a tiger is that it never goes away. You will always have a community that will always support you. Some people say Tiger pride, while others live by it. I truly believe that the person we are voting on tonight lives it. He lives it with our youth program, he lives it as a Marple Newtown alumni, Lacrosse alumni, and he lives it as a Marple Newtown resident. He embodies what a tiger is. Thank you.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Several community members spoke, some of the comments were:

- Looked at all the candidates equally
- Not sure what bullying is taking place
- Know that all qualified candidates were interviewed
- One candidate was highly recommended, PT Ritchie
- He does not live in Marple Newtown and that is what we are hearing
- Think that he is the most qualified
- Came back to Marple Newtown to raise their family because of this community
- Trusted the people that were chosen to interview the candidates
- Was told that PT Ritchie's resume spoke volumes, Kevin's was good, but PT's was great
- He is not an alumni, but neither is Mrs. Landes and she is great
- Our kids right now deserve great
- If we can get great now don't understand why we are not
- Don't understand what happen from August to now
- Those suffering on the kids, they didn't get to play fall ball
- Can understand wanting an alumni and yes give the position to an alumni if the candidate were equally, don't believe that this is the case here
- Several students spoke in favor of PT Ritchie. One spoke stating that Kevin was given a chance in 2010 and had a losing season

- One community member does not think that students at the lower grade levels will come to Marple because of this. The 8th grade team is great, they would come to Marple just for the name of PT Ritchie. So will the 7th and 6th grades.
- One community member spoke in favor of Kevin, stating that Kevin will teach these students great teamwork, communication skills and other ways to succeed in life.

Mr. Bilker stated the following:

- Was under the impression and understood that the athletic director and the last coach knew what direction the team was going and recommended Kevin Merchant.
- Is uncomfortable with the position the team is in today
- Glad that they came to the Board meeting to see what is going on
- Hope they are not here to put any pressure on us, not looking at anyone in particular, but they will be playing for a coach and if it is the one on the agenda tonight, this puts them in an awful position playing for that coach
- Yes, this is a great community. This is an academic institution. We just hired a superintendent, 2 principals in the past couple of months. We continue to hire great teachers and I wish that we could generate the type of interest when we are talking about major academic decisions this Board has to make

Mrs. Chandless stated that the Board see great resumes all the time. While they are great on paper does not mean that they are the right candidate for a position. The Board has a screening committee at times when they think they are needed. She spoke with Chris Gicking to make sure that she was right in what she thought. They did think that there would be a large amount of applications, but in fact there were only 2.

There was also comments made by other Board members that they rely on the recommendation of the Athletic Director, just like they would rely administrators when they make recommendations on other applicants applying for other positions. This puts the players in a very awkward position. It needs to be fixed, just not sure how to fix it.

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was none

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

There was none

11. OTHER REPORTS

There was none

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Leonard B. Altieri, III, Chairperson

There are no Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee items for this agenda.

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Matthew J. Bilker, Chairperson

13.02 Resignations

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) George McKale – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: September 24, 2019
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Briana Graziola – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 16, 2019
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Antoinette Liberati – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 3, 2019
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri

Vacancy: 1

13.03 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Nina Marczyk – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School

Effective: October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019
Reason: Intermittent FMLA

- 2) Denise King – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: October 1, 2019 through December 13, 2019
Reason: Medical Leave

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri
Vacancy: 1

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Dawn Farrelly – Special Education Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: October 16, 2019 through December 1, 2019
Reason: Intermittent FMLA

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri
Vacancy: 1

13.04 Return from Leave

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Paula Horton – Special Education Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Return Date: October 7, 2019
Returning from: Medical Leave

Motion was made by Mr. DeNucci, seconded by Mr. Baker

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri
Vacancy: 1

13.05 Appointments

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 and 2.

- 1) Aysel Tuna – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1; pro-rated)
Effective: October 1, 2019 through December 20, 2019
Reason: Denise King (Medical)
- 2) Sandy Speer – LTS Spanish Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$53,369.00 (MA-Step 1; pro-rated)
Effective: October 7, 2019 through May 4, 2020
Reason: Carolyn Campbell (Medical/FMLA/CRL)

Motion was made by Mr. DeNucci, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri

Vacancy: 1

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 5.

- 1) Matthew Brown – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 1, 2019
Replacing: As Needed
- 2) Elisa Reynolds - 12-Month Secretary
Administration Building
Salary: \$25,011.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: November 6, 2019
Replacing: Diane Fallows (Reassigned to MNHS)
- 3) Dennis Dion – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 9, 2019
Replacing: As Needed
- 4) Zack Carriola – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 9, 2019

Replacing: As Needed

- 5) Rebecca Moldoff - Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$15,208.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: October 14, 2019
Replacing: Lynne Hansell (Reassignment)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri

Vacancy: 1

13.06 Supplementary Contracts

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of personnel, pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, to activity contracts for the 2019-2020 school year. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. DeNucci

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Altieri

Vacancy: 1

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – A. J. Baker, Chairperson

There are no Budget and Finance Committee items for this agenda.

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

There are no Facilities and Transportation Committee items for this agenda.

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There as none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

18. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was none

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mrs. Chandless adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary