

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Dr. Gerald Rodichok, Dr. Heather Logue

Press: 0

Audience: Start 40 +, Regular meeting 8

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mrs. Chandless called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM and advised the audience that the Board met in Executive session prior to this meeting to discuss Personnel and Legal issues.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Altieri led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

All 9 Board members present

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Mr. Bilker had one addition ~ 13.07 addition to Professional Appointments item number 6

With no further discussion motion passed as amended 9 – 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Mr. Bilker attended a presentation at Loomis Elementary done by the 5th grade students. He invited them to present to the School Board.

Dr. Gretchen introduce the 5th grade class from Loomis to present their report on recycling. Students presented a report that they did once they investigated what happens if we do not recycle. They also informed the audience the amount of paper and plastic that can be recycled just in the schools.

Mr. John Beltrante spoke about Student Athletics at the High School. The Bocce Team won a Gold Medal and will attend the next Board meeting. He also spoke about Alexandra Pastris, she is 5th in the district for diving and Mike Hannig broke the school record for the 100 meter backstroke.

Mr. Beltrante then introduced the Cheerleading squad and their coaches. Mr. Driscoll presented certificates to the squad.

7. COMMENDATIONS

Mr. Doug Killough introduced the 2018-2019 MNEA Teacher of the Year, Holly Dunleavy. Mrs. Dunleavy has been with the district for 25 years and stated that it is an honor to be presented with this award.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Ms. Fay gave the following report:

- Busy getting ready for mini thon to support pediatric cancer. Will have volleyball, an escape room, trivial games, and much more
- Spirit week is coming up
- Blood Drive will take place soon, have 80 students signed up so far

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Covered with the above reports

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2019 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Catania asked for the following motions:

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement for Student No. 803488 to attend The Glen Mills School. This agreement was written and approved by the district's Special Education Counsel.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement for Student No. 882414 to attend The Mill Creek School. This agreement was written and approved by the district's Special Education Counsel.

Motion to approve the agreement between Austill's Rehabilitation Services, Inc. and Marple Newtown School District to provide occupational and physical therapy services to student(s), as needed, per IEP. This contract is in effect for three (3) years from July, 2019 to June, 2022. This is an addendum to a current agreement with Austill's Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement for Student No. 841197 to attend The Phelps School. This agreement was written and approved by the district's Special Education Counsel.

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

Question was asked about the recent reports on the Glen Mills School
Dr. Logue advised that the reports do not affect the day school

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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

12.02 Policy

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve the first reading and wave the second reading of the revision of Policy No. 124 Alternative Instruction Methods.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.03 Calendar

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Marple Newtown School District Academic Calendar, as presented.

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

Mr. Altieri advised the Board that he would be voting no on this motion due to the length of Spring Break.

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 1

Mr. Altieri voting no

Mr. Altieri asked for the following motions:

12.04 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Mr. Christopher Oakes, supervisor, to attend the 2019 Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador Program in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on February 28 and March 1, 2019. The cost of the workshop is \$900.00. The cost of lodging is \$87.69. The cost of transportation is \$109.62. The total cost to the district is \$1,097.31.

Motion to approve Mr. Christopher Oakes, supervisor, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Data Summit in Hershey, Pennsylvania from March 24 to March 26, 2019. The cost of the workshop is \$350.00. The cost of lodging is \$304.14. The cost of transportation is \$95.58. The total cost to the district is \$749.72.

Motion to approve Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, director, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Data Summit in Hershey, Pennsylvania from March 24 to March 26, 2019. The cost of the Workshop is \$350.00. The cost of lodging is \$304.14. The cost of transportation is \$95.58. The total cost to the district is \$749.72.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.05 Student Trips

Mr. Altieri asked for the following motions:

Motion to approve Dr. Douglas Killough, teacher, to accompany 90 high school students to travel to Arlington Cemetery, Washington, District of Columbia on April 17, 2019. The cost of the activity is \$6.00 per student, paid by the students. The cost of transportation is \$40.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Dr. TJ Gretchen, principal, and Mrs. Denise King, teacher, to accompany students in grades 2 and 5 from Loomis Elementary School to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on May 28, 2019. The cost of the activity and transportation is being paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Dr. TJ Gretchen, principal, and Mrs. Denise King, teacher, to accompany students in grades 1 and 4 from Loomis Elementary School to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on May 29, 2019. The cost of the activity and transportation is being paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Mrs. Noelle Newton, counselor, to accompany students in grade 3 from Loomis Elementary School to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on May 30, 2019. The cost of the activity and transportation is being paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Ms. Tracy Jacobson, counselor, Mr. Brian Isselmann, teacher, and Mr. Michael Winterbottom, teacher, to accompany 50 members of L.I.N.K. (Leadership Involved Networking for Kids) to travel to South Mountain YMCA in Reinholds, Pennsylvania from May

17 to May 19, 2019. The cost of the activity is \$175.00 per student, paid by the students. The cost of transportation is \$25.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.06 Athletic Trips

Mr. Altieri asked for the following motions:

Motion to approve Mr. Murray and Ms. Cessna, coaches, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Dive Boys Swim Team to travel to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for a PIAA Swimming and Diving State Championship from March 14 to March 16, 2019. The cost for the activity is \$1,500.00. The cost of transportation is \$2,093.21. The total cost to the district is \$3,593.21.

Motion to approve Mr. William Haines, coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Baseball Team to travel to Wilson, North Carolina from March 22 to March 24, 2019 to participate in a double header game. The cost of lodging is \$400.00 per student paid by the booster club and students. The cost of transportation is \$400.00 per student paid by the booster club and students. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Ms. Jill Gill and Ms. Laura Risley, teachers, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Bocce Team to travel to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania for the PIAA Unified Indoor Bocce State Championships/Special Olympics on March 20 and March 21, 2019. The cost of transportation is \$1,186.24. The total cost to the district is \$1,186.24.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.07 Music/Band

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve the various Marching Band, Jazz Band, Indoor Color Guard, and Indoor Drumline performances throughout the 2018-2019 school year. There is no cost to the district.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.08 Club

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve the American Sign Language (ASL) Club at the high school. The purpose of this club is for the students to learn the basics of American Sign Language while also expanding their communication skills. The club advisor is Mrs. Mary Dolenti.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Matthew J. Bilker, Chairperson

13.02 Retirement

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Roseann Cavacini – Principal's Secretary
Russell Elementary School
Effective: June 30, 2019
Reason: Retirement

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.03 Termination

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Michele McConnell – Food Service Worker II
Food Services Department/ Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 31, 2019
Reason: Job Abandonment

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

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) Rachel Salmon – Homebound Instructor
Pupil Services Department
Effective: February 1, 2019
Reason: End of Assignment

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

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 3.

- 1) John Fox – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: February 8, 2019
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Efthymia Kazantzidis – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 31, 2019
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Dominique Summers – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: February 20, 2019
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.05 Leave

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Christopher Penney – Physical Education and Health Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: February 4, 2019 through June 17, 2019
Reason: Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.06 Return From Leave

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Bruce Garner – Bus Driver
Transportation Department

Return Date: January 29, 2019
Returning from: Medical Leave

- 2) Marianna Hamilton – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Return Date: February 11, 2019
Returning from: Medical Leave
- 3) Roxanne Sgro – Accounting Clerk
Food Services Department
Return Date: February 19, 2019
Returning from: Medical Leave

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

With no further discussion passed 9 – 0

13.07 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.

- 1) Luke Coyle – Grounds Supervisor
Operations Department
Salary: \$52,000.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: March 4, 2019
Reason: Andrew Dougherty (Resignation)

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

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 6 as amended.

- 1) Megan Dougherty – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$45,809.00 (pro-rated; BA-Step 1)
Effective: February 5, 2019 through and including May 8, 2019
Reason: Replacing Margaret Johanson (Medical Leave/FMLA)
- 2) Bridget McKnight – LTS Middle School Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$45,809.00 (pro-rated; BA-Step 1)
Effective: April 4, 2019 through and including June 17, 2019
Reason: Replacing Danielle Gornish (Medical Leave/CRL)

- 3) Sean Vannicolo – LTS Physical Education & Health Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$45,809.00 (pro-rated; BA-Step 1)
Effective: February 11, 2019 through and including June 17, 2019
Reason: Replacing Christopher Penney (Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health)
- 4) Nicole Westman – LTS Librarian
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$53,069.00 (pro-rated; MA-Step 1)
Effective: February 25, 2019 through and including June 17, 2019
Reason: Replacing Margaret Makela (Medical Leave)
- 5) Rosemarie Trainor – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$53,069.00 (pro-rated; MA-Step 1)
Effective: March 11, 2019 through and including June 17, 2019
Reason: Replacing Erin O'Connell (Resignation)
- 6) Tyler Roth – Industrial Arts/Technology Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$46,679.00 (pro-rated; BA-Step 3)
Effective: April 24, 2019 or start date contingent upon release from present employer
Reason: Replacing William Murphy (Deceased)

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

With no further discussion motion passed as amended 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 and 2.

- 1) Jennifer Straub - Office Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$12,442.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: January 31, 2019
Replacing: Rita Horn (Resignation)
- 2) Antoinette Frese - School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$11,850.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: March 6, 2019
Replacing: Jennifer Straub (Reassignment)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.08 Summer Learning Study 2018-2019

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of the following professional personnel for the 2019 Summer Learning Study Program, item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Meredith Marks – Summer Learning Study Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: June 3, 2019 through August 1, 2019
Reason: 2019 Summer Learning Study Program
- 2) Charlotte Ashley – Summer Learning Study Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: June 3, 2019 through August 1, 2019
Reason: 2019 Summer Learning Study Program
- 3) Rachel Riggs – Summer Learning Study Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: June 3, 2019 through August 1, 2019
Reason: 2019 Summer Learning Study Program
- 4) Kyle Johnson – Summer Learning Study Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: June 3, 2019 through August 1, 2019
Reason: 2019 Summer Learning Study Program

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.09 English Language Learner (ELL) Program 2019

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of the following personnel for the Title III English Language Learner (ELL) Summer Program, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Martha Panos – English Language Learner Teacher - ESY
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: June 25, 2019 through August 1, 2019
Reason: 2019 ESY Program
- 2) Monica Diego – English Language Learner Teacher - ESY
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: June 25, 2019 through August 1, 2019
Reason: 2019 ESY Program

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

With no further discussion motion was made by 9 – 0

13.10 Transfers

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the classified transfers, effective no later than February 27, 2019, item(s) 1 through 3.

Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1. Aveda Kitabjian	Russell	Special Education Asst.	Loomis	Special Education Asst.
2. James Ross	MNHS	Special Education Asst.	Russell	Special Education Asst.
3. Mary Danenhower	Russell	Special Education Asst.	MNHS	Special Education Asst.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.11 Board Policy – First Reading

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the first reading of policies:

- 1) Policy No. 104 Vol. V Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory – Employment Practices (replaces and abolishes Policy No. 348 - Unlawful Harassment), as presented.
- 2) Policy No. 302 Vol. V Employment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent (updates language per PSBA recommendation), as presented.
- 3) Policy No. 311 Vol. V Reduction of Staff (replaces and abolishes Policy No. 310 Abolishing a Position), as presented.
- 4) Policy No. 323 Vol V Tobacco/Nicotine (updated language per PSBA recommendation), as presented.
- 5) Policy No. 336 Personal Necessity Leave (updated language per PSBA recommendation), as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.12 Supplementary Contracts

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2018-2019 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – A. J. Baker, Chairperson

14.02 Bills for Payment

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,557,294.77, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$589,865.95, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$75,902.08.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.03 Monthly Reports

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve monthly financial reports for December 2018 and January 2019, Budget Transfers for January 2019 and February 2019, and Treasurer's Report for December 2018 and January 2019.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.04 Taxpayer Request for Abatement of Penalty

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve the request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio No. 25-00-00608-00 in the amount of \$857.57

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Reynolds
After a brief discussion, this motion was tabled until next month

14.05 Annual Tax Assessment Appeal

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize the real estate tax appeal for Folio No. 30-00-01717-23, as follows:

2018 \$33,605,000 assessment / \$55,000,000 fair market value
2019 \$31,955,000 assessment / \$55,000,000 fair market value

Approximate aggregate annual tax dollar loss for tax year 2018 and 2019:
\$168,000

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

15.02 Painting Project at Worrall Elementary School

Mr. Reynolds asked for approval of the following motions:

Motion to approve Tanglewood Painting Corporation for painting stairwells, railings and new safety treads in all three (3) stairwells in throughout Worrall Elementary School. This project will be done under Costars No. 534165 in the amount of \$9,300.00.

15.03 Concrete Project

Motion to approve Premier Concrete Inc. in the removal of the speed bump at the administration building to match existing driveway (snow scrapper installation) and install new asphalt speed bump. The amount of this project will be \$12,000.00

15.04 Bonnet Associates

Motion to approve the Bonnet Associates contract for both Culbertson and Loomis Elementary School design and construction. This contract is pending solicitor approval.

15.05 Bus Lease (2019-2020 school year)

Motion to approve the renewal of the three (3) – year bus lease agreement with Santander Bank and to approve the related agreement with Wolfington Body Company, under the same terms and conditions as set forth in the original lease agreement approved on February 26, 2013. Both agreements will be subjected to final approval of the Solicitor. This three (3) year lease provides 35 buses and 35 cameras, the district will own the cameras at the end of the three (3) year lease, at an annual lease cost of \$353,500.00.

Motion was made by Mr. DeNucci, seconded by Mr. Baker
With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

15.06 Board Policy – First Reading

Mr. Reynolds asked for a motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 810 Transportation (updated language per PSBA due to camera installation on school vehicles), as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A community member raised concerns about the Black and Orange Fund

There was a brief discussion where the Board advised the community that there is no need for concern. Any monies raised by Whole Foods have been distributed equally among the 6 PTO's in the district.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Driscoll advised there was one more presentation by Mr. Chris Lee.

Mr. Lee gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding the online registration for Kindergarten. He explained how the software will work, that it will streamline the registration process. He also indicated that this is the way that all students will be registered in the district in the future.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mrs. Chandless adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary