

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

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

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

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

Press: Leslie Krowchenko

Audience: 75 start
18 finish

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mrs. Chandless called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Stood on the Pledge of Allegiance from the Special Meeting

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Leonard Altieri, Mr. A. J. Baker, Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mr. Matthew Catania, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Matthew DeNucci, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. Nicholas Reynolds, Mr. Robert Sack

Student Rep. Ms. Amer

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

There is one correction to 13.07 change of name.

There is an addition to the Facilities and Transportation report for the Generators at Paxon Hollow.

With no further discussion, the agenda was approved as amended 9 – 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

None

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Dr. Horowitz brought up Nick Giordano, he surpassed 1,000 points, averaging over 20 points per game. He led his team to the PIAA playoffs. Next she asked George Lambritsios to come up. He was named MVP in Central League, first team all Delco, first team Southeast PA, and first team all-State in the sport of Soccer, he also led the league in scoring. In Football he was first team all Delco and received honorable mention for Central League as a kicker.

Marple Newtown School District Teachers of Excellence ~

Dr. Horowitz explained that each year the Principals nominate Teachers of Excellence in their building. This year the following teachers were nominated

Margie Henry ~ Loomis
Jennifer Hockhouse ~ Culbertson
Samantha Partridge ~ Russell
Bonnie Martin ~ Worrall
Holly Dunleavy ~ Paxon Hollow
Steve Smilk ~ High School

The Teacher that was awarded the Broomall Rotary teacher of the year is Samantha Partridge from Russell. She will be honored on April 14th at the Rotary dinner.

Dr. Horowitz asked a panel of retired superintendents to read all of the applications and elect a teacher that will represent the district. The teacher that will represent Marple Newtown is Bonnie Martin from Worrall Elementary.

7. COMMENDATIONS

None

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Ms. Amer gave the following report:

- At the end of February, the high school hosted Region Choir. The event lasted 3 days with ongoing rehearsals and other musical enrichment activities.
- On February 26th there was a volleyball night. The Freshman and Senior classes worked with each other to put this successful event together. All proceeds were for the Freshman and Senior Classes.

- One of the biggest events held this year was the Harlem Wizard and MN Faculty basketball game and the High School open house. Before the game the community was able to enjoy food in the cafeteria and Tiger Guides gave tours of our newly renovated building. Community members and students were able to watch their favorite teachers play against the Harlem Wizards.
- Marple Newtown Performing Arts Center put on their much awaited Spring Musical; "Annie"! All schools from the district were able to see a preview of the musical to get the students excited and to come see the full musical and support their fellow students. The cast and crew put in a huge amount of time and effort to put together this amazing production.
- Students are looking forward to Spring Break as well as the upcoming month of April with many exciting events planned such as the Spring Concert and the postponed Freshman dance and much more.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Horowitz gave the following report:

- This past Saturday night was a huge success for the district when the Harlem Wizard performed to another sold out crowd at the High School. The amount raised was \$9,000.00, \$3,000.00 more than last year. All six PTO's will share the amount raised to help with their schools. Over 33 educators, administrators turned out to play the game. Dennis Reardon did a great job, while Greg Puckett had tours of the high school. Much to her surprise they rolled out the red carpet for her at the end of the game and present her with a gift and flowers. This is a night she will always remember.
- Dr. Horowitz had always said what a great music program that is here at Marple Newtown. She is proud to announce that for the 3rd year in a row that the Marple Newtown School District was presented with the Best In Schools for the Music program. Congratulations to all the music educators for their hard work.
- Dr. Horowitz showed a copy of the 3rd issue of In Community magazine which will be or already has been mailed out to 15,000 homes in the district. Thanks to Anna Deacon and the administrators for the 17 pages of district news.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Special Meeting and February 24, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Catania asked for a motion to approve Student No. 870016 to attend Delaware Valley Friends School as per the Settlement Agreement and Release. This is a new placement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Catania asked for a motion to approve Student No. 880425 to attend the Benchmark School for Extended School Year programming for Summer 2015 per Settlement Agreement and Release.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

MOTION: To approve Dr. Merle Horowitz, Superintendent, to attend the PASA Women's Caucus Conference on Education in Hershey, Pennsylvania from May 3 to May 5, 2015. The total cost shall not exceed \$800.00.

***This motion was withdrawn.**

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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

12.02 Graduation

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve the contract between Villanova University and Marple Newtown School District for the commencement event being held on June 11, 2015. The total cost to the District for this event is \$11,325.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.03 Conference – Teacher

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve Mrs. Mollie Fahnestock, Teacher, to attend the PAFCS (PA Association of Family and Consumer Science) Conference in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania on May 1 and May 2, 2015. The cost of the Conference is \$280.00. The total cost to the District is \$280.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.04 Conference – Administrative

MOTION: To approve Mrs. Lauren Hopkins, Assistant Principal, to attend the 2015 Women's Caucus Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania from May 3 to May 5, 2015. The cost of the conference is \$325.00. The total cost to the District is \$800.00.

***This motion was withdrawn**

12.05 Clubs

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve the Spanish Club at Marple Newtown High School. The purpose of this club is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the Hispanic Culture while using their language. The club advisor is Mrs. Carmen Bilc.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.06 Student Trips

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve Mrs. Sarah Winterbottom, Teacher, to accompany the ELL students to the Adventure Aquarium in New Jersey on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. The cost per pupil is \$12.50. The total cost of the trip is \$410.00 and is federally funded by Title III.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.07 Mural

Mr. Altieri asked for a motion to approve a No Place for Hate mural at Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Matthew J. Bilker, Chairperson

13.02 Retirements

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Dolores Thomas – Special Education Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: June 17, 2015
Reason: Retirement

- 2) Deborah Bowman – Principal's Secretary
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: July 2, 2015
Reason: Retirement
- 3) Leslie Feerick – Secretary
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: June 30, 2015
Reason: Retirement

Motion was made by Mr. Catania, seconded by Mrs. Chandless
With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.03 Resignations

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Joanne Corrigan – Classified Substitute
District
Effective: March 2, 2015
Reason: Personal
- 2) Abby Hughes – Classified Substitute
District
Effective: March 23, 2015
Reason: Personal
- 3) Lowell Seymour – Bus Aide
Transportation
Effective: March 12, 2015
Reason: Personal
- 4) Deborah Boppell – Non-Instructional Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: March 27, 2015
Reason: To accept another position in MNSD

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.04 Terminations

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Paige Nassib – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary
Effective: March 4, 2015
Reason: End of Assignment

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.05 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional leaves, item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Helene Marczyk – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: April 1, 2015 through and including June 17, 2015
Reason: Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health (extended)
- 2) Joanne Boulanger – Reading Specialist
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: April 1, 2015 through June 17, 2015
Reason: Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health
- 3) Jill Robostello – Art Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: April 13, 2015 through and including June 17, 2015
Reason: Child Rearing Leave – without pay (extended)
- 4) Lauren Kobylarz – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: May 11, 2015 through June 17, 2015
Reason: Medical Leave with pay

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified leaves, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Patricia Spicer – Food Services
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 3, 2015 through April 20, 2015
Reason: Medical Leave without pay

- 2) Diane Standen – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: February 24, 2015
Reason: Medical Leave without pay

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

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, item(s) 1.

- 1) Joseph Beal – Bus Driver
Transportation
Return Date: March 2, 2015
Returning from: Medical Leave without pay

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.07 Appointments

ADMINISTRATIVE

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following administrative appointment, item(s) 1.

- 1) Deborah Boppell - Human Resources Specialist
Human Resources Department
Salary: \$17.00 per hour
Effective: April 6, 2015

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Joseph McFertridge – Art Teacher

Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$42,646.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: April 13, 2015 through and including June 17, 2015
Reason: Replaces Jill Robostello (Child Rearing Leave-extension)

2) Sean O'Donovan – LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$42,646 (pro-rated) BA-Step 1
Effective: April 1, 2015 through and including June 17, 2015
Reason: LTS for Helene Marczyk (Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health - extended)

3) Brittany Fertman – Extended School Year Co-Coordinator
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: March 25, 2015 through July 30, 2015
Reason: Annual appointment to assist Special Education Supervisor with ESY duties

4) Jeffery Kuciapinski – Extended School Year Co-Coordinator
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$31.00 per hour
Effective: March 25, 2015 through July 30, 2015
Reason: Annual appointment to assist Special Education Supervisor with ESY duties

5) Nicole Stewart – Substitute Nurse
District
Salary: \$20.00 per hour
Effective: March 25, 2015
Reason: As needed

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified appointments, item(s) 1 through 8.

1) Ellen Salamone – Cook II
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$13.50 per hour
Effective: March 2, 2015
Replacing: Lori Strzelecki (Reassigned to Operations Department)

2) Amy Trahey – Food Service Worker II
Marple Newtown High School

Salary: \$12.13 per hour
Effective: March 25, 2015
Replacing: Ellen Salamone (Reassigned to MNHS as Cook II)

- 3) Caterina Salvino - Health Room Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$10.60 per hour
Effective: March 25, 2015
Reason: Replacing Lorraine Holt (Resignation)
- 4) Donna Lee Spera – Classified Substitute
District
Salary: To be determined by assignment
Effective: March 25, 2015
Reason: As Needed
- 5) Kim Bowers – Classified Substitute
District
Salary: To be determined by assignment
Effective: March 25, 2015
Reason: As Needed
- 6) Lowell Seymour – Classified Substitute
District
Salary: To be determined by assignment
Effective: March 25, 2015
Reason: As Needed
- 7) David Serpentine – Theme Editor
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$15.00 per hour
Effective: March 25, 2015
Replacing: Britt Ezra (Resignation)
- 8) Susan Geddes – Building Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$6,514.00 (pro-rated)
Effective: March 25, 2015
Replacing: Debra Collings (Resignation)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.08 Supplementary Contracts

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following supplemental resignations, item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Romi Power – Head Coach Girls Tennis
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: March 1, 2015
Reason: Personal
- 2) James Wienckowski – 2nd Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: March 15, 2015
Reason: Personal
- 3) Nate Tierney - Assistant Coach, Baseball
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 19, 2015
Reason: Personal

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following supplemental appointments, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Andrew Davis – Assistant Coach, Girls Lacrosse
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$1,870.00 (The amount of the contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement.)
Effective: 2015 school year/season
Reason: Replaces Tammy Brogan (resignation)
- 2) Michael Willard – Assistant Coach, Girls Track & Field (Field events)
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$2,992.00 (The amount of the contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement.)
Effective: 2015 school year/season
Reason: Replaces Melissa McCarthy (filled open position as Girls Track & Field Track events)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.09 Tenure

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to record in the records of the Board the attainment of tenure and the awarding of a Professional Employee Contract to the following Temporary Professional employees who have been certified by the Superintendent of Schools as having completed three years of satisfactory service in the Marple Newtown School District in accordance with Section 1108 of the School code, item(s) 1.

- 1) Geraldine Palmer Worrall Elementary Achieved: January 31, 2015

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

13.10 Supplemental Insurance

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve a one year agreement with MetLife Resources to sponsor a voluntary enrollment offering through Universal LifeEvents regarding supplemental life insurance and long-term care benefit policies. There is no cost to the District and all payroll deductions will consist of 100% employee funds.

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

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 \$2,880,575.69, Capital Reserve bills in the amount of \$64,850.00 and Food Service bills in the amount of \$95,398.92.

Motion made by Mr. Catania, seconded by Mrs. Chandless

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.03 Transfers and Monthly Reports

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve monthly financial reports for January 2015, Treasurer's Report for February 2015, and Budget Transfers for February 2015.

Informational item monthly financial reports for February 2015.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.04 2015-2016 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the 2015-2016 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget in the amount of \$8,246,266.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.05 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Special Education Agreement

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the 2015-2016 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Special Education Agreement in the amount of \$765,791.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.06 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical Schools Budget

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the 2015-2016 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical Schools Budget in the amount of \$12,286,905.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

14.07 Taxpayer Assessment Appeal

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-01717-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows: 2013 \$720,000 asst/\$1,000,000 FMV, 2014 \$740,000 asst/1,000,000 FMV, 2015 \$915,300 asst/1,350,000 FMV. Aggregate annual tax dollar increase for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 tax years: \$27,934.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

15.01 Committee Report – Matthew A. DeNucci, IV, Chairperson

Mr. DeNucci asked for a motion to renew the Designated Person Contract with Environmental Control Systems, Inc. for two years ending June 30, 2117. The annual retainer fee will be waived.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. DeNucci asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the TransFinder Routing Software for the Transportation Department to replace the Districts current 16 year old software at a cost of \$31,745.00. As presented at the March Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. DeNucci asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims with Wohlsen Construction Company, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. DeNucci asked for a motion to approve the Administration to purchase a Technology Support Plan for the Lutron lighting system at Marple Newtown High School for up to five years coverage at an annual cost of \$14,702.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. DeNucci asked for a motion to approve a change order for the Paxon Hollow Generator project to add two gas pressure regulators. These regulators are required in order for the generators to work and were not part of the specifications. The work is to be done at a cost not to exceed \$6,010.00.

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

After a brief discussion, motion passed 7 – 2

*Mr. Dumin will ask Don Bonnett to pick up the cost of this motion.

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

None

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

None

18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

None

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was a question about TransFinder. Also about prices for GPS and cameras. That would be an additional cost and would be approved later.

Also a question about the back ground checks. How are the offices going to handle these volunteers?

Mr. Orwig explained that there is a draft for the administrators to look at. Once they are returned to him there will be a presentation to the HR committee. Once that is done they

will roll it out. It will be posted on the website, Mr. Orwig will be attending PTO meetings and information will be sent out to the parents.

If possible to get information out to parents prior to the school year it would be best in order to be able to work on getting the year started. Also, is the plan for the website to get the ads moved to another location on the webpage? Dr. Horowitz explained that the new webpages should be done in about a month.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mrs. Chandless adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted

**Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary**