

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

Board: President Kathryn Chandless, Vice-President Nancy Galbraith, Mr. Robert Sack, Mr. James Lanzalotto (by phone), Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe, and Mr. John McDevitt.

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Joseph Driscoll,
Mr. Lance Freeman, Mr. Michael Dumin.

Press: Leslie Krowchenko

Audience: 26

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Kathryn Chandless called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Mr. Robert Sack then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present were Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mr. James Lanzalotto (by phone), Ms. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe, Mr. John McDevitt and Mr. Robert Sack.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Kathryn Chandless requested a motion to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion was made by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith and seconded by Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe.

With no discussion, motion passed, 6-0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments at this time.

**6. INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES TO FILL THE SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES
CREATED BY THE RESIGNATIONS OF FRED DEWEY AND JAMIE L. MARIANO.**

At 7:00p.m., President Kathryn Chandless called a recess to the meeting, so the Board and the candidates could prepare for the interview session. Meeting was again called to order at 7:15p.m.

The first candidate, Mr. Leonard Altieri, was introduced. President Chandless asked for questions from the board. Mr. John McDevitt asked why Mr. Altieri was interested in the seat

and what could he bring to the Board as a member. Mr. Altieri responded that he was a product of the district, having graduated from Marple Newtown High School in 2008. He stated that since then, he has excelled due to the tools he received in Marple Newtown School District. His entire life was built on giving back to his community and he felt that this was the way he could give back to the district. He stated that in 2010, then-Governor Rendell appointed him to the Board of Higher Education, so he is familiar with all aspects this Board must deal with, including negotiations and budgets. Having been out of high school for five years gives him a unique perspective on the needs of the students. Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe stated that it was nice to see someone want to come full circle-from former Student Representative to Board member. Mr. Altieri stated that, while Student Rep, he worked on the Middle States Accreditation committee. Mrs. Nancy Galbraith stated that anyone who thinks the district doesn't do a good job need only look at Mr. Altieri and what he has accomplished for himself. She spoke to the time commitment necessary to be a Board member, and asked if Mr. Altieri thought he could devote that time effectively. Mr. Altieri responded that he has no outside commitments, and is prepared to devote whatever time is necessary to the Board. Mr. Robert Sack asked Mr. Altieri what he thought was the biggest challenge facing the Board. Mr. Altieri responded that no one wants to see the district not make AYP. The Board needs to devote itself to the most fiscally efficient ways to make our scores go up. Mrs. Kathryn Chandless ended the interview, applauding Mr. Altieri's willingness to serve.

The second candidate, Mr. Atsushi J. Baker, was then introduced. Mr. McDevitt asked Mr. Baker why he wants to serve on the Board, and what tools did he bring to the table. Mr. Baker responded that he wants to help the community, and in his capacity in his job with Verizon as well as seats he has previously held on the Marple Zoning Board and Sewer Board, has worked to make the most effective use of a large budget. Mr. Sack then asked what Mr. Baker saw as the biggest challenge to the district. Mr. Baker responded that a balanced budget that enabled the students to have the best programs with as close to 0% tax increase as possible. Mrs. Kathryn Chandless asked if Mr. Baker understood the time commitment to being a Board member. Mr. Baker responded that he absolutely did, and was more than willing to make it. Mrs. Chandless then thanked Mr. Baker, and asked him to wait with Mr. Altieri so that the Board may deliberate.

Once the candidates had left the Board Room, discussion began. Mr. McDevitt stated that Mr. Altieri seemed almost overqualified for the seat, and that he had no qualms about him coming on the Board. Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe stated that she has known Mr. Baker for some time, and that he is logical, calm and thoughtful. She knows he would make decisions that would come from integrity, and is a go-to guy for moving forward and negotiating easily. Mr. Robert Sack stated that he too knows Mr. Baker, and thinks of him as a rational intelligent man who cares; he will make decisions based on what is right. Mrs. Nancy Galbraith stated that she knows both candidates, and can't say enough good things about either of them. Both Mr. Altieri and Mr. Baker were approved as nominees for the two vacant seats left by the resignations of Mr. Fred Dewey and Mrs. Jamie Mariano by consensus of the Board. , and Mr. Atsushi J. Baker was officially nominated by Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe.

7. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith nominated Mr. Leonard Altieri III to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Fred Dewey. Mrs. Kathryn Chandless then asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith and seconded by Mr. John McDevitt. With no further discussion, motion passed, 6-0

Mrs. Kathryn Chandless then asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Leonard Altieri III as school director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Fred Dewey.

Motion was made by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith and seconded by Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe.

A roll call vote was requested:

Ayes: Mr. John McDevitt, Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe, Mr. James Lanzalotto, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Robert Sack

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Mr. Altieri was approved, 6-0

8. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Honorable Barry C. Dozer administered The Oath of Office and The Loyalty Oath to Mr. Leonard Altieri III.

The newly sworn-in Mr. Altieri assumed his seat at the board table.

9. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE

Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe nominated Mr. Atsushi J. Baker to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Jamie Mariano. Mrs. Kathryn Chandless then asked for a motion to close nominations. Motion was made by Mr. John McDevitt and seconded by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith. With no further discussion, motion passed, 6-0

Mrs. Kathryn Chandless then asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Atsushi J. Baker as school director to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Jamie Mariano.

Motion was made by Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe and seconded by Mr. Robert Sack.

A roll call vote was requested:

Ayes: Mr. John McDevitt, Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe, Mr. James Lanzalotto, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Robert Sack

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Mr. Baker was approved, 6-0

10. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Honorable Barry C. Dozer administered The Oath of Office and The Loyalty Oath to Mr. Atsushi J. Baker.

The newly sworn-in Mr. Baker assumed his seat at the board table.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments at this time.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith stated that she couldn't be happier with the proceedings tonight, and that she looks forward to having the final open seat filled. She then stated that she felt the Board was headed in a very good direction.

13. ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Board Secretary