

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Committee & Board: Mr. Robert Sack, Mr. A.J. Baker, Mr. Leonard Altieri, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Sherry-Lee McAuliffe

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

Press: 0

Audience: 7

Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Robert Sack called the meeting to order at 9.27 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda for March 12, 2013.

II. Approval of February 12, 2013 meeting minutes

Mr. Sack requested approval of the minutes of the February 12, 2013 Committee Meeting. With no discussion, minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Financial Reports

a. Budget Transfers

Budget transfers will be for the entire month in next week's attachment. With Spring Break, there will be no time for a second check run this month, so it will be all-inclusive in the March Regular meeting report.

IV. Donation

- a. Motion: To accept \$18,000.00 from Goshen Mechanical of fin tube radiation for heating.

A motion will be put on the March agenda to accept an \$18,000.00 donation from Goshen Mechanical of fin tube radiation for heating. Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Dumin explained that this came to the district as a result of an incorrect delivery, and it was more cost effective for the contractor to make the donation than to spend money on the return and re-stocking fees. It includes 275' of fin tube which will enable the district to make repairs to the gyms in the High School and Paxon Hollow.

There was no further discussion.

V. Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget

A motion to approve the operating budget for the Delaware County Intermediate Unit will be placed. Mr. Driscoll explained that the district does this every year, and it is not money actually paid to the IU, it is pulled from our State subsidy.

VI. 2013-2014 Budget Update

Mr. Driscoll presented a short slide show, running down the budget timeline. HE stated that the Preliminary Budget had been submitted and accepted by the State in February. Changes to that budget are as follows:

Revenue

-Sequestration has amounted to less money for all, in areas such as IDEA and Title Programs. The district stands to lose approximately \$80 thousand dollars in IDEA money; Title Programs will have a loss but shouldn't make a large impact.

- There is an improved outlook for local revenue sources, mostly due to the new Toll Bros. construction. Assessments have increased in the 169 new properties on the DuPont Estate, which should translate to increased revenue equaling approximately \$180 thousand dollars. Toll Bros. is fighting this, asking for revised assessments. The hope is that the matter will be resolved by April.

Transfer taxes are also picking up, with an increase in house sales in the district.

Expenses

-There is an increase in the technical school budget. That figure is determined by student placements, and is reconciled at the end of the year according to how many students actually attended from our district. So far, the 2013-2014 projected budget figure is increased by approximately \$60 thousand dollars.

-Increase on Medical Premiums – Second Look

Mr. Driscoll stated that he and Mr. Lance Freeman had their second look regarding Medical Premiums last Thursday. While there was a reduction from the first look, it was only about 1.7%. Mr. Driscoll is hoping for a larger reduction before the plan is finalized. Any reductions will be applied to the \$450 thousand dollar gap.

Special Education

-Mr. Driscoll Asked Dr. Merle Horowitz to explain considerations for Special Education in the district for 2013-2014. Dr. Horowitz stated that while the Federal Government pays for early intervention programs, districts are charged with transportation costs. Early intervention students are transitioned back to their home districts by either Kindergarten or First Grade, dependent on their needs. IEP teams in the district meet to discuss each individual placement. Projections are that Marple Newtown will have a slight increase over the 2013-2014 year in student placements transitioning into the district. We are not sure yet if our Developmentally Delayed class will be sufficient to accommodate the number of students in this influx. We should know if a second classroom is necessary by the end of March.

Applications for Exceptions from PDE

- Applications from PDE for exceptions will be in March 27, 2013

Mr. Altieri stated that he met with Mr. Driscoll, and that it was one of the most beneficial meetings he has had so far. He thanked Mr. Driscoll for explaining financial matters to him clearly and understandably. Mr. Driscoll then stated that he would be happy to meet with anyone who wished to explain any details that were unclear.

Budget Workshops and Committee Meetings

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2013

Proposed Final Budget

- The vote for the Proposed Final Budget can be at the April 23, 2013 Voting Meeting, or if needed, can be pushed back to the May 28, 2013 Voting Meeting.

Final Budget

- The Final Budget can be voted on at the May 28, 2013 voting meeting, or, if needed, can be pushed back to the June 25, 2013 voting meeting.

Mr. Sack stated that a budget workshop needed to be scheduled. Mr. Driscoll stated that one would be held with the meeting on April 9, 2013, starting at 6:30 p.m. At that time, the Board may decide if anything additional is required.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Adjournment

With no further discussion Mr. Sack adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.