

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 25, 2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Minutes**

Board: Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Vice President, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Nicholas Reynolds, Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Dr. Heather Logue, Mr. Neil Evans

Press: 0

Audience: 51

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bilker explained the procedures for the meeting

**3. PRESENT**

Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Chandless, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Siano, Mrs. Tomasco

9 Board members present

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion accept the agenda, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)**

There was none

**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**

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

I would like to welcome Neil Evans to MNSD as our new substitute Director of Pupil Services. This week we welcome our new teachers who have been participating in our new teacher induction program.

As we begin our 2020-2021 school year, the Marple Newtown teachers have demonstrated their commitment to teaching and learning in a virtual environment.

During the summer months, the Marple Newtown educational community invested their time in professional growth through participation in a variety of virtual learning opportunities.

Many professional development sessions focused on delivering curriculum and instruction via Schoology, our new learning management system.

Many teachers also earned certifications in supplemental instructional technology resources, such as Nearpod, Edpuzzle, and Seesaw.

In addition, a menu of synchronous ("live") professional learning options were scheduled for the opening week of school for teachers, and collaborative sessions will be facilitated by the Teaching and Learning team throughout the school year.

We thank our teachers for their efforts to enhance teaching and learning for all students.

**Construction Projects**

Mr. Bilker, Jake Gallagher, and I walked through Culbertson and Loomis today and the construction is very close to be completed.

With the final phase underway, the construction projects have provided new educational spaces for our students to learn and grow for many years to come.

Beginning our school year virtually required us to refocus traditional practices such as student orientations, teaching and learning, and student participation and engagement.

Our ultimate goal is to have all of our students return to school in the safest way possible. This year will be a process of shifting from fully virtual to in-person instruction in schools. We understand this plan for beginning school may not be what we had all hoped for, but for now a virtual start allows us to maintain safety as our top priority.

Delaware County Superintendents Committed to Athletics for the 2020-21 School Year. Delaware County, Pa—The Delaware County superintendents strongly support athletics and are committed to providing opportunities for our student athletes during the 2020-21 school year. We, consequently, will work collaboratively with our athletics directors and principals to develop

responses to both motions passed by the PIAA on August 21, 2020. The first motion that passed 25-5, allows fall sports to begin at the earliest, on August 24, 2020 at the discretion of the local school district. The second motion, which was unanimously approved by the committee, opened the door for the PIAA to pursue alternative solutions to play fall sports at another point in the year. The second motion acknowledges the guidance from Governor Wolf and the Chester County Health Department to begin athletic competitions after January 1, 2021.

We understand the importance of athletics to our students and their families, and it is for this reason that we are making this decision a priority. For the districts that are members of the Central League, their school communities can expect a collaborative decision that addresses both of the PIAA motions by Monday, August 31.

## **10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting, and the August 4, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

## **11. OTHER REPORTS**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Individual Services contract for Student No. 882715 to attend Private School for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new contract.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

## **12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**12.01** Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

**12.02** District Calendar

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the District Calendar for the Virtual Schedule for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, as amended.

Motion was made by Mrs. Tomasco, second by Mrs. Alberti

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the District Calendar for the Hybrid Schedule if this schedule is enacted October of 2020, as amended.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked what the difference was in the two motions. Dr. Kane explained that if

we are still virtual on Election day it would be counted as a school day, if we are back in the buildings, there will be no school on that day.

**12.03** Emergency Instructional Time Template

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template, as amended, based on beginning the 2020-2021 school year following the Virtual Schedule.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

**12.04** Sports Medicine Agreement

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Sports Medicine Agreement between the Marple Newtown School District and Beatty Harris Sports Medicine, LLC located at 3537 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania effective on August 1, 2020, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

**12.05** Policy

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve Policy No. 817 Livestream Video, as presented. The administration is requesting to waive the first reading of this policy.

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 – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

**13.02** Retirements

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Patricia Kelly – English Teacher  
Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Effective: August 10, 2020  
Reason: Retirement
- 2) Catherine Brachman – School Nurse  
Loomis Elementary School  
Effective: August 13, 2020

Reason: Retirement

- 3) Laura Gambone – Reading Specialist  
Marple Newtown High School  
Effective: August 14, 2020  
Reason: Retirement
- 4) Marguerite Stathes – English Language Learner Teacher (ELL)  
Culbertson and Loomis Elementary Schools  
Effective: October 1, 2020  
Reason: Retirement
- 5) Patrice Scalpato – English Language Learner Teacher (ELL)  
Russell and Worrall Elementary Schools  
Effective: October 1, 2020  
Reason: Retirement

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker thanked the retiree's for all that have done and wished them well in the future.

### **13.03 Resignations**

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Adelaida Ullah – Food Service Worker II  
Food Services Department/ Marple Newtown High School  
Effective: August 10, 2020  
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Christine Deegan – Title I Assistant  
Russell Elementary School  
Effective: August 20, 2020  
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Maria Boerckel - School Assistant  
Culbertson Elementary School  
Effective: August 21, 2020  
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### **13.04 Leave**

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Kathleen Mongeluzi - Special Education Assistant  
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School  
Effective: September 8, 2020 through and including December 7, 2020  
Reason: FFCRA: September 8, 2020 through and including  
December 7, 2020  
Medical Leave: September 8, 2020 through and including  
September 21, 2020

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

**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) Kathleen Fortebuono – English Language Learner Teacher  
Culbertson and Loomis Elementary Schools  
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1)  
Effective: August 31, 2020  
Replacing: Marguerite Stathes (Retirement)
- 2) Kaitlin Maderia – Art Teacher  
Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1)  
Effective: August 31, 2020  
Replacing: Penny Gardner (Retirement)

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 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 through 3.

- 1) Kristy Ebersole - Special Education Assistant  
Culbertson Elementary School  
Salary: \$15,475.00  
Effective: September 8, 2020  
Replacing: Margaret Eng (Resignation)

- 2) Connie Ryan - Special Education Assistant  
Culbertson Elementary School – Autistic Support  
Salary: \$15,475.00  
Effective: September 8, 2020  
Replacing: Dawn Farrelly (Resignation)
- 3) Terry Spratt - Special Education Assistant – (floater position)  
Pupil Services Department/District-wide assignment  
Salary: \$15,475.00  
Effective: September 8, 2020  
Replacing: Efthymia Kazantzidis (Resignation)

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### 13.06 Transfers

#### PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the professional transfers, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, item(s) 1 and 2:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1. Chelsea Banes	PHMS	Art Teacher	MNHS	Art Teacher
2. Amy Gallagher	MNHS	English Teacher	MNHS	Reading Specialist

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### 13.07 Educational Attainment

#### PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to recognize the educational attainment of certain professional personnel for the 2020–2021 school year, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### 13.08 Board Policy – First Reading

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the first reading of policies noted below, as presented:

Hazing	Policy No. 247-Vol. IV 2020
Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students	Policy No. 103-Vol. IV 2020
Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff	Policy No. 104-Vol. IV 2020
Dating Violence	Policy No. 252-Vol. IV 2020
Bullying/Cyberbullying	Policy No. 249-Vol. IV 2020
Educator Misconduct	Policy No. 317.1-Vol. IV 2020
Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries	Policy No. 824-Vol. IV 2020

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### **13.09** Booster Association Approval

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to recognize the newly formed booster group titled Marple Newtown Choir Parents Association. The new association was created after the dissolution of the Marple Newtown Music Parents Association. The primary function of the association is to serve the students within the Marple Newtown High School Choir program and to help support the Marple Newtown Elementary Choir program.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### **13.10** 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 (3) years of satisfactory service in the Marple Newtown School District in accordance with Section 1108 of the School Code, items 1 through 11.

1. Paige Dea	Culbertson Elementary School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
2. Alexander Dragonetti	Culbertson Elementary School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
3. Marykate O'Connell	Culbertson Elementary School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
4. Jena Foley	Loomis Elementary School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
5. Molly DiEnno	Russell Elementary School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
6. Christina Brennan	Paxon Hollow Middle School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
7. Sarah Krause	Marple Newtown High School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
8. Taylor Amabile	Marple Newtown High School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
9. Keli Anderson	Marple Newtown High School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
10. Michael Paci	Marple Newtown High School	Achieved: June 17, 2020
11. Shannon Walsh	Marple Newtown High School	Achieved: June 17, 2020

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

## **14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **14.01** Committee Report – Kathryn V. Chandless, Chairperson

#### **14.02** Bills for Payment

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,154,949.79, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$445,353.61, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$3,138,701.73, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$11,027.39.



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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

#### **14.03 Monthly Reports**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the monthly financial report for June 2020 and the Treasurer's Report for May 2020 and June 2020.

*Informational item monthly financial report for July 2020.*

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

#### **14.04 Countywide Reassessment**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to initiate and prosecute real estate tax assessment appeals from significantly undervalued 2021 real estate tax assessments that have resulted from the countywide reassessment; to further authorize and direct the Solicitor and the District's real estate appraiser to determine the appropriate assessments to appeal, without consideration of the property type, in accordance with the District's standard methodologies that have been approved by the Business Administrator.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to initiate and prosecute appropriate legal action to attempt to remedy the unfair and inequitable shift of the real estate tax burden to the District's residential property owners that has resulted from the countywide reassessment.

Mr. Bilker made the following statement:

As many of our taxpayers already know, the countywide reassessment has set proposed new assessment values for all of our District's properties beginning with the 2021 tax year. To protect all of our taxpayers, our Solicitor is recommending that our Board authorize two important actions in response to the countywide reassessment. The first action would authorize our Solicitor to file appeals from significantly undervalued 2021 assessments. Our Solicitor and our real estate appraiser would determine which assessments to appeal without consideration of the property type and in accordance with our District's three standard methodologies that have been approved by our District's Business Administrator. These three standard methodologies involve: (1) comparing the proposed new assessment's implied fair market value to the current assessment's implied fair market value; (2) comparing the proposed new assessment's implied fair market value to any recent sale of the subject property; and (3) determining obvious clerical errors. To ensure that the appeals would be financially viable in light of anticipated legal fees, costs and expenses, and appraisal fees, a financial factor of \$10,000 or more in projected tax dollar loss to our District would have to be applied to the first two methodologies. Further, the first two methodologies would culminate in a preliminary valuation review conducted by our District's appraiser.

The second action results from our Business Administrator's, District's appraiser's, and Solicitor's analysis of the proposed new assessment values for all of our District's properties. This analysis has revealed an unfair and inequitable shift of the total real estate tax burden to our District's residential property owners resulting from the countywide reassessment. Specifically, our District's residential property owners currently shoulder 78.99% of the total real estate tax burden. But under the countywide reassessment's proposed new assessment values, our District's residential property owners' burden would increase to 80.91% of the total real estate tax burden, which is a 1.92 percentage point increase and 2.43% (per cent) increase in and of our District's residential property owners' burden.

Without remedial action, that would mean that even if our Board somehow managed to be able to not raise taxes for the 2021-2022 school year, under the countywide reassessment's proposed new assessment values, our District's residential property owners' tax bills for 2021 would nevertheless contain an automatic average 2.43% (per cent) increase in real estate taxes for 2021. Because the law requires a countywide reassessment to be revenue neutral for our District, our Board would be powerless to stop that automatic average 2.43% (per cent) increase, without remedial action. As Board President, I join in our Solicitor's recommendations. As a Board, we owe a fiduciary duty to all of our taxpayers. When we see unfairness and inequity in the real estate tax system resulting from systemic errors in the countywide reassessment, we must stand up, speak up, and take appropriate action to attempt to remedy that unfairness and inequity.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

## **15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

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

### **15.02** Facility Use

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve facility use for Marple Newtown Football Club at Paxon Hollow Middle School from August 26, 2020 to November 27, 2020 Monday through Friday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Tomasco, seconded by Mrs. Alberti

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions

Motion to approve facility use for Native Lacrosse at the Gauntlet Center Administration Field No. 1 from August 26, 2020 to November 27, 2020 on Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the facility use for Marple Newtown Catholic Football Club at the Gauntlet Center Administration Field No. 2 from August 26, 2020 to November 27, 2020 on Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Motion to approve the facility use for Delco Devils at the Gauntlet Center Administration Field

No.1 from August 26, 2020 to November 27, 2020 on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the facility use for Marple Newtown Football League at the Gauntlet Center Administration Field No. 2 from August 26, 2020 to November 27, 2020 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### **15.03 Culbertson Elementary Change Order**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve USA Environmental Management, Inc., 8436 Enterprise Avenue, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19153 with the amount of \$59,655.00 for asbestos abatement and removal during the 2019-2020 building renovations.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

### **15.04 Non-Public Student Transportation**

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve, for the time period from September 8, 2020 to October 9, 2020, the provision of transportation services to and from school for resident pupils, who are currently enrolled in grades 1 through 12, of the District who are lawfully enrolled in any non-public school which is not operated for profit and which is located within the district boundaries or outside the district boundaries at a distance not exceeding ten miles. The provision of such transportation services during the stated time period is without prejudice to or waiver of the District's right to not provide transportation services to such students for any period during which the District does not provide transportation to students who are enrolled in the District's public schools.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 9 – 0

## **16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT**

No report other than they are working hard to get school up and running smoothly

## **17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

There was none

## **18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

There was none

## **19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Community member wanted to ask if Dr. Kane could repeat the statement regarding sports.

Delaware County, Pa—The Delaware County superintendents strongly support athletics and are committed to providing opportunities for our student athletes during the 2020-21 school year. We, consequently, will work collaboratively with our athletics directors and principals to develop responses to both motions passed by the PIAA on August 21, 2020. The first motion that passed 25-5, allows fall sports to begin at the earliest, on August 24, 2020 at the discretion of the local school district. The second motion, which was unanimously approved by the committee, opened the door for the PIAA to pursue alternative solutions to play fall sports at another point in the year. The second motion acknowledges the guidance from Governor Wolf and the Chester County Health Department to begin athletic competitions after January 1, 2021.

We understand the importance of athletics to our students and their families, and it is for this reason that we are making this decision a priority. For the districts that are members of the Central League, their school communities can expect a collaborative decision that addresses both of the PIAA motions by Monday, August 31.

Mr. Gicking commented that the first vote taken was 25 – 5, second vote was 30 – 0. He stated that there are twelve districts in the state, we are in district one. Nine districts have been able to start. Nothing specific has been nailed down yet. Thanked Dr. Kane, the School Board, and Mr. Beltrante for their support in getting the Athletes back on the field.

Community member wanted to know if the statement that Mr. Bilker gave regarding the assessments of properties could be put on the website.

Yes, the statement will be put on the main page of the website.

**20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mrs. Tomasco thanked everyone for the efficient process in picking up the Laptops

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

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Joseph Driscoll  
Board Secretary