

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 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

Press: 0

Audience: 19

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

7 members present

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Congratulations to this year's Marple Newtown School District winners of the 2020 Making a Difference Award!

This is the 7th year for the Making a Difference Awards! Across Delaware County, a committee was formed involving parent co-chairs from the Local Task Force and District Special Directors

and Supervisors. Nominations were submitted and the committee reviewed each nomination from the 15 school districts to determine student, adult, and hero awards. Marple Newtown had the highest number of nominations submitted with six recipients receiving an award. The Making a Difference Award honors students and adults in the community who are leveling the playing field for children with disabilities. Honorees include students who have persevered and overcome significant challenges to be successful in their school setting. In addition, adults and students who have made significant contributions to the acceptance of individuals with disabilities are also honored.

Typically a ceremony is held (it was supposed to be at Paxon Hollow Middle School in April) to honor the award recipients; however, due to the current COVID-19 shelter-in-place order, the event was cancelled. All of the winners have been contacted by the committee, and before the end of the school year, each winner will receive a certificate acknowledging their accomplishments along with a copy of their nomination submitted on their behalf.

Please join us in congratulating our winners on a job well done!

Adult Winner: Mike Winterbottom (Nominated by: Marian McGee)
 Student Winners: Christopher Husni (Nominated by: Dennis Reardon)
 Curtis "Drew" Roehrig (Nominated by: Laura Risley)
 Hero Award Winners: Julia Thomas (Nominated by Michael Winterbottom)
 Dominic Stracciolini (Nominated by Debbie Ryan)
 Legacy Award Winner: Jerry Rodichok (posthumously) (Nominated by Molly DiEnno)

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I would like to begin by thanking all the administrators, teachers, students, and parents for their continued support and understanding during our statewide closure.

Student Item Pickups

Student items have been picked up for all four elementary schools. The process went very well.

MNHS seniors retrieved their items this week.

MNHS will pack and distribute 9th – 11th grade items next week.

PHMS student lockers have been packed and pickups will be next week.

Graduation and Promotion Ceremonies

The MNHS Tiger Recognition Award Program has been recorded and finalized.

The MNHS seniors recorded their walk across the stage with their parents viewing. Limiting 10 people, maintaining social distancing with PPE.

PHMS Promotion program was recorded on Friday by the PHMS admin and staff.

Keystone Exams

Keystone exam guidance has finally been shared from PDE yesterday. I am preparing to make our recommendation at our next CIT meeting for how we can locally handle those students' Keystone exam responsibility.

PIAA

Announced yesterday that they will follow the state's plan to reopen.

Reopening of School

We are looking at various stages for reopening. There is a range from:

- All students virtual, some students virtual, hybrid virtual and physical in buildings, to all student in physically in buildings in accordance to the CDC guidelines, which are very restrictive.

We have identified our own MNSD task force with subcommittees, which include administrators, pupil service personnel, and teachers to address the needs within the different scenarios. Our subcommittees include:

- Operations
- Logistics
- Transportation
- Health and Safety
- Pupil Services
- Teaching and Learning
- Technology

A survey will be sent out to families to seek information regarding their students' and families' needs and concerns when we are able to reopen. These results will assist us in planning for the fall.

Electronic need for 1:1

With the uncertainty of how we will be conducting school, we have initiated the investigation of electronic devices for each student.

Chris Lee has been working diligently to acquire quotes for procuring devices for every student. This is time sensitive item due to availability and the needed preparation to have them available for fall.

We will need to look at areas of need to ensure a successful implementation.

Details are being finalized and will be communicated at the next CIT meeting.

Gratitude

Thank you to the community for all of their support and understanding during this difficult time. I wish continued good health for everyone and sincerely hope you stay connected to family and loved ones. You and your families have been in our administration's continuous thoughts.

That concludes my report.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Individual Services Contract for Student No. 882715 to attend out of district programming for Extended School Year 2020. This is not a new contract.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Independent Provider Contract with Elwyn, Inc. to provide therapeutic support services for Behavioral Health Services at Marple Newtown High School and Paxon Hollow Middle School. This is not a new contract.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release, In Lieu of FAPE, between the District and the parents of Student No. 881873 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the following listing of students to attend out-of-district Extended School Year (ESY) programs for the period June, 2020 through August, 2020

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- 12.01** Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson
- 12.02** Instruction

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Flexible Instructional Day Plan, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

12.03 Report Cards

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Priority Standards Report Card for elementary students for the final trimester of 2019-2020 school year.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

12.04 Policies

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the review of Policy No. 003 - Functions of the Board, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the first reading of a new Policy No. 006.1 – Meetings of the Board, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 805 – Emergency Preparedness, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the first reading of Policy No. 201 – Admission of Students, as presented.

Motion was Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Alberti

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

12.05 Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to authorize the Superintendent to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Marple Township and the Newtown Township Police Departments and the Marple Newtown School District, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

Mr. McKenzie asked Mr. Bilker to give his report, he was on his phone and could not read the entire agenda

13.02 Terminations
PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Elizabeth Calhoun – LTS Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: May 22, 2020
Reason: End of Assignment

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

13.03 Return from Leave
PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Paige Dea – Elementary Teachers
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: May 26, 2020
Reason: Medical Leave

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

13.04 Extended School Year (ESY) 2020

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment, pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, of the following professional personnel for the 2020 ESY Program, as presented. The staff will be used on an as-needed basis as determined by student enrollment and program needs.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Kathryn V. Chandless, Chairperson

14.02 Bills for Payment

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,871,593.12, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$2,750.00, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$1,159,495.57, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$279.25.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

14.03 Monthly Reports

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve monthly financial reports for January 2020 and February 2020.

Informational item monthly financial report for March 2020.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

14.04 Food Service

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the renewal of the contract with Chartwells School Dining Services for the 2020-2021 school years at an annual administrative fee of \$35,800.00 and an annual management fee of \$20,460.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

14.05 2020-2021 Proposed Final Budget

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to adopt the 2020-2021 Proposed Final Budget, as presented on PDE 2028, in the amount of \$92,600,000.00, and to give notice that it is available for public inspection. The 2020-2021 Proposed Final Budget may change prior to the adoption of the Final Budget.

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

Mr. Driscoll explained the following to the Board:

- Worked to get the increase down to the Act One Index of 2.6%
- All this being done with no impact on programs or staffing
- Applied for exceptions, not needed at this time
- Our income is mostly local from Real estate taxes
- Interim tax are reduced
- Assessments may have some growth
- Interest rates are near zero
- State budget no clear
- Pandemic has reduced revenue
- Normal PSERS/ FICA subsidy
- Federal funding would come from Medical Access
- Federal Stimulus ~ there are questions about that
- Holding off on filing vacant positions (Teaching and Learning/Pupil Services)
- Retirements have lower projections
- Medical Benefits down 1.83%
- Prescription rates are down
- Teacher and Learning initiatives delayed
- Building and Department budgets decreased where possible
- Found out today, State adjusted Homestead money

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

14.06 Student Furniture

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the purchase of an additional 200 student desks and 200 chairs from Nickerson Corporation in the estimated amount of \$28,730.00. Prices are according to the PA State Contract No. 4400016620, and will be funded from the capital projects funds for Loomis and Culbertson Elementary Schools.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

14.07 School Board Treasurer

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to elect Denise Land as School Board Treasurer and Custodian of Student Funds.

Section 404 of the school code stipulates “...and shall annually, during the Month of May, elect a Treasurer to serve for one (1) year beginning the first day of July following the selections...”

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Tomasco

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

15.01 Committee Report – Nicholas J. Reynolds, Sr., Chairperson
There are no Facilities and Transportation Committee items for this agenda.

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

18. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker wanted to thank Mr. Driscoll, administration and building principals for their work on reducing the budget at the time. That no furloughs/layoffs are in this budget, thank you all for that.

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Thank you to Dr. Kane for the answer on the Keystone examines.

There was a question of what of the curriculum was affected

Dr. Bompadra explained that some textbook adoptions would be postponed, and Dr. Martin-Pitone explained that they would work smarter with what we have with the software and reading libraries. Also, would postpone World Language new adoption at this time.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Chandless agreed with Mr. Bilker and thanked everyone

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary