

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Monday, December 7, 2020**  
**Zoom**  
**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: 49

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM and stood on the Pledge from the previous meeting

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

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

There was none

**4. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

There was none

**5. COMMENDATIONS**

There was none

**6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT**

There was none

**7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

There was none

**8. SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

There was none

**9. OTHER REPORTS**

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to reappoint Mark A. Sereni, Esquire as Solicitor in accordance with the following fee structure:

attorney time:	\$195.00/hr. (no increase)
legal assistant time:	\$100.00/hr. (no increase)
retainer:	\$4,000.00/yr. (no increase)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Both Mr. Bilker and Mrs. Harvey thanked Mr. Sereni for all his work for the district. Dr. Kane also thanked Mr. Sereni for all his help during this time of Covid

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to reappoint Raffaele Puppio as Special Education Counsel in accordance with the following fee structure:

attorney time:	\$195.00/hr.
paralegal services:	\$100.00/hr.

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between District and parents for Student No. 883032. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the Trust Agreement between the District and parents for Student No. 883032. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mrs. Tomasco 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 Mr. Siano, seconded by Mrs. Alberti

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

**10. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

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

**10.02** Policy

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the second reading of Policy No. 217 – Graduation, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

**10.03** Clubs

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School Rho Kappa Club. The purpose of this club is to recognize high school juniors and seniors for their academic distinction in the field of social studies. Membership is based on high academic achievement, civic involvement, and upstanding character. The club advisor is Taylor Amabile.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School Letter by Letter Club. The purpose of this club is so students can write to others to express gratitude, encouragement, and companionship, serve the community, and brighten someone's day, all with low time commitment. The club advisor is Jacqueline Pino.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

**11. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**11.01** Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

**11.02** 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.

- 1) Elizabeth Blackburn - Substitute Nurse  
Pupil Services Department  
Salary: \$20.00  
Effective: December 9, 2020

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

## ACT 93 CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following Act 93 Confidential Employee appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1.

- 1) Rebecca Studdy - Desk-side Technician  
Technology Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Salary: \$45,000.00  
Effective: January 4, 2021  
Replacing: Porscha Whiteside (Resignation)

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

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.

- 1) Lydia Otu - Bus Driver  
Transportation Department  
Salary: \$26.92 per hour  
Effective: January 4, 2021  
Replacing: Bruce Megonegal (Resignation)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

## 11.03 Resignations

## CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Elise Marino – School Assistant  
Loomis Elementary  
Effective: September 29, 2020  
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

## 11.04 Return from Leave

## PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional return from leave(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Jessica Protesto – Teacher  
Marple Newtown High School  
Effective: January 4, 2021  
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Jennifer Irvine – Teacher  
Marple Newtown High School  
Effective: January 11, 2021  
Reason: FMLA

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

#### CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Kosmas Papadopoulos – Custodian  
Operations  
Effective: October 23, 2020  
Reason: Medical Leave

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

#### **11.05** Supplementary Contracts

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

#### **11.06** Position Creation

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the creation of one (1) Director of Administration and Academics, in accordance with the current Marple Newtown Administrators Association Agreement, effective April 1, 2021.

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

Mr. Orwig explained that this position takes the place of the Assistant Superintendent. After much discussion having this new position would open up our candidates for this position. There will be no need for a letter of eligibility for this position so the pool of candidates will be larger.

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

**12. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

There was no items for this meeting

**13. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

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

Mr. Reynolds asked for the following motions

**13.02** Facility Use – Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve to approve Marple Newtown Soccer Association to hold a referee Class of 10-20 people at the High School Stadium on January 9, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They must follow all district safety and COVID-19 procedures.

**13.03** Facility Use – Russell Elementary School

Motion to approve Marple Civic Association Santa drive by at Russell Elementary School on December 12, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a rain date of December 13, 2020 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. They must follow all district safety and COVID-19 procedures.

**13.04** District-Wide PECO (LED) Lighting Project

Motion to approve the district-wide PECO (LED) lighting replacement project. This will include the replacement of all interior bulbs that are 2x2 or 2x4 fixtures in the district. This project will be under the green incentive PECO rebate, all cost of replacement bulbs will be part of the project. This project will cover all buildings except the high school at this time.

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

**14. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT**

There was none

**15. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

There was none

**16. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

There was none

## **17. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

A community member question the recent incident of Michael Larkin, is there morality clause in his contract.

Mr. Bilker asked Mr. Sereni to respond.

Mr. Sereni introduced himself. He is the solicitor for the Marple Newtown School district. He is not an employee of the district, he works at a firm in Media. He has been a solicitor for many districts in Delaware County since 1990. The solicitor's firm as well as the district are aware of the allegations, again they are allegations not proven facts and he has advised his client to respect the constitutional principles of the presumption of innocence. Whenever anyone is accused of anything, until the charges are proven in criminal court the charges are merely allegations and are not to be regarded as true and proven. The difference between alleged work conduct and alleged personal conduct, have significant differences. The difference dictates the interest and the rights of our district and the interest and the rights that the district does not have. In this situation the allegations involved are non-work related conduct, so in the eyes of the law there is a very big difference. In the constitutional principles every public employee in districts have a certain privacy concerns. I know that our Board as a regular practice like to answer questions from the public, as solicitor of the district I advise my client that these are just allegations, nothing has been proven. That each person has the right of privacy. This is the extent of the comment that I am comfortable giving. Thank you for your question.

A community member, who is an attorney as well, thanked Mr. Sereni for his comment and stated that all of this will be handled in a court of law. His question is why there was not a statement from the district regarding the headline naming a Marple Newtown Administrator accused of hitting and killing a cyclist.

Answer: Mr. Bilker said that all people working for a district, school directors or a town have a private life and did not think that this is a Marple Newtown issue.

## **18. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

The Board wished everyone a safe and happy holiday

## **19. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

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Joseph Driscoll  
Board Secretary