

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reorganization 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. Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and explained as School Board Secretary he would run the meeting until the President Pro Tem was elected.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Driscoll led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

4. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM

4.01 Board Secretary Joseph Driscoll calls for:

a. Mr. Driscoll asked for nominations for President Pro Tem (no second required)

Mrs. Tomasco nominated Mrs. Chandless

b. Mr. Driscoll asked for a motion to call the vote

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

c. Mr. Driscoll called for a Roll call vote BY NAME (majority vote)

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

Vote 9 - 0

4.02 Mr. Driscoll declared Mrs. Chandless elected President

5. ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT FOR 2021

5.01 President Pro Tem calls for:

a. Mrs. Chandless asked for nominations for President for 2021 (no second needed)

Mrs. Harvey nominated Mr. Matthew Bilker

b. Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to call the vote

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 - 0

c. Mrs. Chandless asked Mr. Driscoll to call the Roll call vote BY NAME (majority vote)

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

Vote 9 - 0

d. Mrs. Chandless, President Pro Tem declared Mr. Matthew Bilker elected President for 2021.

5.02 Newly elected President assumes chair.

Mr. Bilker gave the following statement:

I would like to thank the school directors for their faith in voting for me as President of this School Board for the upcoming year. As frustrating, exhausting, and maddening this job can be, it can be very rewarding and very humbling as well, and I am grateful for serving with all of you on this Board. Looking back to last December and the 12 months that followed, I think it's fair to say that nothing was as I had expected. I look back to last year's re-organization and the things that we discussed and the big goals for the upcoming year and there certainly have been some accomplishments, for one, I am pleased with the Ranking and Reporting subcommittee led by Tina Kane and Desiree Tomasco. There were a lot of things we learned about just by spending time researching on how to improve our district reputation with colleges and post-secondary educational facilities and looking forward to not just learning more, but implementing what we have learned. I am sure that Tina and Desiree are looking forward to briefing us early in 2021. The huge renovation projects at both Loomis and Culbertson as of December 2020 are complete. These 2 projects that were concurrent could have had the ability to strain our staff. Instead, led by Jake Gallagher almost all the deadlines were met even with the Covid pandemic impacting the work. The construction was finished and we have 2 fully renovated elementary schools up and running. These buildings are being formally dedicated this month, but because of the many things that have been impacted, we cannot have the ceremony that we would traditionally have. Looking forward for the lifting of the Covid restrictions when we can invite the members of the community into the buildings for a tour to see what creditable advances we have made at both Loomis and Culbertson. I also wanted to see more time invested in Professional Development for our teachers. We had last year built in additional days on the calendar for just that reason. Now it may not have happened the way we drew it up, but the teachers did go through a tremendous amount of Professional Development. They learned to teach in a different area and support students in ways that they never did before and have grown in technology in countless ways. The administration worked together as a team to learn about Covid and understand the guidelines to prepare our health and safety plan, provide a safe educational environment for our students. Our support staff has learned a lot about this Covid world to transport, clean, and manage our facilities in a safe manner for our students. In this regard though it was not how we designed it, I am very proud of the Marple Newtown School District employees. It goes to show that public education changed in March 2020 when the Governor closed schools and they did not open until we opened them in October. The priority of the administration the last couple of months is to have the district get the children back in the classrooms on a consistent, safe, smart basis for everyone. For the next 12 months that will be our district's priority. Thank you

6. ELECTION FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR 2021

6.01 Mr. Bilker, Newly-elected President calls for:

- a. Nominations for Vice President for 2021 (no seconded needed)

Mr. Siano nominated Mrs. Barbara Harvey

- b. Mr. Bilker called the vote

- c. Roll call vote BY NAME (majority vote)

Mrs. Alberti, Yes

Mr. Bilker, Yes

Mrs. Chandless, Yes
Mr. Dezzi, Yes
Mrs. Harvey, Yes
Mr. McKenzie, Yes
Mr. Reynolds, Yes
Mr. Siano, Yes
Mrs. Tomasco, Yes

Vote 9 - 0

6.02 Mr. Bilker, President declared Mrs. Barbara Harvey, elected Vice President for 2021.

Mrs. Harvey thanked the entire Board, she also wanted to thank Tina and Matt for keeping us informed and we wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for them. Also, appreciate everything the Board has done. Thank you for your confidence.

7. APPROVAL OF THE 2021 MEETING CALENDAR (Majority Vote)

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2021

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

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary