

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Marple Newtown School District Board Room
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. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Mrs. Gina Ross

Press: 0

Audience: 12

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and advised the audience that the Board met in Executive session to discuss Legal and Personnel matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

With no further discussion, motion was passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

School Board Service Honor Roll Award - School Board Directors receive the PSBA School Board Service Honor Roll Award. Kathy Chandless has served for 12 years and Barbara Harvey has served for 8 years.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Mr. Tomasco and Ms. Collins gave the following report:

- Homecoming dance was a great success, over 640 students attended. Sorry for the damage on the grass in the courtyard
- The football team unfortunately lost
- Homecoming king and queen were Naughton and Kim
- Mini thon is scheduled for March 4
- Golf team ended the season 5 – 5
- Bandarama was a great success
- Volleyball and Field Hockey had their Senior nights
- Stem exam on October 29th
- Almost a 1,000 applications have gone through the college center

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Culbertson and Loomis Elementary Schools hosted Open Houses that provided tours of the school for our community.

The School Board Directors and MNSD Administrators participated in a Groundbreaking ceremony for the MNHS Lower Fields and Band Projects.

The PHMS art students and teachers were honored at a Superintendent's Art Recognition Event. The students' "Tiger Pride" art work is on display in the Board Room.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the agreement with Specialized Education of Pennsylvania (SESI PA) as a Pennsylvania Department of Education approved AEDY program. This agreement is in effect for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the contract with DCIU to train MNSD Point of Contact for ACCESS administration from October 22, 2021 through August 31, 2022, up to 20 hours at a cost not to exceed \$2,420.00.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the contract with DCIU to provide ACCESS data input and record keeping/monitoring services from October 22, 2021 to August 31, 2022 at a cost to the District of \$3.93 per transaction at a cost not to exceed \$7,000.00.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the agreement with Chester County

Intermediate Unit (CCIU) to perform a review of the elementary Autistic and Life Skills programs during the 2021-2022 school year at no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

12.02 District Calendar

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Marple Newtown School District Academic Calendar, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Bilker thanked Dr. Kane and Dr. DiBartolomeo for having the calendar completed early.

12.03 Administrative Trip

Mr. Siano asked for motion to approve Teresa Werner, Child Accounting, to attend the Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association Annual Conference (ACAPA) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 28 and October 29, 2021. The cost of the conference is \$315.00. The cost of transportation is \$100.80. The cost of lodging is \$292.00. The total cost to the District is \$707.80.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

12.04 Club Trips

Mr. Siano asked for the following motions to be approved:

Motion to approve Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the high school Ski and

Outdoor Club to travel to Skirmish USA in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania on December 4, 2021. The cost of transportation is \$750.00 paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

Motion to approve Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the high school Ski and Outdoor Club to travel to Camelback Mountain in Tannersville, Pennsylvania on December 18, 2021. The cost of transportation is \$750.00 paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

Motion to approve Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the high school Ski and Outdoor Club to travel to Bear Creek in Macungie, Pennsylvania on January 14, 2022. The cost of transportation is \$500.00 paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

Motion to approve Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the high school Ski and Outdoor Club to travel to Skirmish USA in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania on February 17, 2021. The cost of transportation is \$500.00 paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

12.05 Clubs

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve, the formation of the Morgan's Message Club at Marple Newtown High School. Morgan's Message is a national organization That provides a platform for student athlete's mental health. The purpose of this club is to create a safe community for student athletes. The club advisor is Sarah Krause.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve formation of the Choral Club at Marple Newtown High School. The purpose of this club is to recruit new choir members and build community within the choir. The club advisor is Hollie Roberts.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the formation of the Badminton Club at Marple Newtown High School. The purpose of this club is to introduce and familiarize students with the fastest racket sport of badminton. The club advisor is Sean Spratt.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

12.06 Book Donations or Disposals

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the donation or disposal of books from the Worrall Elementary School Library that are outdated.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

12.07 Educational Consultant

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the educational consultation services between Marple Newtown School District and Elliot Merenbloom, as presented and reviewed by the district solicitor's office, in the amount not to exceed \$14,000. (Elliot Merenbloom, educational consultant, will audit existing resource and time allocations; draft alternative scheduling models for District consideration; and make recommendations for adoption.)

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

Mrs. Tomasco asked if Dr. Kane could elaborate on this motion.

Dr. Kane responded by saying that they feel it is time to look at scheduling at all three levels, elementary, middle and high school to insure that we are effectively using all full time employees, our facilities, our curriculum options for the programs we offer. Elliot comes highly recommended and has published several books. The results of the audit would be given to us in November/December and we can come back to CIT and share those results from that audit.

Mrs. Tomasco asked that the audit will be taking place in the next couple of months.

Dr. Kane ~ yes we will be able to see if we are using our schedules effectively for what

would be the best academically for our students. Not sure what the audit will reveal, but maybe changes could be made for the 2022-2023 school year starting in September of 2022.

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

Mr. McKenzie asked for the following motions to be approved:

13.02 Terminations

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional termination(s) item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Rachel Schlosberg – LTS Special Education Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: November 10, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment
- 2) Samantha Mastricolo – LTS Gifted Support Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: November 8, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment
- 3) Joseph Messina – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 24, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment
- 4) Victoria Messina – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 24, 2021
Reason: End of Assignment

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified termination(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Kristine Seeger – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School

Effective: October 6, 2021
Reason: Job Abandonment

- 2) Michael DeRosa - Custodian
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 5, 2021
Reason: Deceased

13.03 Retirement(s)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified retirement(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Donna Schmidt – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: December 28, 2021
Reason: Retirement

13.04 Resignation(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional resignation(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Laura Quackenbush – Music Teacher
Russell and Worrall Elementary Schools
Effective: October 21, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Richard Graham – Industrial Arts/Technology Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 19, 2021
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Lynne Hayes – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: September 24, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Lori Jones – Custodian
Operations Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School

Effective: October 8, 2021
Reason: Resignation

13.05 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Emily Lovitz – Gifted Support Teacher (extended request)
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: November 5, 2021 through and including November 24, 2021
Reason: Medical Leave: November 5, 2021 through and including November 24, 2021
- 2) Kelly Giano – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: December 4, 2021 through and including January 28, 2022
Reason: Child Rearing Leave: December 4, 2021 through and including January 28, 2022
- 3) Daniel Collins – Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: October 4, 2021 through and including January 24, 2022
Reason: Medical Leave: October 4, 2021 through and including January 24, 2022
FMLA: October 4, 2021 through and including December 17, 2021
- 4) Jessica Austin – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 25, 2021 through and including December 23, 2021
Reason: FMLA: October 25, 2021 through and including November 21, 2021
Uncompensated: November 22, 2021 through and including December 23, 2021

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leave(s) item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Lynne Hansell – 12-month Secretary
Pupil Service Department

Effective: August 17, 2021 through and including April 30, 2022
Effective: August 17, 2021 through and including November 5, 2021

Reason: Medical: August 17, 2021 through and including October 19, 2021
FMLA: August 17, 2021 through and including November 5, 2021

- 2) Mary Ann Miller – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: September 30, 2021 through and including November 3, 2021
Reason: Medical: September 30, 2021 through and including November 3, 2021
- 3) Jill Pittenger – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: September 13, 2021 through and including October 1, 2021
Reason: Medical: September 13, 2021 through and including October 1, 2021
- 4) Nadine DiMario – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 25, 2021 through and including January 21, 2022
Reason: FMLA: October 25, 2021 through and including January 21, 2022

13.06 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional return from leave(s) item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Emily Lovitz – Gifted Support Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Return date: November 29, 2021
Returning from: Medical/FMLA
- 2) Mary Murphy – Reading Specialist
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Return date: November 22, 2021
Returning from: Medical/FMLA

- 3) Danielle Abate – Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Return date: November 22, 2021
Returning from: Medical/FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Jill Pittenger – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Return date: October 4, 2021
Returning from: Medical Leave
- 2) Roisin Arnold – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Worrall Elementary School
Return date: November 8, 2021
Returning from: Medical Leave

13.07 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Annette Brady – Substitute Nurse
Pupil Services Department/District-Wide
Salary: \$20.00 per hour
Effective: October 11, 2021
Reason: As Needed
- 2) Alexa Logothetis – LTS Elementary Teacher (extended assignment)
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$48,000.00 (BA; Step-1)
Effective: January 12, 2021 through and including February 4, 2022
Replacing: Kelly Giano (Medical/FMLA)
- 3) Kristen Fuller – LTS Elementary Teacher – floater substitute
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$53,930.00 (MA; Step-1: prorated)
Effective: October 18, 2021 through June 21, 2022
Replacing: Teacher on assignment funded via ESSERS III Grant
- 4) Tyler Mertens – Industrial Arts/Technology Ed. Teacher

Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$71,273.00 (MA; Step-9: prorated)
Effective: Start date contingent upon release from present employer
Replacing: Jessica Protesto (Resignation)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 10.

- 1) Theresa Cogliano - Health Room Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$11.95 per hour
Effective: October 18, 2021
Replacing: Jaclyn Albany (Reassigned)
- 2) Dennis Crowne – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 27, 2021
Reason: As Needed
- 3) Starvi Koci - Custodian
Operations Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$18.99 per hour
Effective: October 27, 2021
Replacing: Lori Jones (Resignation)
- 4) James Kennedy - Custodian
Operations Department/Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$19.00 per hour
Effective: October 29, 2021
Replacing: Starvi Koci (Reassigned)
- 5) Darrell Guy - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$27.59 per hour
Effective: October 27, 2021
Replacing: James Ross (Retirement)
- 6) Chief Musa Sheriff – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 27, 2021
Reason: As Needed

- 7) Norina Lelii – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 27, 2021
Reason: As Needed
- 8) Jeremy Kilpatrick – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: October 27, 2021
Reason: As Needed
- 9) Elizabeth Chiliberti – School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$12,485.00 (prorated)
Effective: October 27, 2021
Replacing: Helen Moore (Resignation)
- 10) Robyn Walker – Custodian
Operations Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$18.99 per hour
Effective: October 27, 2021
Replacing: Michael DeRosa (Deceased)

13.08 Supplementary Contracts

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement. In the event of any COVID-19 related school closure or cessation of the particular activities which are the subject of each contract, these activities contracts are subject to suspension or cancellation, with payments due thereunder prorated for services actually provided.

13.09 Transfers

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the classified transfer(s), effective October 27, 2021, item(s) 1:

Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1. Brian Collins	MNHS	Custodian	PHMS	Custodian

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

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 \$5,491,572.40, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$190,367.73, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$111,394.14.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

14.03 Monthly Reports

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to approve the monthly financial report for August 2021 and Budget Transfers for September 2021.

Informational item monthly financial report for September 2021.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

14.04 Tax Appeal

Mrs. Chandless asked for a motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on folio 25-00-00364-54 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$960,000 assessment/\$960,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$110,320 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,210 to our District for tax year 2021.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

In the absence of Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions to be approved:

15.02 Worrall Elementary School – Engineering and Design Services

Motion to approve Remington Vernick Engineers, 922 Fayette Street, Conshocken, Pennsylvania 19428 with the site engineering and design for Worrall Elementary School in the amount not to exceed \$152,946.00 funded the capital reserve account.

15.03 Worrall Elementary School – Infrastructure Scanning Services

Motion to approve GPRS for the Worrall Elementary School infrastructure scanning to help identify any underground electrical, fiber, CCTV, sanitary, storm lines, gas, water, etc., on the property, around the existing building and foot prints of the new additions.

15.04 Change Order - Additions and Renovations to Loomis Elementary School

Motion to approve the following change order for the Loomis Elementary School renovation project, item(s) 1.

1) Myco Mechanical, Inc.

Change Order No. PC-01 Summary:

COR XX Ceiling Tile Replacement Backcharge

L. J. Paolella Construction, Inc. was directed to replace ceiling tiles that were damaged during construction. Costs for work are in accordance with L. J. Paolella Construction, Inc. proposal dated 2/24/2021 in the amount of \$5,213.57. Myco Mechanical, Inc. portion of this work is \$1,129.57 based upon walk through by Bonnett Associates, Inc. and Marple Newtown School District.

Quantity Allowance Credit

Deduct for Plumbing Contractor's Quantity Allowance remaining balance of \$3,952.70.

Change Order PC-01 Total: CREDIT \$5,082.27

15.05 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

Motion to approve the purchase of the following vehicles in the total amount of \$148,211.80 (price per vehicle is \$37,052.95) from Pacifico Marple Ford, and to approve the necessary transfer from the budgetary reserve. Prices are in accordance with Co-Stars Contract No. 026-097:

Quantity (4) = 2022 Ford Transit - AWD Passenger Vans – Transportation

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

18. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A community member wanted to speak about the misinformation that he has heard from previous School Board meetings. One being the study that took place in Germany. If any of you have looked this study up you would have found that this was a survey, not a study. It was a portal on a website that anyone could go on and say what they wanted to say about masks and the effect on children. This was a bias study so I do not know how much we can actually draw from it. In my research, I have only found one study that was done that mask wearing has an effect on children, it was done by a psychologist and it was retracted because of the incorrect data collection.

A community member spoke and started by saying that what he is saying is his opinion and his opinion alone. His statement has nothing to do with any organizations. A new study out of the UK is that the amount of children transmitting or getting Covid has not changed with the Delta Variance. There is a lower rate with children and adults in an educational setting. In the last 2 years he has never incubated any children with Covid. The children being treated at DuPont are being treated for RSV, the flu, and the common cold. I have talked in length about the mental health of children, with the increase of suicide attempts and how they are increasing. There is also an increase in

childhood obesity and we should be concerned about that now. I will finish with don't take health care advice from a politician or news source.

A community member stated that he would rather take advice from a local physician than any local institution.

A community member wanted to thank Mr. Gallagher for the bike rack at Culbertson, using it a lot. Also wanted to know the policy on walkers.

Response ~ we are required to follow state guidelines on walkers.

A community member wanted to thank the Board for "Here comes the Bus". She loves being able to track her child's bus.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Tomasco wanted to thank everyone who comments and wanted to let the public know that they have been heard. You may think that we are just sitting here and not responding. We listen to what you have to say. Please know that you have been heard.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary