

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, December 6, 2021
Marple Newtown School District Board Room
Minutes

Board: Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Vice President, Mr. Anthony Maalouf, 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: 14

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Change in wording on first motion in 11.10, add World Language

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to accept agenda as amended

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

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

The Culbertson art students and art teacher were honored at a Superintendent's Art Recognition Event. The students' beautiful artwork is on display in the Board Room. The children were very articulate and proud of their work.

The high school cast, crew, producer, and director did an outstanding job of the performance Peter and the Starcatcher. It was wonderful to have the production in the auditorium.

The District hosted a vaccine clinic for ages 5-11 year olds this past Saturday, December 4th. The clinic was well able to assist approximately 500 children.

8. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

There was none

9. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker 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 from 2020 and 2021)
legal assistant time:	\$100/hr. (no increase from 2020 and 2021)
retainer:	\$4,000.00/yr. (no increase from 2020 and 2021.)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

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

attorney time:	\$200.00/hr.
paralegal services:	\$100.00/hr.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

10. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

10.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

10.02 Trips

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Tracy Jacobson and Anita Stum to accompany the Marple Newtown High School STEM Academy students to travel to Harrisburg University in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 for programming and tour of the Esports/Interactive Media Facilities. The cost of transportation is \$12.00 per student paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$12 per student, paid by the student. There is no cost to the District.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Tracy Jacobson and Anita Stum to accompany the Marple Newtown High School STEM Academy students to travel to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey on Friday, January 21, 2022 for programming and tour of the STEM Facility. The cost of transportation is \$12.00 per student paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$12.00 per student, paid by the student. There is no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Jill Gill and Dan Collins to accompany the high school Life Skills students to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on February 10, 2022. The cost of transportation is \$236.94. The cost of the activity is \$140.00. The total cost to the District is \$376.94.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

10.03 Athletic Trip

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Arty Erle to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Wrestling Team to travel to Elkton, Maryland on January 7 and January 8, 2022 for a tournament to accumulate points for a post-season tournament. The cost of transportation is \$1000.00 paid by the District. Housing will be paid by the Boosters.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

11. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

11.02 Terminations

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions:

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Megan Noller – LTS Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: December 23, 2022
Reason: End of Assignment
- 2) Christine Moran – LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2022
Reason: End of Assignment

11.03 Retirement(s)

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Gladys Palazzo – Van Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 3, 2022
Reason: Retirement

11.04 Resignation(s)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Gracene Sirianno - Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: December 3, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Kristyn Miller – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 22, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Diane Fallows – Secretary (12-month position)
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 7, 2022
Reason: Resignation

11.05 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Kylie Kusturiss – School Counselor
Russell Elementary School
Effective: November 29, 2021 through and including
January 28, 2022
Reason: CRL: November 29, 2021 through and including
January 28, 2022

- 2) Pamela Sarikianos – School Counselor
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: November 12, 2021 through and including
December 23, 2021
Reason: Medical: November 12, 2021 through and including
November 30, 2021
FMLA: November 12, 2021 through and including
December 23, 2021

- 3) Rachel Gardner – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: January 31, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Reason: CRL: January 31, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022

- 4) Sophie Martin – Gifted Support Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: January 31, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Reason: CRL: January 31, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022

11.06 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Kylie Kusturiss – School Counselor
Russell Elementary School
Return date: January 31, 2022
Returning from: Medical/FMLA

11.07 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) Megan Noller – Special Education Teacher
Russell Elementary School

Salary: \$55,720.00 (MA Step-2; prorated)
Effective: January 3, 2022
Replacing: Lindsay Donaldson (Internal transfer)

- 2) Christine Moran – Special Education Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$57,798.00 (MA Step-3; prorated)
Effective: January 5, 2022
Replacing: Kaylyn Crowley (Resignation)
- 3) Susan Flicker – LTS Gifted Support Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$53,930.00 (MA; Step-1: prorated)
Effective: February 2, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Replacing: Sophie Martin (CRL)
- 4) Chelsea Maiers – LTS School Counselor
Elementary Schools
Salary: \$53,930.00 (MA; Step-1)
Effective: December 6, 2021 through June 21, 2022
Replacing: Counselor on assignment funded via ESSERS III Grant

11.08 Contract Renewal

Motion to approve the reappointment of Dr. Tina Kane as District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027, and to approve the terms of the Employment Agreement dated December 6, 2021 between the Board of School Directors and Dr. Tina Kane, as presented.

Motion to approve the reappointment of James Gallagher as Director of Operations, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027, and to approve the terms of the Employment Agreement dated December 6, 2021 between the Board of School Directors and James Gallagher, as presented.

11.09 Position/Reduction/Abolishment

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the reduction and/or abolishment of the Director of Teaching and Learning administrative position effective January 1, 2022.

11.10 Position Creations

SUPPLEMENTARY

Motion to approve the creation of the following supplementary positions, retroactive to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, the amount of four (4) paid units for each newly created contract is in accordance with the current MNEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. (The following academic honor society supplementary positions are requested for approval: English; Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); Math (Mu Alpha Theta); Science; Social Studies; Music (Tri-M) Honor Societies, and World Languages.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the creation of one (1) Supervisor of K-12 Special Programs position, in accordance with the current MNAA Agreement, effective January 1, 2022. (This position will replace the Director of Teaching and Learning position in the Teaching & Learning Department).

ACT 93 – CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Motion to approve the creation of one (1) Dispatcher/Router position, in accordance with the current Act 93 Agreement, effective January 1, 2022.

11.11 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.

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

With no further discussion motion passed as amended 8 – 0
Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

12. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Vacant, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions:

12.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,144,522.25, Capital Reserve fund bills in the amount of \$98,289.26, and Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$214,210.72.

12.03 Tax Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on folio 25-00-00704- 03 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$665,000 assessment/\$665,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$112,440 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,233 to our District for tax year 2021.

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

With no further discussion, motions passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mrs. Tomasco

13. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Reynolds reported that there were no Facilities and Transportation Committee items for this agenda.

14. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

15. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

16. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker gave the following statement:

Thank you to my colleagues on the school board for their faith in voting for me to be the President of this School Board for the upcoming year.

I took a look over some prior statements I have made over the past years during reorganizations, about the direction the School Board wanted the school district to take and action plans we wanted to see executed.

In 2019, we created a Ranking and Reporting Sub-Committee to evaluate short term and long-term solutions to increasing our school's profile, rankings and state-wide standing. Following some recommendations from Dr. Kane and the Sub-Committee, we have seen some upward trajectory in certain ranking systems, specifically, Niche.

In Pennsylvania, in the most important category, Marple Newtown jumped from 40th in 2019 to 27th this past year. We also were ranked 7th safety school district in PA, 18th best place to teach, 25th best school district for athletes (1st in Delaware County) and 33rd best teachers. In 2020, Niche gave Marple Newtown School District an overall grade of A. In 2021, Niche gave our school district an A+. It is our goal to keep those rankings moving in the right direction.

In 2019, we had set a goal of more in-house professional learning opportunities for our professional staff. Unfortunately, despite creating a calendar that recognized that goal, these opportunities were at least partially interrupted by the COVID pandemic. We will continue to push our District towards more professional learning opportunities for our teachers and staff.

I am proud of many of the accomplishments of our district, and particularly of the fact that many of our students and staff members refused to simply try to keep their heads above water over the past two years, but rather continued to push themselves towards excellence. We want these students who are in this school district right now to know that our employees are 100% committed to helping them achieve their academic goals. One of the academic items our board is most interested in is the continued development of the

STEM academy, and our school board is looking forward to regular updates from our teaching and learning group on that process.

I have said this 1000 times, but it's true - the real credit for the accomplishments of this District belong to our administrators, teachers, staff and students. We the school board want to continue to do everything possible to help support them in an attempt to make this District better. Thank you to my colleagues on this Board for this appointment as President I will continue to work hard to earn your support.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was none

18. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Reynolds wanted to congratulate all of those who were sworn in tonight.

Mrs. Harvey thanked the community for the support. Thank you to this Board and parents for this wonderful journey.

Mr. Maalouf wanted to thank the Marple Newtown community and looks forward to working with the Board and the community.

19. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for Board Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary