

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
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 Mallouf, 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

Press: 0

Audience: 25

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and advised the public that the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss Legal matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf, Mr. Siano, Mrs. Tomasco
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds.

4. 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. Tomasco

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

A community member spoke asking that the Board does not lift the mandate to wear masks. The lack of wearing masks have just produced high numbers of cases. All students and staff should wear masks for the remainder of the year. There are a lot of people that will not talk, they are afraid that they will be ridiculed, they are afraid that they will verbally attacked. They also do not go on social media to grieve their

concerns, they are upset that the people on social media have your ear, I do not know this to be true, but it is a concern. They count on you to make the right decisions because they do not know how to speak to you like I do. If we do not continue to error on the side of caution, this could possibly affect us when we do the PSSA's. That this will affect our standards, our state standing, and our funding. Many people from what I am hearing are considering transferring their students to Charter Schools and that will cost us a fortune if that be the case. We are angry, but we want to do this with class and style. If you have any questions, you can contact me at the number I provided.

A community member started with a quote "One has not only have the legal but moral responsibility to obey just laws, one has a responsibility to disobey unjust laws". We just celebrated MLK, we celebrate him every year. His is a hero, an American hero and I thank you for standing up and going through this. I cannot believe that we are two years into this and we still have this discussion about masks and I do support you in not mandating masks. How many of you wearing mask cause you enjoy it and think you are healthy. You wear masks because you are afraid. We are misinformed. I said at the last meeting that I learned more about the immune system because my wife was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and she had to find a cure. If you want to learn how not to be afraid and not wear a mask just ask me. This is about fear and it is about funding. Let's put on masks, have vaccine clinics, that is about fear. There is nothing about healing. My 8 year old came home from school upset because her teacher berated her during recess because her mask was below her nose. You are teaching fear, they are afraid of germs and they are losing respect for authority and their teachers. My 7th grade student teachers told her that masks are healthy, that is a lie and misinformation. If you are going to enforce masks, educate the teachers and the school on what they do. I do support you.

A community member stated that he has been speaking for the better part of a year regarding Covid restrictions. The survival rate for children is over 99.995%. I have spoken about the increase in attempted suicide and childhood obesity. I had the pleasure of dropping my child off at soccer practice today and they were smiling, no masks. There is a bond between student and teachers, facial expressions are the key. When a child with disabilities are learning to read, facial expressions are very important. I feel for those who are in harm's way, the elderly, the immune comprised, and the obese. They need to take care of themselves. We don't have to lock down the least vulnerable, we don't need to mask the least vulnerable. The CDC said, just recently, those cloths mask do not work. Do we put our hearts behind the CDC which is a government bureacy. People need to listen to their doctors, their nurses. They are the ones who deliver health care, not the faceless government. Someone talked about fear, our kids are learning fear. I am very spiritual; we take that fear to God. I am very empathic to those who have fear; I have helped so many people overcome that fear. If I can get to one person today than this is a success.

A community member stated that she did not plan to speak tonight, but when someone mentioned students with learning disabilities, it hit her hard. Her students, who have learning disabilities, need to be in school and missed school because of the lack of a mask mandate. Some people might find this funny, but my children need to be in school and masking made that possible. We did not go on vacation because my son came home from Culbertson with Covid. The idea that children live in fear because of the masking, masking permits them to be in school. The CDC says that those children that wear mask are different from those who do not wear a mask for contact tracing. Therefore, a child without a mask could be a close contact and then is out of school for 5 days. They need that social connections, they need to

be around other kids, and they need to be around their teachers. They do not need to be at home doing virtual, virtual is a good alternative, but they should be in school. Students with learning disabilities need to be in school.

A community member stated that he has a different situation. He has a disabled child with respiratory issues. My other son could get it and bring it home and my son's gets it and dies, how does my 10-year-old feel. He killed his brother. What we have to think about is what is the best way, it's a paper mask. Kids go through a lot of trauma; I have to been to hell and back. I do not need a paper mask to save me. Just doing right, being safe for everybody. I know not everyone is in the same situation as I am, but we have to think about each other. I have heard comments to keep my student home, that is not right, it's selfish. With the last wave everyone could have been out of school, where would we be then. We have scientists, medical doctors that say what they want. This is not the first pandemic we have been through, for us it is the first, but there have been others. I have no choice but to wear a mask to protect my son and it keeps my other son out of school and that is not fair to him, he should be in school like everyone else but we cannot take the risk. Just common sense to me is to stick to the plan. Why do we, like all the others in the state, just mask up. It is the right thing to do.

A community member stated that his daughter has been denied an in person education for two years now. She is a Junior Olympic Gymnast, she is strong, healthy, and she works out four to five days a week. She is not a walking pathogen, you can't blame her for killing a grandparent, you can't blame her for killing a teacher. We are putting fear into children by telling them that, they hear you say that. The guilt should not be on my 12 year old daughter who is healthier than an ox, who's strong and has dealt with anxiety issues. She goes to the gym to work that out, that how she gets rid of that. To put her into a school masked up, she is a healthy child, she should not be covering her face. My 14 year old daughter, who is now I a private school has not worn a mask one day in class, no other students have died from her, she has not killed any other students, she has not killed any teachers. No one in that school has been hospitalized because she does not wear a mask. If you want to wear a mask, I respect that. If you want to send your child to school with a mask, I respect that. I tell our children to respect other kids; you don't know what they are going through. Someone in their family may be sick, but me and my children are healthy. We teach nutrition, we teach them to stay strong and we teach them not to fear a virus that a 99% survival rate.

A community member said that one thing about this virus is not just the kids getting sick and bringing it home, our ER's are inundated. My neighbor went to the ER for her gallbladder and there wasn't even a hallway to put her in because the ER was full. They had to start her IV in the waiting room, no rooms or hallways to put her. It just is not Covid, you can get sick and go to the ER but they are closing because they are full. There are countries that have to make a decision as to who they are going to help. We are lucky here now, but it is coming to that here. I know because I work in a hospital, I see it. Most kids are going to get it and will be fine. It is getting hard to treat, we are doing the best we can. Need a little help to get over this hump.

A community member wanted to address the shortages of nurses at hospitals. This is not the burden or responsibility of our children to see that the hospital are staffed. This is a human resource issue. The shortages have been happening for years.

A community member wanted to speak about students with disabilities. Her students both have IEP's and both have anxiety. Her daughter was diagnosed with high functioning Autism in November and she is not striving with wearing a mask. Not all child are striving wearing a

mask. She has a right to a proper education and if you want your child to wear a mask that is fine, but my daughter has the right to a proper education just like all of your children and not wear a mask. Stop putting fear into our children. Her teacher is putting fear into her and I am not all right with that. Respect her right to a proper education.

A community member spoke; she has two children in the district. One is at Paxon Hollow Middle School. When she receives her yearbook, she will not recognize the faces. Her entire middle school career she will never see a boy blush because he thinks she's pretty or a girl for that matter. She won't have that experience. They are missing out on the fundamental moments that we reflect on as adults. We remember that, that's youth. Our children are being robbed of their youth. Their faces are hidden in school; faces are hidden on social media. They can't show their emotions, can't show their expressions, so they are doing it in other ways, that's scary. There is bullying, depression, there are kids that want to be seen, just see me, but I can't see you because your face is covered. These are real problems and I am sorry that some of you have sick children, but I am also sorry that our missing so much. Just let them have experiences that's all. Thank you

A community member stated that she sent the Board an email and she wants to read from that, but first she stated that this stinks for all of us. Every single one of us thinks Covid is the worst and we are done with it, but unfortunately, we are not. Also, as far as I can tell it is still universal masking in this district at least until the 31st, so I would appreciate it if you would enforce that in this room. If you enforce the dress codes in school then I need you to enforce the masking rule here. The masks are right by the door. So, when you consider how to proceed I ask that you contact your personal physicians, your child pediatrician for their advice on masks in schools. Ask the medical professionals who advise you on irregular mammograms or how to manage pain from knee surgery, who care for your children when they have an angry rash or high fever. Don't turn to Facebook, NPR, or Fox News or other sights for theories or ideas, they're to the same people you have always turned to for medical questions. You trust your doctors with you and your family's lives and why shouldn't you trust them with all our children. I asked my pediatrician about masking in schools. She said masking is a deal breaker and she would not send her children to a school that did not mandate mask. Ask your doctors. Also I want you to think about the teachers and staff in our schools, their health and safety. They are all so dedicated to our children, we have first hand evidence that if it runs through the school staff we have to close the schools. Nationally we have seen teachers demanding more protection with walkouts and sickouts. Why would we put our district through that when a single mask mandate would increase the safety for everyone in our schools?

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

January is School Director Recognition Month.

The nine members of each local school board are a vital part of the district's administrative team, making informed decisions that lead public schools and provide opportunities for every student to succeed.

The School Board Directors are a key part of this team, making informed decisions that shape our public schools.

Pennsylvania public schools educate nearly 2 million students and approximately 3,700 students are in Marple Newtown.

School Directors, who volunteer their time and are unpaid, devote countless hours each month to the challenging and complex responsibilities of board business, including voting on budgets, adopting policy and conducting comprehensive planning.

In honor of our school boards' commitment to our students, schools and communities, I would like to thank our School Board Directors, Matthew Bilker, Barbara Harvey, Tracy Alberti, Dave Dezzi, Tony Maalouf, John McKenzie, Nick Reynolds, Nick Siano, and Desiree Tomasco.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

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

- Boys basketball has a record of 8 – 6
- Ice Hockey has a record of 11 – 2 – 1
- Girls' basketball has record of 9 – 2
- Alex Pastris broke her own record
- Student Council will be having a Blood drive
- Nerf football game in honor of Mr. Murphy
- Senior Project meeting February 9th
- Junior Initiative will be starting
- Seniors meeting with counselors about 158 day regulation
- 2nd marking period ending this week

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

The Russell art students and their art teacher, Mrs. Spratt were honored at a Superintendent's Art Recognition Event. The event was very well attended and the students were proud to share their wonderful work with me and their parents.

On January 13, 2022, the District hosted a vaccine clinic for any staff member and student over the age of 12. The 3 ½ hour clinic was well attended with approximately 300 people taking advantage of this opportunity.

This evening the Board will vote on the proposed updates to the MNSD Health and Safety Plan.

In summary, the highlights of the Health and Safety Plan changes include the following:

Universal Masking	
Revisions	
•	The District will follow any state, federal, and local mandates

The District will consider recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and local Health Department.
Remains - The District is not mandating universal indoor masking. The District is allowing optional masking for all students and staff in the District. - Per the CDC's order on wearing masks on public transportation, regardless of the school mask policy, masks are required to be worn by any passengers and employees on any school district transportation vehicles until the order is lifted.
Physical Distancing
Revisions The District will consider recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and local Health Department.
Please Note Classroom and lunch configurations will remain the same until further notice.
Cleaning and Ventilation
Remains All cleaning and ventilation protocols remain the same.
Contact Tracing
Revisions - The District will follow any state, federal, or local mandates. - The District will consider recommendations and guidance from the CDC, PA DOH, PDE, CHOP Policy Lab, and local Health Department. The District will not conduct close contact tracing, while in the school setting, unless otherwise ordered/mandated by state, federal, or local authorities. - Student, staff or visitor/volunteer who believe they were in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case should consult their medical provider and encouraged to consult federal, state, and/or local health guidelines.
Remains - The District will follow any requirement to report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the appropriate health department. - The District will follow any requirement to isolate any confirmed positive COVID-19 individuals. - Student, staff or visitor/volunteer who has tested positive for COVID-19, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual.
Screening
Remains All screening protocols remain the same.
Vaccination to School Community
Remains The District will continue to seek collaboration to offer vaccination clinics to our school community.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Tomasco asked for the following motions to be approved

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2021 Regular Meeting, the December 6, 2021 Reorganization Meeting, and the December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting.

11. OTHER REPORTS

Motion to approve Student No. 883214 to attend the Approved Private School (APS) for the 2021-2022 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve Student No. 880324 to attend the Approved Private School (APS) for the 2021-2022 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve Student No. 880324 to attend the Approved Private School (APS) for the 2021-2022 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between District and parents for Student No. 883490. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Trust Agreement between District and parents/guardians for Student No. 883490. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement with Misericordia University for the District to provide clinical intern opportunities for their students when appropriate and internship opportunities are available.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

Mrs. Tomasco asked for a motion to approve the proposed Adjudication of Student No. 881829.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Alberti ~	Yes and read transcript
Mr. Bilker ~	Yes and read transcript
Mr. Dezzi ~	Yes and read transcript
Mrs. Harvey ~	Yes and read transcript
Mr. Maalouf ~	Yes and read transcript
Mr. Siano ~	Abstain
Mrs. Tomasco ~	Yes and read transcript

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0 – 1 abstention

Absent: Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Reynolds

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

12.02 Contracts

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Lending Library contract with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) in the amount of \$500 for the 2021-2022 school year. This contract has been reviewed by Marple Newtown School District's Solicitor and provides K-12 MNSD teachers with access to the DCIU's STEM materials' library. MNSD teachers will have the opportunity to use these materials to support the District's K-12 STEM instructional programs. The DCIU will use this deposit to replace and repair materials.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve a contract to hire PSBA in the amount of \$2,125.00 for the purpose of auditing the Marple Newtown School District Administrative Regulations Manual to be completed during the 2021-2022 school year. This contract has been reviewed by our District's Solicitor and will conclude by the end of the 2021 2022 fiscal year. All approved changes to existing School Board Policy and Administrative Regulations shall be brought before our School Board at future public meetings. The audit of MNSD's Administrative Regulations will include, among other services:

A review of all Administrative Regulations to identify missing or outdated documents
Provision for any Administrative Regulation templates issued since 2015 A listing of recommendations

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the contract to hire Professional Learning Partnerships (PLP) in the amount of \$25,000.00 for teacher and administrator training, and a community information presentation during the 2022-2023 school year. This contract has been reviewed by our District's Solicitor. Teachers, instructional staff, and administrators will learn current research and methods designed to motivate student engagement and support social emotional learning using brain-based learning strategies. PLP will deliver a Zoom presentation in September of 2022 to our MNSD school community that provides families with information on the science of the brain and learning, and the role of social emotional wellbeing in learning. MNSD teachers and administrators will work with PLP throughout the 2022-2023 school year in professional development workshops to create and align lesson plans and delivery with current research on learning and wellbeing.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

12.03 Athletic Trips

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Rick Zimmerman to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Baseball Team to travel to Florida from March 16 to March 20, 2022 for pre

season games and team bonding. The total cost of the trip including transportation and lodging is \$1800.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Michael Snow to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Softball Team to travel to Florida from March 17 to March 21, 2022 for pre season games and team bonding. The total cost of the trip including transportation and lodging is \$1974.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

12.04 L.I.N.K. Trip

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Tracy Jacobson, Michael Winterbottom and Brian Isselmann to accompany the Marple Newtown High School members of L.I.N.K to travel to South Mountain YMCA in Reinholds, Pennsylvania from April 2 to April 4, 2022. The cost per student is \$25.00 paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$175.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

12.05 Music Trip

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Jordan Marmelstein, Georgia LaRue and Dan Peters to accompany the Paxon Hollow Middle School Music Department Students and the Elementary District Chorus to travel to Allentown, Pennsylvania on June 3, 2022 to participate in the “High Note Festival” then travel to Dorney Park. The cost of transportation is \$32.00 per student, paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$54.00 per student, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

12.06 Clubs

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School Do Something Club. The purpose of this club is to raise social awareness in an effort to make social change. The club advisor is Dr. Douglas Killough.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School World Language Honor Society Club. The purpose of this club is to recognize high achievement in World Language by students of secondary schools and to promote continuity of interest in French and Hispanic studies. The club advisors are Traci Dubs and Kerri Confora.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

12.07 Disposal of Books

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the disposal of books from the Marple Newtown High School Library, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

12.08 Marple Newtown School District Health and Safety Plan

Mr. Siano wanted to address some concerns he has before this next motion. Parents mentioned how they feel that they do not have our ear. I am always available whether I agree with you or not. I will meet with you after a meeting or anytime. I am sure that everyone on this Board is available, as need be. On masking, we need to get away from us v. them. Masks with vents may be looked at a future meeting. We are two years into this and we should be able to acquire masks with vents. We should stop relying on people about masks. I do not remember, before Covid, anybody saying how they got a cold or virus from someone. Stop trying to divide ourselves. Since the dawn of time our children's health and future has always come first.

Mr. Bilker explained that he was for universal masking in the summer, but I am now for optional masking. The reason for that is, number one, everyone in the district has had the opportunity to, and whether they did or not, make the choice as to whether they want to receive the vaccination. Number two, everyone has the opportunity to wear or not wear a mask and what type mask they want to wear. Most importantly to me is the contact tracing will not be in existence in this district and many other districts around us for the immediate future. My concern has always been sending healthy kids home when they should be in school and without contact tracing that will not be happening in Marple Newtown School District. I understand that there will be many people disappointed with the vote tonight. Think about what we have gone through the last month and a half, particularly with the omicron variant, it is doing exactly how it was predicted to trend, it came in quickly and it is plummeting quickly, and it is our hope and expectation that it is going to continue. If you are concerned about you and your family getting Covid you have the option to wear whatever type of mask you want.

What I understand now is that cloth masks don't work, surgical mask have little effectiveness, and the real protection is the N-95 masks and I think it would be insane to mandate on children. If that make sense for your child and you think they can handle them, which is fine. If a teacher can handle them that is fine too. Mrs. Koulas I listen to you last week and I do not think that it is the school districts job to keep hospital rates down. Maybe if the Federal government instead of putting billions of dollars in rapid testing, they could have supported the hospitals and take the weight off medical institutions and the weight off the doctors and nurses. Our job is to do the right thing for our students. I will close on what a parent said several weeks ago that their daughter for the first time saw her teachers smile. As a parent of elementary school kids, I felt that. I thinks it time and I am in support of this updated Health and Safety plan.

Mrs. Tomasco wanted to let everyone here, whether you are for mandating mask or having the option, I feel like all of us have family with cancer, family with obesity, or immune compromised. We have family that have chosen to get the vaccine and have family members who have chosen not to get the vaccine for personal or health reasons. We have elderly parents, children with IEP's/504. I just cannot in good conscience elect to make mask mandated when everywhere else our children are going they are not wearing mask or wearing them incorrectly. I just wanted to explain that to everyone. Thank you.

Mr. Maallouf stated that he thinks that this plan has all the provisions needed. It gives the Superintendent the ability to make a decision in an emergency should it be necessary. I am voting for this motion.

Mr. Siano also stated that he wanted to make it clear, that we have been in this for 681 days and would like to see the district look into vented masks

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the District's updated Health and Safety Plan effective January 31, 2022, as presented.

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

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

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

In the absence of Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions:

13.02 Termination(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Renee Crossan– LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School

Effective: February 1, 2022
Reason: End of Assignment

- 2) Rufino Panganiban– LTS Librarian
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: February 1, 2022
Reason: End of Assignment

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Christian Buchanan – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: December 8, 2021
Reason: Unavailable for work
- 2) Liam Ferry – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: December 8, 2021
Reason: Unavailable for work

13.03 Retirement(s)

CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES (Act 93)

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

- 1) Glenn Sharp – Building Supervisor
Operations Department
Effective: April 29, 2022
Reason: Retirement

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) George Montague – Transportation Utility Worker
Transportation Department
Effective: February 11, 2022
Reason: Retirement

13.04 Resignation(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) June Cloran – School Nurse
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 7, 2022
Reason: Resignation

- 2) Christina Callaghan – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: March 11, 2022
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Bernadette Gallone - School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: December 23, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Hardens Louis Jean – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: December 23, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Melanie DiBlasi – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: December 30, 2021
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Jill Pittenger – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: January 4, 2022
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Nadine DiMario – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: January 12, 2022
Reason: Resignation
- 6) Karen Ebert – 12-month Secretary
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: February 4, 2022
Reason: Resignation
- 7) Shelby Speaker – Title I Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: February 4, 2022
Reason: Resignation

13.05 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1 through 8.

- 1) Carolyn Campbell – Spanish Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: March 28, 2022 through and including June 16, 2022

Reason: Medical: March 28, 2022 through and including May 6, 2022
FMLA: March 28, 2022 through and including June 16, 2022

- 2) Dana Locher – Social Studies Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 30, 2023 through the end of the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year (2nd and 1st semester of each respective school year)
Reason: Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development
- 3) Kelly Giano – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: December 4, 2021 through and including June 21, 2022
Reason: Child Rearing Leave: December 4, 2021 through and including June 21, 2022
- 4) Kelly Keffer - Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: August 29, 2022 through June 21, 2023
Reason: Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development
- 5) Jenny Kim – English Language Learner Teacher
Culbertson and Worrall Elementary Schools
Effective: May 31, 2022 through and including October 28, 2022
Reason: Medical Leave: May 31, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
FMLA: May 31, 2022 through and including October 28, 2022
- 6) Diane Freeman – School Nurse
Russell Elementary School
Effective: December 17, 2021 through February 28, 2022
Reason: Medical: December 17, 2021 through and including February 28, 2022
FMLA: December 17, 2021 through and including February 28, 2022
- 7) Marie Kozak – School Nurse
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: January 13, 2022 through March 15, 2022
Reason: Medical: January 13, 2022 through and including March 15, 2022
FMLA: January 13, 2022 through and including March 15, 2022
- 8) Daniel Collins – Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 25, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Reason: Medical Leave: January 25, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Talaiha Horn – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 18, 2022 through February 28, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Alex Edwards – Van Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: January 3, 2022 through February 28, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 3) Theresa Cogliano – Health Room Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 3, 2022 through February 28, 2022
Reason: Uncompensated Leave

13.06 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Brittany Milia – Special Education Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Return date: January 31, 2022
Returning from: CRL
- 2) Brittany Horton - Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Return date: January 31, 2022
Returning from: CRL
- 3) Pamela Sarikianos – School Counselor
Culbertson Elementary School
Return date: January 3, 2022
Returning from: FMLA

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Garry Wilson – Van Driver
Transportation Department
Return date: January 3, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Jack Refsnyder - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Return date: January 10, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave

- 3) Walter Ritter – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Return date: January 10, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave
- 4) Sandra Dunnkosky – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Return date: January 31, 2022
Returning from: Uncompensated Leave

13.07 Position Creation

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the creation of two (2) LTS School Counselor positions with assignments to be determined based upon student needs, in accordance with the current MNEA Agreement, effective December 13, 2021 through and including June 21, 2022. These additional counseling positions will assist supporting the emotional, behavioral and academic needs of all students in grades K-12. (Continued employment of these positions beyond the 2021-2022 school year is subject to modification based upon Federal and State allocations to the District.)

Motion to approve the creation of two (2) LTS School Nurse positions with assignments to be determined based upon student needs, in accordance with the current MNEA Agreement, effective January 3, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022. These additional nursing positions will assist supporting the health and safety needs of all students in grades K-12. (Continued employment of these positions beyond the 2021-2022 school year is subject to modification based upon Federal and State allocations to the District.)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the creation of three (3) Maintenance Worker positions at an hourly rate of \$30.70 per hour, in accordance with the current MNNIEA Agreement, effective January 26, 2022.

13.08 Appointments

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

- 1) Joseph Sheehan - Transportation Supervisor
Transportation Department
Salary: \$82,500.00 (prorated)
Effective: January 24, 2022
Replacing: Mark Dodds (Resignation)

CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES – ACT 93

Motion to approve the following confidential employee appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Rhiannon Denison - Desk-side Technician
Technology Department
Salary: \$45,000.00 (prorated)
Effective: January 3, 2022
Replacing: Position on assignment funded via ESSERS II and III Grants
- 2) Sandra Brassell - Dispatcher/Router Specialist
Transportation Department
Salary: \$40,000.00 (prorated)
Effective: February 14, 2022
Replacing: New Position (MNSD Board approved 12/6/2021)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Kally Sioutis – LTS Behavioral Health Worker
Loomis and Russell Elementary Schools
Salary: \$53,930.00 (prorated)
Effective: December 13, 2021 through and including June 21, 2022
Replacing: Sara Norris (Resignation)
- 2) Alexa Logothetis – LTS Elementary Teacher (extended assignment)
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$48,000.00 (BA; Step-1: prorated)
Effective: February 5, 2022 through and including June 21, 2022
Replacing: Kelly Giano (Medical/FMLA)
- 3) Jessica Robinson – Speech and Language Therapist
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$61,955.00 (MA; Step-5: prorated)
Effective: Start date contingent upon release from present employer
Replacing: Molly DiEnno (Resignation)
- 4) Jessica McColgan – LTS School Counselor
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$53,930.00 (MA; Step-1)
Effective: January 18, 2022 through June 21, 2022
Replacing: Counselor on assignment funded via ESSERS II Grant
- 5) Katie Miller – LTS School Nurse
Pupil Services Department/District-wide assignments
Salary: \$48,000.00 (BA; Step-1)
Effective: January 10, 2022 through June 21, 2022
Replacing: School Nurse on assignment funded via ESSERS II Grant
- 6) Annette Brady – LTS Health Room Nurse
Pupil Services Department/Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$31.45 per hour

Effective: January 10, 2022 through and including March 18, 2022
Replacing: Marie Kozak (Medical Leave)

- 7) Jessica Shearman – Certified School Nurse
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$48,000.00 (BA Step, 1; prorated)
Effective: Start date contingent upon release from present employer
Replacing: June Cloran (resigned)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 13.

- 1) Daniel Flaherty – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Salary: TDB by assignment
Effective: January 11, 2022
Reason: As Needed
- 2) Kathleen Sondermann - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$27.59 per hour
Effective: January 18, 2022
Replacing: William Calderwood (Resignation)
- 3) Manmohan Singh - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$27.59 per hour
Effective: February 1, 2022
Replacing: Aimee Anderson (Resignation)
- 4) Jared Miller - 12-month Secretary
Transportation Department
Salary: \$25,894.00 (prorated)
Effective: January 10, 2022
Replacing: Michelle Jafolla (Resignation)
- 5) Joseph Agovino - Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Salary: \$17.84 per hour
Effective: January 24, 2022
Replacing: Harden Louis Jean (Resignation)
- 6) Jeams Vibert - Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$27.59 per hour
Effective: January 31, 2022
Replacing: Michael Elia (Reassigned to Van Driver)
- 7) Michael Elia - Van Driver
Transportation Department
Salary: \$25.75 per hour

Effective: January 31, 2022
 Replacing: Gissel Rivera (Resignation)

- 8) James Aquilino - Maintenance Worker
 Operations Department
 Salary: \$30.70 per hour
 Effective: January 31, 2022
 Replacing: New Position (MNSD Board approved 1/25/2022)
- 9) Christopher Vassallo - Maintenance Worker
 Operations Department
 Salary: \$30.70 per hour
 Effective: January 31, 2022
 Replacing: New Position (MNSD Board approved 1/25/2022)
- 10) Michael Kneafsey - Maintenance Worker
 Operations Department
 Salary: \$30.70 per hour
 Effective: January 31, 2022
 Replacing: New Position (MNSD Board approved 1/25/2022)
- 11) Joanne Goodman – 12-month Secretary
 Marple Newtown High School
 Salary: \$25,894.00 (prorated)
 Effective: January 26, 2022
 Replacing: Diane Fallows (Resignation)
- 12) Shannon Buchanan - Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
 Salary: \$15,746.00 (prorated)
 Effective: TBD
 Replacing: Donna Schmidt (Retirement)
- 13) Teresa Werner - 12-month Secretary
 Marple Newtown High School
 Salary: \$37,409.00
 Effective: February 14, 2022
 Replacing: Karen Ebert (Resignation)

13.09 Transfers

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the classified transfer(s), item(s) 1 through 4:

Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1. Lauralee Britt	PHMS	FSW II	Culbertson	FSW II
2. Diane Cellini	Culbertson	FSW II	PHMS	FSW II
3. Theodora Baysmore-Brown	Culbertson	FSW II	Worrall	FSW II
4. Anika Topalidis	Worrall	FSW II	Loomis	FSW II

13.10 Elementary Tutoring Program 2022**PROFESSIONAL**

Motion to approve the appointment, pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, of the following professional personnel for the 2022 Elementary Tutoring Program; January 31, 2022 through May 5, 2022, as presented. The staff will be used on an as-needed basis as determined by student enrollment. (This tutoring program is funded via ESSERS II and III funds.)

13.11 Tuition Reimbursement

Motion to approve the tuition reimbursement, in accordance with the Act 93, MNEA, MNAA and MNESPA negotiated agreements, as presented.

13.12 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.

13.13 Tenure

Motion to record in the records of the Board the attainment of tenure and the awarding of a Professional Employee Contract to the following temporary professional employees who have been certified by the Superintendent of Schools as having completed three (3) years of satisfactory service in the Marple Newtown School District in accordance with Section 1108 of the School Code, item(s) 1 through 3.

1. Jillian Votterro	Culbertson Elementary School	Achieved: January 31, 2022
2. Alexa Acchione	Culbertson Elementary School	Achieved: January 31, 2022
3. Kelly Miller	Loomis Elementary School	Achieved: January 31, 2022

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

With no further discussion motions passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**14.01 Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson**

Mrs. Alberti asked for the following motions:

14.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$6,051,064.65, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$2,509,435.79, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$28,373.94, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$151,837.40.

14.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for October 2021 and November 2021, Budget Transfers for November 2021, and Treasurer's Reports for November 2021.

Informational item monthly financial report for December 2021.

Motion to approve the June 30, 2021 Audit report.

14.04 Request for Abatement of Penalty

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01643-00 in the amount of \$366.38.

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-00938-00 in the amount of \$363.99.

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-04540-01 in the amount of \$270.86.

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01973-19 in the amount of \$205.62.

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-02315-00 in the amount of \$277.81.

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-03557-14 in the amount of \$2,753.83 and Folio 25-00-04912-62 in the amount of \$1,810.29.

14.05 Tax Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-00867-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$485,000 assessment/\$485,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$118,770 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,302 to our District for tax year 2021.

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 25-00-04645-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$590,000 assessment/\$590,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$132,050 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,448 to our District for tax year 2021.

14.06 Financial Advisor

Motion to approve the agreement with NW Financial to serve as financial advisor for the Marple Newtown School District per the engagement letter.

14.07 Bond Underwriter

Motion to authorize administration to engage Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC., 1717 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 to serve as underwriter for the issuance and/or refunding of the school district's General Obligation Bonds.

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

With no further discussion motions passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, 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 be approved.

15.02 Presentation

1) District-Wide Demographic Study Presentation by Sundance Associates

A representative from Sundance Associates gave the following report on the demographic study:

- Study was completed in November 2021
- Gave an overview of the district and location
- Enrollment for both public and private
- Land use in both Marple and Newtown as well as household incomes
- Population growth, age and gender pyramids
- Comparative populations by age groups
- Residential sales, new construction, approved and planned housing and number of children that would be school aged from new housing
- Enrollment projections and history from 2000 - 2021
- District wide enrollments by grades
 - Elementary grade K-5
 - Middle School grade 6 – 8
 - High School grade 9 – 12
- Comparative enrollments by grade level organization

15.03 Bus Lease (2022-2023 school year)

Motion to reapprove the renewal of the three (3) – year bus lease agreement with Santander Bank and to approve the related agreement with Wolfington Body Company, under the same terms and conditions as set forth in the original lease agreement approved on February 26, 2013. This Three (3) year lease provides 36 buses at an annual lease cost of \$374,400.

15.04 Transfinder Plus Professional Services

Motion to approve the Statement of Work as presented by Transfinder Professional Services not to exceed the amount of \$9,250.00 as stated in the proposal, and to authorize the necessary transfer of funds from the budgetary reserve.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, 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 follow up on a comment made earlier about not having your ear and I am sorry you took it the way you did. Many people are not sure how to approach you so what happens is they stay home and say nothing or complain sometime on social media. Suggest you have a bigger space for the next Board meeting now that people know that you are accessible.

A community member stated that she timed this at home and it is three minutes. This is a message of thanks. My daughter has not been in school since March 2020. These are some of the thanks I have. Thank you for not using your power to push back on the state of PA in honoring the oaths you all took to defend the constitution. You have showed us for two years that these oaths mean nothing. Thank you for not reaching out to the students directly and asked how they felt about your forcing them to put medical equipment on their mouth and nose for two years which has caused serious physical, mental and academic harm. You have taught them to be weak and complacent with their bodies when they were being harmed. Thank you for teaching the student in Marple Newtown that their mental health is much less important, but triple double masks and vaccine adults feel safe. Thank you for teaching the student that the most minor risk not worth taking, like when you take the path of least resistance with no chance of failure and not chance of catching a cold. Thank you for teaching the students to experience what anxiety feels like and not being able to see anyone's facial expression. Thank you for enabling some of our students to be terrified of a virus with a 99% chance of survival, that their parent can't get them to take off their masks because they have been traumatized and brain damaged for having adults like you mask psychosis and Munchausen syndrome by proxy, which you continue to enforce on a daily basis. Thank you for teaching the students that to

be a morally superior person only requires you cover your face for seven hours a day while they are in school but as soon as the bell rings all the Covid rules go away. By the way, they all see you out of school breaking our own rules. My daughter thanks you so much for keeping her out of her classroom for two years yet in those same schools where she is denied an education you allow athletes to literally roll around on top of each other as soon as the bell rings. You taught her the definition of hypocrite and we will never forget that. Thank you for showing us that your made up rules don't trump the rules of the PA Supreme Court when they stripped the power away from the highest ranking government official in our state to make such decisions, but you Tina Kane think your Health and Safety plan will stand a chance in a court of law when it comes time for our cases to be heard. Thank you for making things so difficult for parents that they had to become fierce advocates for their children so you will never have the ability to ever do this again. Thank you because for your compliance, parents in all the districts in Delaware County have come together and will never let this happen again. Lastly, just let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for showing parents and students that they have a much better option out there other than government run public schools. If I did not have this experience, I would have never known how much better life is in private schools.

A community member stated everybody keeps going back to 2020. In 2020 it was a new virus and of course they locked everybody up because they didn't know what was going to happen. You do what science tells you to do. In 2020 it came out and it could have killed us all. We have had 2 variants, we could have another one that could affect our children, then what do we do? It is a paper mask, our kids are a lot stronger. We are the only school district that is doing this, why are other districts not doing this, they are all wearing masks. It's just common sense.

Community member stated that she is a physical therapist. I have worked with students and in nursing homes and always from October to March is flu season. I understand people's feelings about masks (she then showed how some kids are wearing the mask); I tell my daughter if someone asks you to pull up your mask ask to sanitize your hands. You should always sanitize your hands before pulling up your mask. You have touch areas that have germs on them and if you do not sanitize your hands all those germs you touch are now on the mask and you will get sick that way. I want to thank you for your service to the community and this School District and the move to get us back to normal. This past two years have been taxing especially on our children, emotionally and physically. I am here as a concerned parent and it is nothing to do with the masks. I and other members of the community want to know how and what capacity the Superintendent can make decisions in an emergency without input from the School Board. It is a concern that one person has the power to make a decision for every school in Marple without any documentation showing what the limitations are and what constitutes an emergency. I did try to look this up on the website, but the website is very confusing. I am also confused with the age of Technology, that the week after winter break there could have been a Board meeting via zoom for vote on what should be done due to staff shortages, not to mention, if the Superintendent can in an emergency put masks back on kids, why can't you drop contact tracing so that we could have allowed the district to remain mask optional. I find it disheartening that the administration do not respond to emails personally, but spend tax payers money to pay a Solicitor to respond instead. I find that it is a major gray area. Why the administration needs a lawyer to respond to an email instead of answering parental concerns. I don't want your jobs, I respect you all. I feel like these

last two years have been the worst for you guys. We need more transparency and more communication with the parents. We do not parent with the government or the school district. Our children's rights are important and must be respected, especially when it comes to medical decisions and no one on this Board or administration has a medical degree.

Community member stated I am a High School teacher that she came home with Covid and I work in a masked district. I was the first one in the house with Covid, not the ones that were unmasked in the school, me. On top of that there were many teachers in my district that got Covid. It is all over, it's everywhere. And for the record those who got Covid were home for 10 days. I spoke to some nurses in my district, not all of them, and they are physically and mentally drained from contact tracing. My school nurse didn't get Covid till the second week of January. If you want to wear a mask I respect that, but respect my child rights not to wear one. I have a grandparent that is ill, my parents have health conditions and they were exposed before I found out the I had it. They did not get it, but that is no always going to be the case.

Community member thanked the Board for all they do. Consider who we are following. We are all talking about our kids that are sick. When Fauci took office America was among the healthy populations. In a 2020 survey America health care system is last in an industrialize nation. IQ's went up 3% each decade since 1900. Since Fauci has taken office, the pace of longevity and intelligence has slopped. IQ points are down 7% since 2000. The medical conditions that our children have risen and Fauci was given the task to investigate and prevent them. Stick with the mask option and the money given to you by the government should be used for the mental health of our children since suicide rates have risen 6%. Use some of the money for tutoring. Many people have posted on Facebook that they are looking for tutors. You should all read the book the "Real Anthony Fauci". Please stop following the man with a poor track record. Follow the medical researchers that disagree with him. Again, read the book.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Siano asked that since we are working on so many of our buildings maybe we could look as solar panels.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary