

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2023**  
**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, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher

Press: 0

Audience: 0

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal issues.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. McKenzie led the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf (by phone), Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Siano, Mrs. Tomasco (by phone)

7 members present

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. Harvey, seconded by Mr. McKenzie

With no further discussion motion 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**

There was none.

## **8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT**

There was none.

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

There was none.

## **10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

Mr. McKenzie asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023, Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

## **11. OTHER REPORTS**

Mr. McKenzie asked for a motion to approve the Adjudication of Student No. 881494.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0 by Roll Call Vote

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

|              | Read Transcript | Vote |
|--------------|-----------------|------|
| Mr. Dezzi    | Yes             | Yes  |
| Mr. Bilker   | Yes             | Yes  |
| Mr. McKenzie | Yes             | Yes  |
| Mr. Maalouf  | Yes             | Yes  |
| Mrs. Harvey  | Yes             | Yes  |
| Mr. Siano    | Yes             | Yes  |
| Mr. Tomasco  | Yes             | Yes  |

Mr. McKenzie asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the Parents of student 883954 for student to attend Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the Parents of student 881577 for student to attend Private School for the 2023 - 2024 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and Parents of student 880425 for student to attend Private School for the 2023 - 2024 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for student 885567 to attend Approved Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for student 885770 to attend Approved Private School for the 2023-2024 School Year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for student 884721 to attend Approved Private School for the 2023-2024 School Year. This is not a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for student 884074 to attend Approved Private School for the 2023-2024 School Year. This is not a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the One-to-One Service agreement for student 884074 for the 2023-2024 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the One-to-One Service agreement for student 884721 for the 2023-2024 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and Parents of student 880510 to attend Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement with Aspire Educational Services, Inc., a staffing agency used to fill various positions such as PCAs, Psychologists, and nurses, for students placed out of district. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement with CCRES, Inc., a staffing agency used to fill various positions such as PCAs for students placed out of district. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Service Proposal for AAC Coaching services to be provided by DCIU for the Speech and Language Therapists during the 2023-2024 school year at a cost not to exceed \$4,207.50. This is not a new agreement.

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

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** Policy

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the second and final reading of Policy 137 Home Education Programs, as presented.

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 the disposal of out-of-use high school math textbooks. A new math program has been approved and implemented as a replacement for this series of books.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

**12.03 eHall Pass**

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the use of the browser-based online system, eHall Pass, for hallway management and monitoring at Marple Newtown High School in the amount of \$4,151.20.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

**12.04 Administrative Trips**

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Michelle Lydon to attend a conference October 3 - 4, 2023 as part of the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$231.30.

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

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

**13.02** Position Creation

Mr. McKenzie asked for motions 13.02 through 13.07 be approved.

**CLASSIFIED**

Motion to approve the creation of four (4) Title I Assistant positions with the initial assignment(s) at Loomis Elementary School (2 positions), Russell Elementary School (1 position), and Paxon Hollow Middle School (1 position), at an hourly rate of \$17.62 per hour, in accordance with the current MNESPA Agreement, effective September 2023. (These positions will be funded and subject to modifications regarding the number of hours/days employed per year based upon the Title I fund allocations to the district which will be reviewed annually.

**13.03** Resignation(s)

**PROFESSIONAL**

Motion to approve the following professional resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 6.

- 1) Kelly Gustis – Special Education Teacher  
Russell Elementary School  
Effective: August 8, 2023  
Reason: Resignation

- 2) Regina Collins – Homebound Instructor  
Pupil Services Department  
Effective: August 10, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Andrew Davis – School Counselor  
Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Effective: August 15, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Kristen Seefeldt – LTS Special Education Teacher  
Worrall Elementary School  
Effective: August 15, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Francine Richick – LTS Elementary Teacher  
Loomis Elementary School  
Effective: August 15, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 6) Rachel Gardner – Elementary Teacher  
Culbertson Elementary School  
Effective: August 17, 2023  
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 9.

- 1) Diane McGinty – Title I Assistant  
Loomis Elementary School  
Effective: July 24, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Maria Farina – Special Education Assistant  
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School  
Effective: August 1, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Steven DeCecco – Special Education Assistant  
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School  
Effective: June 17, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Alicia Cammarota – School Assistant  
Worrall Elementary School  
Effective: August 4, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Lauren Kincade – School Assistant

Worrall Elementary School  
Effective: August 4, 2023  
Reason: Resignation

- 6) Catheline Amos – Title I Assistant  
Loomis Elementary School  
Effective: August 8, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 7) Katherine Drown – School Assistant  
Worrall Elementary School  
Effective: August 9, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 8) Tim Minor – Bus Driver  
Transportation Department  
Effective: August 14, 2023  
Reason: Resignation
- 9) Maria Drakou – School Assistant  
Russell Elementary School  
Effective: September 22, 2023  
Reason: Reassigned to Title I Assistant

**13.04** Return from Leave  
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

- 1) Angela Barone – Assistant Principal  
Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Return date: September 18, 2023  
Returning from: Medical/FMLA

**13.05** Appointments  
ADMINISTRATIVE

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

- 1) Lisa Kelly – Supervisor of Teaching & Learning: Integrated Arts  
Teaching & Learning Department  
Salary: \$124,000.00 (prorated)  
Effective: October 23, 2023  
Replacing: Matthew Flood (Retirement)

**Act 93 CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES**

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

- 1) Krista Callaghan – Deskside Technician  
Technology Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Salary: \$55,000.00 (pro-rated)  
Effective: August 21, 2023  
Replacing: Rebecca Studdy (Resignation)

#### PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 8.

- 1) Sara Turner – LTS Social Studies Teacher  
Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Salary: \$53,000.00 (BA+24; Step-1)  
Effective: August 28, 2023 through June 17, 2024  
Replacing: Constantine Vlahos (Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development)
- 2) Angelina Giordano – Gifted Support Teacher  
Paxon Hollow Middle School  
Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1)  
Effective: August 28, 2023  
Replacing: Jena Gardner (Resignation)
- 3) Briana Graziola – LTS Elementary Teacher  
Russell Elementary School  
Salary: \$56,600.00 (MA; Step-1: prorated)  
Effective: August 28, 2023, through January 26, 2024  
Replacing: Andrea Omrod (Medical)
- 4) Madelyn Zielinski – Special Education Teacher  
Russell Elementary School  
Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1)  
Effective: August 28, 2023  
Replacing: Kelly Gustis (Resignation)
- 5) Deborah Ryan – Homebound Instructor  
Pupil Services Department  
Salary: \$40.00 per hour  
Effective: July 5, 2023  
Reason: As Needed
- 6) John Jacobs – Special Education Teacher  
Marple Newtown High School  
Salary: \$85,700.00 (MA; Step-14: prorated)  
Effective: October 16, 2023  
Replacing: Nicole Hazelwood (Resignation)
- 7) Sydney Torresson – LTS Elementary Teacher  
Worrall Elementary School  
Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1: prorated)

Effective: August 28, 2023 through January 26, 2023  
 Replacing: Brittany Horton (Medical/FMLA)

- 8) Ariana Galante – Special Education Teacher  
 Loomis Elementary School  
 Salary: \$54,000.00 (BA; Step- 4)  
 Effective: August 28, 2023  
 Replacing: Jessica Recknagel (Resignation)

#### CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Helane McKee – Title I Assistant  
 Loomis Elementary School  
 Salary: \$17.62 per hour  
 Effective: September 26, 2023  
 Replacing: Lisa Naughton (Resignation)
- 2) Dylan Williams – Classified Substitute  
 Operations Department  
 Salary: TBD by Assignment  
 Effective: August 7, 2023
- 3) Conchetta McClosky – Title I Assistant  
 Russell Elementary School  
 Salary: \$18.89 per hour  
 Effective: September 26, 2023  
 Replacing: Diane McGinty (Resignation)
- 4) Taylor Erdman – Secretary (12-month position)  
 Marple Newtown High School  
 Salary: \$27,471.00 (prorated)  
 Effective: August 15, 2023  
 Replacing: Joanne Goodman (Resignation)
- 5) Maria Drakou – Title I Assistant  
 Russell Elementary School  
 Salary: \$17.62 per hour  
 Effective: September 26, 2023  
 Replacing: New position (MNSD Board approved 8/22/2023)

#### 13.06 Transfers PROFESSIONAL TRANSFERS

Motion to approve the professional transfers, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, item(s) 1:

| Name            | From       | Assignment         | To     | Assignment         |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
| 1. Erica Valori | Culbertson | Elementary Teacher | Loomis | Elementary Teacher |

#### 13.07 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, items 1 through 14.

|                             |                              |                         |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Marina Golato            | Culbertson Elementary School | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 2. Joseph Borell            | Culbertson Elementary School | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 3. Stacy DiCandilo          | Culbertson Elementary School | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 4. Aysel Tuna               | Loomis Elementary School     | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 5. Meghan Donohue           | Loomis Elementary School     | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 6. Liza Raspa               | Russell Elementary School    | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 7. Amanda Gallagher         | Worrall Elementary School    | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 8. Jenny Kim                | Worrall Elementary School    | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 9. Kathleen Fortebuono      | Worrall Elementary School    | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 10. Monica DiStefano        | Paxon Hollow Middle School   | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 11. Stuart Berg             | Paxon Hollow Middle School   | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 12. Susan Harvey-Dubrunfaut | Paxon Hollow Middle School   | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 13. Daniel Maloney          | Marple Newtown High School   | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |
| 14. Riley McSorley          | Marple Newtown High School   | Achieved: June 21, 2023 |

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

Mr. Bilker congratulated all who made tenure.

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

#### **14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**14.01** Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

Mr. McKenzie asked that motions 14.02 through 14.05 be approved.

##### **14.02** Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$4,498,436.09, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$434,650.25, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$3,037.50, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$36,599.55.

##### **14.03** Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for June 2023 (unaudited), Treasurer's Report for July 2023, Investment Schedule for July 2023, and Budget Transfers.

*Informational item monthly financial report for July 2023.*

##### **14.04** Tax Appeal – 2024 District Initiated

Motion to authorize the Solicitor to prosecute the following real estate assessment appeals for Tax Year 2024 regarding the following properties:

1. 25-00-04486-01 – 2090 Sproul Road, Marple Township
2. 25-00-05299-00 – 2701 West Chester Pike, Marple Township

3. 30-00-01277-09 – 148 Hunt Valley Circle, Newtown Township
4. 30-00-02840-00 – 0 West Chester Pike, Newtown Township
5. 30-00-02840-16 – 0 West Chester Pike, Newtown Township

**14.05 Tax Assessment Appeal – 2021**

Motion to authorize the Solicitor to finalize resolution of the real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

1. 30-00-01079-05 – 3919 Rockwood Farm Road, Newtown Township
  - 2021, \$1,835,000 assessment/\$1,835,000 fair market value
  - 2022, \$1,835,000,000 assessment/\$1,835,000 fair market value
  - 2023, \$1,456,000 assessment/\$2,000,000 fair market value

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

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

**15.02** Lower Fields Change Orders

Mr. McKenzie asked for a motion to approve the following lower fields turf/band renovation project change orders:

Uhrig Construction, Inc.  
Change Order No. GC-05 Summary:  
COR X Damaged Manhole Replacement Credit

Cost to replace existing parking lot underground oil tank manhole that was damaged by Uhrig Construction, Inc. vehicle during the project. Scope includes removal and replacement of concrete around manhole and manhole installation. Cost per Ferguson & McCann, Inc. proposal dated 7/5/23 in the amount of a \$6,078.00 CREDIT.

Change Order GC-05 Total: \$6,078.00  
G. A. Vietri, Inc.  
Change Order No. EC-02 Summary:

COR 11.2 Replace and Relocate Existing Parking Lot Light Pole

Cost to replace existing parking lot light pole and base that were damaged by construction vehicle during Band Area construction. Scope also includes relocation of light pole away from center aisle of parking area. Costs for replacement of base and pole per G. A. Vietri, Inc. proposal dated 6/23/23 in the amount of \$12,790.68 which will be credited from Uhrig Construction, Inc. contract. cost for relocation of light pole per G.A. Vietri, Inc. proposal dated 6/23/23 in the amount of \$1,988.49 which will be paid for by MNSD.

Change Order EC-02 Total: \$14,779.17

Shaw Sports Turf  
Change Order No. TC-01 Summary:  
COR 1 Rubber Infill Credit and Varsity Baseball & Softball Bases

Provide credit for unused rubber infill for new synthetic turf areas in the amount of \$30,000.00 and additional cost for owner requested change to provide new rubber bases and sleeves set in concrete for varsity baseball and varsity softball fields in the amount of \$13,475.00. The net total cost per Shaw Sports Turf proposal dated 10/25/22 in the amount of a \$16,525.00 CREDIT.

Change Order TC-01 Total: \$16,525.00 CREDIT

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

15.03 Salto Locks for New Classroom Addition – Culbertson

**F-1**

Mr. McKenzie asked for a motion to approve Delco Solutions with the purchase and installation of Salto electronic locks and door swipes for the Culbertson Elementary school addition in the amount of \$45,253.00 paid from the capital reserve under costars contract #034-422-159.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 1

No: Mr. Siano

Absent: Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. McKenzie asked the following motions be approved.

15.04 Boiler Replacement – Worrall

**F-2**

Motion to approve Johnson Controls with the installation of a new high efficiency cast iron condensing boiler, this will include the removal of the old boiler and the purchase and installation along with all controls. This will be paid from capital reserve account in the amount of \$ 322,16.20 costars contract #008E22-975.

15.05 Paving – Paxon Hollow

**F-3**

Motion to approve Premier Concrete, Inc. with the installation of 700 feet of black top along the back fields. This will be paid from capital reserve in the amount \$24,500.00 under costars contract #041E22022.

15.06 Lease (2022-2023 school year)

Motion to approve 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 two (2) new 72 Passenger Type C Buses at \$22,500 per bus per year.

**16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT**

There was none.

**17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Maalouf gave the following report:

In our state, Gov. Shapiro signed into law the 2023-2024 fiscal budget last month. The budget, according to the Governor's office, included substantial increases in education funding in varied areas. Two of which I want to highlight that may be of interest to our district include: \$100 million for school based-mental health counselors and resources for students and an increase in \$50 million for special education funding. There are other increases in the budget, outside of the realm of education, which are targeted to aid seniors, state parks and historically disadvantaged business owners.

Nationally, most policy discussions have centered on higher education. Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action in college and university admissions as well as President Biden's proposed college student debt relief program have put those two higher education topics on the national agenda.

And finally, our corresponding non-governing organization, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), is gearing up for its fall School Leadership Conference, which will run from October 15-17. While these conferences have all sorts of break-out sessions and exhibitions, special emphasis will be given to mental health and school safety.

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

There was none.

**19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

There was none.

**20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

There was none.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

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Joseph Driscoll  
Board Secretary