

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 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, Dr. Joel DiBartolmeo, Mr. Dominic DiVernois, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher.

Press: 0

Audience: 2

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive session to discuss Personnel and Legal issues.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

8 members present

Absent: 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 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none.

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

The Niche reviews have been published for 2024 and Marple Newtown School District and some highlights from the report include:

- Marple Newtown School District - #5 of 15 in Delaware County
- Best College Prep Public High School - #4 of 17 in Delaware County
- Best High School for Athletes - #2 of 30 in Delaware County
- Best Places to Teach in Pennsylvania - #15 of 497
- The District, MNHS, PHMS, and all six elementary schools received an overall grade of A.

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Freshman Orientation was held on August 31st and Back to School Night was held on September 20th; Both were successful and attracted many people.

- So far, there has been a great start to the school year.
 - There has been positive feedback with block scheduling, especially with the 5th block activity period where many clubs and help classes have been held, promoting an increase in student involvement and success.
- Picture Day will be on Thursday, September 28th.
- Marple's annual Homecoming Dance will take place on Saturday, September 30th at the high school. Students will enter through the cafeteria doors and proceed to the gym. Snacks and refreshments will be provided by the PTO.
- Leading up to the homecoming dance, this week at school is spirit week!
 - The themes can be found in the weekly message, or on the Student Council Instagram (@mn_stuco)
 - Tuesday (Today): USA theme
 - Wednesday: Neon theme
 - Thursday: Picture Day as mentioned previously.
 - Friday: Blackout/Senior Jeans
- On Thursday, October 5th, student tours will be held around the school
- SAT Testing will be on Saturday, October 7th.
- Marple's annual and exciting Bandarama will also be held Saturday, October 7th.
- Senior Portrait Retakes: October 10th
- The School Store is now open to the public! The Link to the school store is available in the School's Weekly Message. All proceeds will go to class funds
 - <https://logowearhouse.shop/mnhigh/shop/home>
- The Class of 2025 Ring Sales is now open; parents and students have been making appointments through Robbins Jewelry
 - Next week is the last week to place orders for the rings; the last four days to purchase are September 27th – September 30th.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

PHMS and MNHS hosted New Student Orientations in late August.

The elementary schools hosted New Students and Kindergarten Orientations.

We welcomed our students back to our schools on September 5, 2023.

Our six schools hosted Back to School nights.

We are beginning our third week of school.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Tomasco asked for motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mrs. Tomasco asked that all motions under number 11 be approved:

11. OTHER REPORTS

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for student 884480 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 885067 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 884648 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 880324 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 885770 to attend Approved Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. There was a change to the cost in the agreement. The original agreement was approved at the August 22, 2023, board meeting.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement Addendum "A3" for student 881873 to attend Approved Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 885950 to attend Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 882928 to attend Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement and Release between the District and the Parents of student 884074. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 882842 to attend Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 885482 to attend Private School for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a new Agreement.

Motion to approve the One-on-One Service Agreement for student 881429 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 600018. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Service Proposal for training and consultation on the MTSS Behavior Framework at Marple Newtown High School. The DCIU will provide these services at a cost not to exceed \$1,350.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: 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 first reading of School Board Policy 216.1, Supplemental Discipline Records, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12.03 Purchase

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the purchase of books for Paxton Hollow Middle School and Marple Newtown High School English Departments, as presented.

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the purchase of books for Culbertson Elementary library, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12.04 Affiliation Agreements

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Affiliation Agreement with Cabrini University for field experience and student teaching, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Affiliation Agreement with Neumann University for field experience and student teaching, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12.05 Donations

Mr. Siano asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve the donation of an elevator decal at Marple Newtown High School to promote public service announcements for wellness, as presented.

Motion to approve the donation of a tent for the Cross-Country Track and Field teams, as presented.

Motion to approve the donation of a 3-D Printing Pen to the Design Thinking Program at Russell Elementary, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12.06 Administrative Trips

Mr. Siano asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane, Superintendent, to attend the Board of Governors Conference on September 7-8, 2023, in Harrisburg, PA. The cost to the district is \$70.49.

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane, Superintendent, to attend the DCIU Chief School Administrators' meeting and retreat in Annapolis, Maryland from October 1-3, 2023. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Michelle Lydon, Supervisor of Special Ed, to attend a conference November 7-10, 2023 as part of the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program. The cost to the district is not to exceed \$1,480.82.

Motion to approve Jessica Falco, Behavior Analyst, to attend Safety Care Trainer Training October 30, 2023 to November 1, 2023 at Berks County Intermediate Unit. The cost to the district is not to exceed \$1,918.99.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12.07 Disposals

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the disposal of outdated English workbooks and textbooks from Marple Newtown High School. Newer programs have been approved and implemented as replacements.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the disposal of books from Culbertson Elementary Library, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12.08 Elementary Club

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Chess Club at Worrall Elementary as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

Mr. McKenzie asked that motions 13.02 through 13.12 be approved

13.02 Termination(s)

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) William Stevens – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 5, 2023
Reason: Failed to complete necessary employment paperwork
- 2) Janet McFall – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: September 20, 2023
Reason: Unavailable for work

13.03 Resignation(s)

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

- 1) Gina Ross – Director of Pupil Services
Pupil Services Department
Effective: September 22, 2023
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Matthew Oberecker – Supervisor of Instructional Technology & Science
Teaching & Learning Department
Effective: November 3, 2023
Reason: Resignation

CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

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

- 1) Shannon Seonia – Administrative Assistant
Teaching & Learning Department
Effective: October 11, 2023
Reason: Resignation

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Jessica Robinson – Speech and Language Pathologist
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 13, 2023
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Linda Calvecchio – Secretary (12-month)
Pupil Services Department
Effective: September 1, 2023
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Dana Chirico – Office Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 2, 2023
Reason: Reassigned to secretary position
- 3) Biju Thomas – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 25, 2023
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Dennis Yang – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 31, 2023
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Theodora Baysmore-Brown – Food Service Worker II
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: September 18, 2023
Reason: Resignation

13.04 Leave(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Sophie Queitzsch – Special Education Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 29, 2023 through November 17, 2023
Reason: FMLA: September 29, 2023 through November 17, 2023
- 2) Caitlin Kohout – Gifted Support Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 2, 2024 through March 22, 2024
Reason: Medical: January 2, 2024 through February 1, 2024
FMLA: January 2, 2024 through March 22, 2024

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Michael Elia – Van Driver II
Transportation Department

Effective: September 12, 2023, through November 24, 2023
Reason: Uncompensated Leave: September 12, 2023, through November 24, 2023

- 2) Daniell Pearson – Pupil Services Clerk
Pupil Services Department
Effective: October 2, 2023 through January 5, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated: October 2, 2023 through October 9, 2023
FMLA: October 10, 2023 through January 5, 2024
- 3) Selena Poiesz – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 31, 2023, through January 5, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated Leave: October 31, 2023 through January 5, 2024
- 4) Patricia Tomczak – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: September 29, 2023 through October 31, 2023
Reason: Medical: September 29, 2023 through October 31, 2023
FMLA: September 29, 2023 through October 31, 2023

13.05 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Sarah Crowley – English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Return date: October 2, 2023
Returning from: FMLA

13.06 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Mia Ziebis – Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$85,100.00 (MA+20; Step-13: prorated)
Effective: October 30, 2023
Replacing: Danielle Donovan (Resignation)
- 2) Rufino Panganiban – LTS Science Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$56,600.00 (MA; Step-1: prorated)
Effective: September 5, 2023 through December 22, 2023
Replacing: Kathryn Disharoon (CRL)

- 3) Thomas Gorman – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1; prorated)
Effective: September 5, 2023 through November 7, 2023
Replacing: Danielle Donovan (Resignation)
- 4) Madison Metzger – School Counselor
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$60,700.00 (MA+20; prorated)
Effective: October 2, 2023
Replacing: Andrew Davis (Resignation)
- 5) Hanna Crowley – LTS Special Education Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$56,600.00 (MA, Step-1; prorated)
Effective: September 14, 2023 through December 22, 2023
Replacing: Kelsey Sun (FMLA)
- 6) Marie Prasalowicz – Substitute School Nurse
Pupil Services Department
Salary: \$30.00 per hour
Effective: September 14, 2023
- 7) Nicole Miller – Speech and Language Pathologist
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$66,500.00 (MA, Step-6; prorated)
Effective: November 27, 2023
Replacing: Jessica Robinson (Resignation)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 19.

- 1) Antonia Marsella – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$13,246.00
Effective: September 5, 2023
Replacing: AnnaMarie McCann (Reassigned)
- 2) Jen August – School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$13,246.00
Effective: September 5, 2023
Replacing: Alicia Cammarota (Resignation)
- 3) Brian Battista – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$13,246.00
Effective: September 5, 2023

Replacing: Lisa Connelly (Reassigned)

- 4) Telasha Smith – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$19,570.00
Effective: August 30, 2023
Replacing: Mary Danenhowe (Resignation)
- 5) Cynthia Vadino – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$19,570.00
Effective: August 30, 2023
Replacing: Maria Farina (Resignation)
- 6) Victoria Vadino – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$19,570.00
Effective: August 30, 2023
Replacing: Steven DeCecco (Resignation)
- 7) Dawn Ulshafer – Secretary (12-month position)
Teaching & Learning Department
Salary: \$27,471.00 (prorated)
Effective: September 5, 2023
Replacing: Jared Miller (Resignation)
- 8) Dana Chirico – Secretary (10.5-month position)
Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$23,850.00 (prorated)
Effective: October 3, 2023
Replacing: Jeanne Slata (Retirement)
- 9) Maria Siegert – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$13,246.00 (prorated)
Effective: September 12, 2023
Replacing: Alison Goldberg (Reassigned)
- 10) Margaret Nilan – Food Service Worker II
Food Services Department /Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$15.18 per hour
Effective: September 12, 2023
Replacing: Patricia Pitcairn (Resignation)
- 11) Kristen Casel – Title I Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Salary: \$17.62 per hour
Effective: September 26, 2023
Replacing: Catheline Amos (Resignation)
- 12) Tara Carty – Food Service Worker II

Food Services Department /Paxon Hollow Middle School
 Salary: \$15.18 per hour
 Effective: September 5, 2023
 Replacing: Diane Cellini (Reassignment)

13) Donna Bryson – Food Service Worker II
 Food Services Department /Marple Newtown High School
 Salary: \$15.18 per hour
 Effective: September 18, 2023
 Replacing: Stephanie DeMattei (Resignation)

14) Dionisia Papapetridis – Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Russell Elementary School
 Salary: \$19,570.00 (prorated)
 Effective: September 19, 2023
 Replacing: Kelly Small (Resignation)

15) Jessie Poon – School Assistant
 Worrall Elementary School
 Salary: \$13,246.00 (prorated)
 Effective: September 14, 2023
 Replacing: Lauren Kincade (Resignation)

16) Elena Argyros – Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
 Salary: \$19,570.00 (prorated)
 Effective: September 26, 2023
 Replacing: AnnMarie Taggart (Resignation)

17) Emarie Smith – School Assistant
 Russell Elementary School
 Salary: \$13,246.00 (prorated)
 Effective: September 27, 2023
 Replacing: Elizabeth Scott (Resignation)

18) Sheila Reynolds – Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
 Salary: \$19,570.00 (prorated)
 Effective: September 27, 2023
 Replacing: Beverly Liscom (Retirement)

19) Mary Ellen Nunan – Food Service Worker II
 Food Services Department /Marple Newtown High School
 Salary: \$15.18 per hour
 Effective: October 2, 2023
 Replacing: Lauren Harrington (Resignation)

13.07 Transfers

CLASSIFIED TRANSFERS

Motion to approve the classified transfers, effective for the 2023-2024 school year, item(s) 1 and 2:

Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1. Debra Goodyear	Culbertson	Special Educ. Asst.	Loomis	Special Educ. Asst.
2. Deborah Fitzsimmons	Russell	Special Educ. Asst.	Loomis	Special Educ. Asst.

13.08 Supplementary Contracts

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2023-2024 school year as attached. 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 activities which are the subject of each contract, these activities contracts are subject to suspension or cancellation, with payments due thereunder prorated for services provided.

13.09 Tuition Reimbursement

Motion to approve the attached tuition reimbursement, in accordance with the MNEA, MNAA and MNESPA negotiated agreements.

13.10 Chester County Intermediate Unit

Motion to approve the Scope of Work request, as presented and subject to the review and approval of final language by the Solicitor, with Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) to provide the district with a qualified per diem substitute Director of Pupil Services to fill the administrative vacancy in the MNSD Pupil Services Department. This Agreement is effective from October 11, 2023, through June 30, 2024, or until the district can secure a full-time replacement for this position.

13.11 ACA Track Consulting Services

Motion to reapprove the agreement between Marple Newtown School District and ACA Track for automated PPACA Compliance and IRS Reporting. The one-year proposed contract is in the estimated amount of \$4,050.00.

13.12 Administrative Trip

Motion to approve Jennifer Canavan, Administrator of Employee Programs & Compliance, to attend (PASPA) Pennsylvania Association of School Personnel Administrators 38th Annual Conference on February 28, 2024. The cost of the conference is \$420.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

14.02 Bills for Payment

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$13,700,741.85, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$1,043,265.18, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$105,494.97.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.03 Monthly Reports

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the monthly financial reports for July 2023, Treasurer's Report for August 2023, Investment Schedule for August 2023 and Budget Transfers.

Informational item monthly financial report for August 2023.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.04 Equipment Purchases

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the purchase of cafeteria equipment for the High School, Russell Elementary and Worrall Elementary, in the amount of \$18,267.70 from Empire Equipment Company, 407 Jeffreys Lane, Goldsboro, NC. Pricing is per three quotes attached and will be funded through the Food Service Fund.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.05 Tax Assessment Appeal – 2023

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to authorize the Solicitor to finalize resolution of the real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

1. 25-00-03009-40 – 116 Martins Run Road, Marple Township
 - 2023, \$611,520 assessment/\$840,000 fair market value

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

In the absence of Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Bilker gave the following report:

15.02 Bathroom Renovations, Gauntlett Center

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve Bonnett Associates to design and advertise for the Gauntlett Center bathroom renovation project. Project will be paid from Marple Newtown Leisure Service.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

15.03 Intercom and PA Replacement, Marple Newtown High School

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve Goldhorn Electrical Construction with the installation and equipment for a new Intercom and PA system throughout the Marple Newtown High School. This will be completed under costars contract #008-638 in the amount \$298,480.00 paid from the capital fund.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

15.04 Pitch Pocket Replacement, Marple Newtown High School

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve Garland/DBS INC. with the replacement and repair of the roof pitch pockets on the high school roof. This will be completed through Omnia Partners in the amount of \$31,439.00, paid from the capital fund.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none.

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. Maalouf gave the following report.

Earlier this month, the U. S. Department of Education recognized 353 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools. Thirteen of them are in our home state of Pennsylvania, including schools in nearby neighborhoods, St. Mary Interparochial School of Philadelphia and Saints Phillip and James in Exton. You may recall our very own Loomis Elementary School received the honor in 2020. The Department of Education recognizes the schools in two categories. The first is exemplary high-

performance schools, (this was the category that earned Loomis recognition). The other is exemplary achievement gap closing schools.

On the State or Commonwealth level, the Pennsylvania Department of Education announced One million dollars in funding available for institutions of higher education, part of the larger Pennsylvania Hunger-Free Campus Initiative. Given that our own district has so many graduates who head out to four-year institutions of learning, I thought it would be of interest to many families in our community to know of this initiative.

Finally, one last plug for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's School Leadership conference held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. It runs from October 15th to 17th. Registration is now open.

18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker ~ I was pleased with the opening of schools this year. Transportation issues were extremely limited, I usually hear about them very, very quickly when they occur. It sounds like all six buildings have been functioning smoothly, which is really all we can ask for as a School Board. So on behalf of the Board, just wanted to say good job to all of our employees, teachers, administrators, staff and our students

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Good evening my name is Keith Reinhardt I'd like to start a conversation and dialogue with the school Board responsibility of returning school trips back to the school district. I was speaking with Mrs. Confora who is my child's French teacher and that as of last year field trips have not been approved by the school district that may not be the case today, I don't know, that's why I'm here, because my own personal interest. My daughter is in French five at Marple-Newtown High School. Historically students either traveled to Canada or a longer trip to France during Spring Break

Mr. Bilker ~ I don't mean to interrupt you; you mean foreign trips not just field trips in general.

Mr. Reinhardt ~ Well I know I'm just speaking for myself but its a different way field trips that are endorsed by each individual School such as they use School transportation.

I appreciate your comments by the way and certainly with regard to field trips we have picked them up and I know that as a parent as well my kids went on some at Loomis. I mean the Board I assume would approve that type of action if it were recommended by the administration. I do know there's a lot that goes into it and if I recall I don't think our district has ever run those before. I thought they were outside vendors who handled the running of those trips. So, I don't know how would get off the ground or what the circumstance would be it probably wouldn't start in this room. If it was a school sanction trip though we would certainly have to vote on it.

Mr. Reinhardt ~ not a school sanction but she did say it still has to be approved by the individual school or something external. Well, I do know that I'd asked about it and or seems to be under the understanding that she can't take any actions. Maybe a conversation for here.

Mr. Bilker ~ we appreciate your comments.

Stephanie from Russell just wanted to introduce herself. She is the liaison for PTO at Russell.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Tomasco~ I would like to thank Dr. Kane for all the work she's done tracking the Niche rankings and for reporting on them, I know she's worked really hard on tracking that for us and thank you for the PTO from Russell for sending a representative, that's wonderful, we're glad to see you.

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary