

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – Immediately following Budget and Finance

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meeting – Immediately following Facilities and Transportation

Administration Building – Board Room

MINUTES

Present

Board: Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf (6:59), Mr. Siano

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Mr. Jim Orwig,

Press: 0

Audience: 0

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mrs. Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Siano led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

3.01 Committee Report – Tracy A. Alberti, Chairperson

3.02 Additions to the Agenda

There was none.

3.03 Approval of Minutes

With no discussion minutes were approved.

3.04 Approval of Section 3 of the agenda relating to Budget and Finance

3.05 Bills for Payment

MOTION: To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$853,093.70

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is the first run, there will be additional bills at the end of the month.

MOTION: To authorize the Business Administrator to release checks for payment during the month of December, as needed.

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is done so that vendors can be paid on time during the month of December when there is not a regular board meeting.

3.06 Financial Reports

MOTION: To approve the monthly financial reports for September 2023, and Budget Transfers.

Informational item – monthly financial report for October 2023

Mr. Driscoll stated that there was nothing to report on this motion or the following.

3.07 Request for Abatement of Penalty

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-02363-00 in the amount of \$186.25.

3.08 Budgetary Reserve – Transfer

MOTION: To approve a transfer from Budgetary Reserve in the amount of \$423,450.43 for the purchase of six vans, furniture for the new wing at Culbertson Elementary, and Paxon Hollow Middle School water remediation costs.

3.09 Preliminary Budget 2024-2025

MOTION: To adopt the resolution, pursuant to Section 311 of Act 1, limiting the increase in the rate of tax for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to no more than the index of 5.3%, as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the School District.

3.10 Public Comment

There was none.

3.11 Adjournment

4. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

4.02 Additions to the Agenda

There was none.

4.03 Approval of Section 4 of the agenda relating to Facilities and Transportation

4.04 Approval of Minutes

With no discussion minutes were approved.

4.05 Informational Items:

Mr. Gallagher advised that there were no items for Facilities.

Mr. Orwig gave the following report.

1. Bus Patrol update regarding the current stop-arm law in Pennsylvania. At the end of October, we were informed that we should know more about the timing for the updated law by early November. Below is the most recent information:
 - A Bill amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for enforcement of failure to stop for school bus with flashing red lights, for automated speed enforcement systems in active work zones and for pilot program for automated speed enforcement system on designated highway and providing for pilot program for automated speed enforcement systems in designated school zones.
 - Regular Session 2023-2024 | Senate Bill 851 passed and signed by Governor Josh Shapiro on October 26, 2023. (copy of the updated law for your review is attached, please note it's not a "clean" version yet as it's still getting completed but you'll be able to see where items were struck out and new items included).

House of Representatives

- Yeas: 178
- Nays: 25

Senate of Pennsylvania

- Yeas: 48
- Nays: 0

Mr. Orwig asked that the following motions be taken to the full Board for approval.

4.06 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

MOTION: To authorize the administration and to approve the purchase of the following vehicles in the total amount of \$123,646.74 (average price per vehicle is \$41,215.58) from Abeloff GMC and to approve the necessary transfer from budgetary reserve. Prices are in accordance with Co-Stars Contract No. 025-E23-601. (This motion replaces all prior motions for van purchases which were not fulfilled by the manufacturer.)

Quantity (3) = 2024 Kia Carnival 4D Wagon EX

4.07 Authorizing Future Transportation Vehicle Purchases

MOTION: To authorize the administration and to approve the future purchase of the following vehicles in the total amount not to exceed of \$125,000.00 from Abeloff GMC and to approve the necessary transfer from budgetary reserve. Prices are in accordance with Co-Stars Contract No. 025-E23-601. (This motion replaces all prior motions for van purchases which were not fulfilled by the manufacturer.)

Quantity (3) = 2024 Kia Carnival 4D Wagon EX

4.08 BusPatrol America LLC Agreement

FT-2

MOTION: To approve the five (5) year agreement between Marple Newtown School District and BusPatrol America, LLC, regarding the bus stop arm safety program at no cost to the district, effective February 1, 2024 through January 30, 2029, subject to the review and approval of the District Solicitor. During the duration of the contract, the cost of the program is generated via the violators-funded business model as defined in the contract.

4.09 Intergovernmental Agreement with Local Law Enforcement Agencies

FT-3

MOTION: To approve the five (5) year Intergovernmental Agreement between Marple Newtown School District, Marple Township Police Department, Newtown Township Police Department and BusPatrol America, LLC, regarding the bus stop arm safety program at no cost to the district, effective February 1, 2024 through January 30, 2029, subject to the review and approval of the District Solicitor. During the duration of the contract, the cost of the program is generated via the violators-funded business model as defined in the Bus Patrol contract.

4.10 Other Business

There was none.

4.11 Public Comment

There was none

4.12 Adjournment

5. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

5.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

5.02 Informational Items

1. Presentation on the Marple Newtown High School block scheduling, by High School Principal, Mr. John Beltrante and High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Christian Jaspersen.

Mr. Beltrante and Mr. Jaspersen gave a brief presentation on the block scheduling at the high school. It has been a success, students and parents think that it is working very well. Any questions please email either Mr. Beltrante or Mr. Jaspersen

2. Presentation on State Testing for the 2022-2023 school year by, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo.

Dr. DiBartolomeo gave a presentation on the PSSA/Keystone testing. The presentation can be viewed on the Marple Newtown webpage under the Teaching and Learning department.

Mr. Siano asked that all the below motions be taken to the full Board for approval.

5.03 Athletic Trips

MOTION: To approve Kimberly Foster, Coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Cheerleading team to go to the UCA Regional Competition in Allentown, PA on December 3, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$521.41 and paid for by the athletic department. The cost of the activity is \$1,312.00 and paid for by the athletic department. The cost to the district is approximately \$1,833.41.

MOTION: To approve Kimberly Foster, Coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Cheerleading team to go to Clean Sweep at Burlington Township High School in Burlington, NJ on December 16, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$491.41 and paid by the athletic department. The cost of the activity is \$80.00 per student and paid by the students and boosters. The cost to the district is approximately \$491.41.

MOTION: To approve Kimberly Foster, Coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Cheerleading team to go to the PIAA State Championship in Hershey, PA from January 25, 2024, to January 27, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$787.46 and paid for by the athletic department. The cost of the activity is \$2,859.36 and paid for by the athletic department. The cost to the district is approximately \$3,646.82.

MOTION: To approve Kimberly Foster, Coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Cheerleading team to go to the UCA High School National Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, FL from February 8, 2024 to February 13, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$336.00 per student and paid by the students and parents. The cost of the activity is \$927.00 per student and paid for by the students and parents. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Michael Snow, Coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Softball team to go to The Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, SC on March 15, 2024, to March 19, 2024. The cost of transportation is

approximately \$300.00 and paid for by the students. The cost of the activity is \$700.00-\$850.00 per student and paid by the students and boosters. There is no cost to the district.

5.04 Student Trips

MOTION: To approve Stephanie Murray, Teacher, to accompany the fifth grade of Loomis Elementary School to go to Treehouse World in Phoenixville, PA on November 8, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$397.34 and paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Linda Wigo, Advisor, to accompany the Renaissance club of Paxton Hollow Middle School to go to Urban Air in Springfield, PA on November 9, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$499.05 and paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$25.00 per student and paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Georgia LaRue, Teacher, to accompany the Tiger Tones Club to Beaumont in Bryn Mawr, PA on November 10, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$129.45 and paid for by the district. The cost to the district is approximately \$129.45.

MOTION: To approve Sheila Amodei, Teaching and Learning Supervisor, to accompany the students within the STEM Academy to Fluxspace in Norristown, PA on November 29, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$417.98 and paid by funds available in the Ready to Learn grant. The cost to the district is approximately \$417.98.

MOTION: To approve Rachel Basescu, Teacher to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Choir to Haverford School in Haverford, PA on November 29, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$151.22 and paid by the Academy of Vocal Arts. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Matt Baker and Bob Smythe, Teachers, to accompany the 10th grade AP European and World History classes to the Philadelphia Art Museum in Philadelphia, PA on December 14, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$621.97 and paid for by the students. The cost of the activity is \$17.00 per student and paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Rachel Basescu, Teacher, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Choir to Princeton University in Princeton, NJ on March 13, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$511.67 and paid by the district. The cost to the district is approximately \$511.67.

MOTION: To approve Rachel Basescu, Teacher, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Choir to New York City in New York, NY on April 27, 2024. The cost of transportation and the activity is \$319.00 per student and paid by the students and choir parent booster clubs. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Douglas Killough, Advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School NHS club to Washington, DC on May 14, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$2,460.00 and paid for by the students and parents. The cost of the activity is \$55.00 per student and paid by the students and parents. There is no cost to the district.

MOTION: To approve Michael Snow, Advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Ski Outdoor Club to go to Skirmish USA in Albrightsville, PA on December 2, 2023. The cost of transportation is approximately \$642.24 paid for by the students. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student and paid for by the students. There is no cost to the district.

5.05 Purchase

MOTION: To approve the purchase of books for the Paxton Hollow Middle School Library, as presented.

5.06 Marple Newtown High School Commencement

MOTION: To approve a change to the high school graduation date on the District Calendar from June 12, 2024, to June 13, 2024.

MOTION: To approve an agreement between the Marple Newtown School District and Villanova University for the purpose of Villanova hosting MNSD's class of 2024 high school graduation. This agreement has been reviewed by our District Solicitor. The estimated cost is \$25,560.00.

5.07 Marple Newtown High School Course Description Changes

MOTION: To approve the Marple Newtown High School course description changes, as presented.

5.08 Other Business

There was none.

5.09 Public Comment

There was none.

5.10 Adjournment

With no further business for the Board, Mrs. Harvey adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.