

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

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: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Pacel, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Siano

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Kevin Fagan, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Jake Gallagher

Press: 0

Audience: 1

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Siano led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey Chairperson

3.02 Additions to the Agenda

3.03 Bills for Payment

MOTION: To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,617,012.87 and Food Service bills in the amount of \$58,738.27.

Mr. Driscoll explained that this is the first run, there will be a final run at the end of the month. Any questions please let him know.

3.04 Financial Reports

MOTION: To approve the monthly financial reports for September 2024 and Budget Transfers.

Mr. Driscoll explained the Financial Reports and Budget Transfers, again any questions please let him know.

3.05 2025-2026 Budget Process/Act 1 Index

Mr. Driscoll explained that it is early in the budget process. Explained the Act 1 Index to the new Board members. The Board can pass a resolution to not to exceed the Act 1 Index when discussing the budget. The Board past a resolution last year at this time. There was a brief discussion on projections of what the budget may look like.

3.06 Other Business ~ there was none

3.07 Public Comment ~ there was none

4. FACILIITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

4.02 Additions to the Agenda ~ there was none

Mr. Gallagher explained the following motions

4.03 Bus Garage Renovation and Parking Lot Expansion Project, Administration Building

MOTION: To approve the Bus Garage and Parking Lot Expansion Project to advertise to solicit bids.

4.04 Change Order, Marple Newtown High School Library Renovation Project

MOTION: To approve a change order for Periera Construction LLC, for additional work of reinstalling upper cabinets in the back of library, frame steel post at front of library, drywall, spackle, and prep post for paint, and to remove orange ceiling sound waves throughout the library and haul away in the amount of \$1202.00.

4.05 WGL Energy Contract

MOTION: To approve the energy contract with WGL for a two (2) year term at \$0.05622/KW.

4.06 Premier Concrete Inc. Contract, Administration Building

MOTION: To approve Premier Concrete Inc. to perform the removal and installation of concrete blocks and steps around perimeter of administration building under Costars contract 04-E122-022 in the amount of \$143,750.00.

4.06 Transportation, Bus Lease 2025-2026

Mr. DuVernois gave information to the Board on the current bus leases. He also advised that they have been talking to the bus leasing company. There will be a motion in two weeks.

4.07 Public Comment ~ there was none

5. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

5.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

5.02 Additions to the Agenda ~ there was none

Mr. Siano asked that the following motions be approved by the full Board.

5.03 Administrative Trips

MOTION: To approve Shelia Amodei and Jessica Mattei, Supervisors of Teaching and Learning, to attend the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference in Hershey, PA on February 10 - 12, 2025. The cost to the district is \$913.61, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Lisa Kelly and Brooke Tocci, Supervisors of Teaching and Learning, to attend the Keystone State Literacy Association Conference in Hershey, PA on December 2, 2024. The total cost to the district is \$773.74, as presented.

5.04 Student Teacher Program

MOTION: To approve the renewal of Letter of Agreement with Eastern University student teacher program. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

5.05 Mapping Safety Services

MOTION: To approve the proposal from Critical Response Group for District mapping safety services. The one-time cost to the district is \$26,155.00 with an annual cost of \$3,920.00 thereafter, as presented.

5.06 Book Disposal

MOTION: To approve the disposal of books from Marple Newtown High School Library, as presented.

5.07 Curriculum Implementation

MOTION: To approve the implementation of a pilot curriculum for Paxton Hollow Middle School Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, and Financial Literacy program, which aligns with the new PA STEELS standards.

MOTION: To approve the Marple Newtown High School new course recommendations and description updates, as presented.

5.08 Student Trips

MOTION: To approve Andrew Butler, coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School girls indoor track team to Staten Island, NY on February 5, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$1,036.55, paid by the district. The cost of the activity is \$360.00, paid by the district. Total cost to the district is 1,396.55, as presented.

5.09 Science Standards Subscription

MOTION: To approve the purchase of American Modeling Teachers Association Subscription. The cost to the district is \$780.00, as presented.

5.10 Block Schedule Survey Results, Marple Newtown High School

MOTION: Presentation of the Marple Newtown High School Block Schedule Second Survey Results, presented by Christian Jasperson, Assistant Principal.

Mr. Beltrante and Mr. Jasperson gave a brief presentation about the block schedule survey and curricular updates and course recommendations. STEM Academy ~ recruiting math and science teachers, STEM seal challenge, update course requirements, and field experience. New course recommendations. PE ~ Advanced first aid and safety skills for grades 10 through 12. Science Dept. ~ Astronomy for grades 9 through 12, and Environmental Literacy and Sustainability for grade 9. They also explained some course description revisions. They continued with the Block Scheduling the second survey results. Some of the students wants and needs ~ less classes to worry about, more time for extended learning, increase vocational opportunities, club opportunities, work experience flexibility and dual enrollment. They shared the results of the survey by students and parents in grades 11 - 12, student/parents grades 9 – 10, and the teacher survey. The summary of the results is that most students, parents and teachers like the block scheduling. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jaspersen. Also, Mr. Beltrante thanked the Board for the new Library.

5.11 Guest Speaker

MOTION: To approve guest speaker AJ Guliani, Artificial Intelligence in Schools, December 9, 2024. The cost to the District is \$4,500.00, as presented.

5.12 Professional Development

MOTION: To approve 504 Plans professional development training to Pupil Services personnel by CRY Ed Media Consultants, LLC, January 2025. The cost to the district not to exceed \$4,000.00, as presented.

5.13 Policies

MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 317, Employee Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 317.1, Employee Educator Misconduct, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 326, Employee Complaint Process, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 340, Employee Responsibility for Student Welfare, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 824, Employee Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

5.14 Information Item

Presentation on Marple Newtown School District Goals for the 2024-2025 School Year, by Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Kevin Fagan.

Dr. Fagan gave a brief presentation on the district goals for the 2024-2025 school year. He explained the MNSD Mission Statement and the purpose, principles, and priorities of the administrative goals, comprehensive plan, and operations. Dr. Fagan gave an overview of 2023-2024 achievements of the district. Some of those achievements included increased academic achievement for all students. Some of the goals for curriculum and instruction would be STEM/Design Thinking, develop 21st Century STEM Academy program, continue the evaluation, development and alignment of MNSD curricular programming, and teacher instruction and delivery, continue broad array of course offerings, including dual enrollment. To continue to monitor and nurture students and staff well-being and emotional intelligence. Finally, to maintain financial responsibility and to communicate current school and district information to stakeholders.

5.15 Public Comment ~ there was a parent who spoke about homework and what the philosophy behind having homework. There was a brief discussion that homework should not be a long assignment. That the work should be a review of what was taught in class, not any new content should be given as homework if it has not be taught first in the classroom. That it would need to have substance to what had been learned in the classroom.

5.16 Adjournment

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Siano adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.