

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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. Harvey, Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacel, Mr. Raymond,
Mr. Siano

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

Press: 0

Audience: 3

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Siano led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey turned the meeting over to Mr. Driscoll

3.02 Additions to the Agenda ~ there was none

3.02 Bills for Payment

Mr. Driscoll explained that these are the normal bills for payment and financial reports.

MOTION: To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$7,795,937.32, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$206,665.76, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$313,925.57.

3.04 Financial Reports

MOTION: To approve the monthly financial reports for October 2024 and November 2024, Treasurer's Report for November 2024, Investment Schedule for November 2024 and Budget Transfers.

3.05 Request for Abatement of Penalty

Mr. Driscoll explained that we get several of these every year and gracefully give relief.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01973-19 in the amount of \$678.22.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-03050-00 in the amount of \$364.85.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-01185-06 in the amount of \$545.35.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-03898-00 in the amount of \$362.98.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-05567-06 in the amount of \$127.79.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 25-00-00640-00 in the amount of \$1,047.95.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-01192-27 in the amount of \$216.43.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-00090-24 in the amount of \$1,538.05.

MOTION: To request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-02842-41 in the amount of \$573.70.

3.06 Donation

Mr. Driscoll explained that some action has already been taken in the construction of this wall with other donations, this is an additional donation. Mrs. Harvey the Bruder family for this donation.

MOTION: To accept a donation to Marple Newtown High School in the amount of \$5,000.00 from The Thomas A. and Kathleen R. Bruder Foundation for the construction of a Lacrosse Wall.

3.07 Policies

Mr. Driscoll explained that a lot of time was spent updating the following policies, they have been reviewed by our solicitor and at this point nothing needs to be addressed and they are ready to be approved by the Board.

- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 601, Fiscal Objectives, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 602, Budget Planning, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 603, Budget Preparation, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 604, Budget Adoption, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 605, Tax Levy, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 606, Tax Collection, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 607, Tuition Income, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 608, Bank Accounts, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 609, Investment of District Funds, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 610, Purchases Subject to Bids/Quotation, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 611, Purchases Budgeted, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 612, Purchases Not Budgeted, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 613, Cooperative Purchasing, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 614, Payroll Authorization, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 615, Payroll Deductions, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 616, Payment of Bills, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 617, Petty Cash, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 618, Student Activity Funds, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 619, District Audit, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 620, Fund Balance, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 622, GASB Statement 34, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 624, Taxable Fringe Benefits, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 626, Federal Fiscal Compliance, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the first reading of School Board Policy 626.1, Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.
- MOTION: To approve the retirement of School Board Policy 600, Policy That Effects Budget, as topics addressed within the policy are more comprehensively addressed in existing Board policies.

3.08 Other Business ~ there was none

3.09 Public Comment ~ there was none

3.10 Adjournment

4. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Siano turned the meeting over to Mr. Gallagher

4.02 Additions to the Agenda ~ there was none

4.03 Other Business ~ there was none

4.04 Public Comment ~ there was none

4.05 Adjournment

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 taken to the full Board for approval.

5.03 Administrative Trips

MOTION: To approve Dr. Tina Kane to attend the PASA Board of Governors Meeting in Harrisburg, PA on January 23-24, 2025. The cost to the district is \$99.35, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Dr. Tina Kane to attend the AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans, LA on March 6-8, 2025. The cost to the district is \$2,876.36, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Jen Cipollone, CCAC Counselor, to attend Roundtable Conference at Villanova University on December 12, 2024. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Jen Cipollone, CCAC Counselor, to attend PSCA Annual Conference at Hershey Lodge on December 13, 2024. The cost to the district is approximately \$275.00, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Jen Cipollone, CCAC Counselor, to attend PACAC Planning Meeting at Muhlenberg College on February 19, 2025. The cost to the district is approximately \$45.00, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Tracy Jacobson, CCAC Counselor, to attend Hofstra University Counselor Event at Hofstra University on March 4-5, 2025. The cost to the district is approximately \$180.90, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Jonathan Ruths, teacher, to attend PMEA State Conference at Kalahari Resort from April 10-12, 2025. The cost to the district is \$510.00, as presented.

5.04 Student Trips

MOTION: To approve Jordan Marmelstein and Georgia LaRue, teachers, to accompany Paxon Hollow Music students to Allentown, PA on May 30, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$42.00 per student and paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$68.00 per student, paid by the student. The cost to the district is \$414.00, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Dan Peters, Jonathan Ruths, Joe Borell and Morganne Obringer, teachers, to accompany Marple Newtown elementary school select choir, strings, and band to Dorney Park, Allentown, PA on May 30, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$40.00 per student and paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$62.00 per student, paid by the student. The cost to the district is \$414.00, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Michael Snow, advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown Ski and Outdoor Club to Elk Mountain on February 8, 2025. The cost of the transportation is \$892.95, paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$93.00 per student, paid by student. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Mike Snow, advisor, to accompany Marple High School Ski and Outdoor Club to Skirmish USA on December 7, 2024. The cost of transportation is \$658.80 and paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$50.00 per student, paid by student. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Tracy Jacobson, Steven Smilk, and Mike Winterbottom, advisors, to accompany Marple Newtown High School LINK to South Mountain YMCA on April 5-7, 2025. The cost of the transportation is \$25.00 per student paid by the student. The cost of the activity is approximately \$242.00 per student, paid by student. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Michael Snow, advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown Ski and Outdoor Club to Killington Mountain Lodge from January 31, 2025, to February 2, 2025. The cost of the transportation is \$100 per student, paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$675.00 per student, paid by student. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Jen Cipollone, Tracy Jacobson, and Mary Dolenti, advisors, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Renaissance to Morey's Pier on June 6, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$80.00 per student to be paid by student. The cost of the activity is \$40.00 per student and paid by the student. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Kimberly Reynolds, coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Cheerleading Team to Reading, Pa on January 29-31, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$285.80 to be paid by the district. The cost of the activity is \$3,575.34, paid by the district. The total cost to the district is \$3,861.14, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Michael Clancy, advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown Math Club to Millersville University on February 26, 2025. The cost to the district is \$421.20, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Dan Peters and Jonathan Ruths, teachers, to accompany Marple Newtown elementary school select choir to Kalahari Resorts on April 11, 2025. The cost to the district is \$4,248.00, as presented.

5.05 Academic Calendar

MOTION: Presentation of the proposed 2025-2026 Marple Newtown School District Academic Calendar, by Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Kevin Fagan.

Dr. Fagan gave a brief presentation of the proposed 2025-2026 school year calendar

- Recommendation starting after Labor Day
- Winter break is a nice long break again due to the holiday falling on a Wednesday
- After a lot of conversations, to make the most of our professional development days, and abiding to the contract of 193 days, the professional development days that were held at the end of the school year will now be held at the beginning of the school year.
- The new teacher induction will be from August 11th to August 14th
- August 19th through August 21st and August 25th through August 29th will be professional development days for all teachers.
- Dr. Fagan continued with the remainder of the calendar which has not changed. Thanksgiving break, winter break, spring break are all the same as in the past, as well as conferences. There are 4 snow days identified if we need them.

5.06 Agreement

MOTION: To approve the agreement with the Chester County Intermediate Unit to provide guidance and training with the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support at each of the four elementary schools. The cost to the district for this phase will not exceed \$35,000.00.

5.07 Disposals

MOTION: To approve the disposal of the 37-year-old table saw from Marple Newtown High School.

MOTION: To approve the disposal of books at Paxon Hollow Middle School, as presented.

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

MOTION: To approve the disposal of books at Culbertson Elementary School, as presented

5.08 Presentation

MOTION: Presentation of proposed Paxon Hollow Middle School schedule, presented by Dr. TJ Gretchen, Principal.

Dr. Gretchen gave a presentation on a change to the schedule at the Middle School

- This process started two years ago
- Present schedule or similar schedule has been around since 1991
- Many discussions have taken place on how to make adjustments to better support our 6th grade students, how we optimize resources to maximize instructional time and enhance student learning, and how to better prepare our 8th grade students for success at the high school, especially with the recent shift to a block schedule.
- To promote equitable practices among staff including duties, prep time and most importantly teaching time.
- This has been a collaborative process between members of the administration team, Dr. Kane and the Teaching and Learning department.
- Spoke to all team leaders and explained what we are proposing.
- He went on to explain what the process would be and how the schedule would look like and how we would be able to better help students
- The schedule would have the teachers having 6 classes a day, unified art teachers already teach 6 classes, it would mean smaller classes and open more sections.
- We would inform the parents of these changes when we hold our curriculum night.
- Dr. Gretchen continued that he has been working in Infinite Campus building the schedule
- Dr. Gretchen answered a question of what he thinks would be the biggest hurdle making this change. He explained that he thought the hurdle would be allocating time for meetings. This has been ingrained in the staff members that have been at Paxon for a long period of time, that will be a drastic change. I am not saying that the meetings are not valuable, but most times when issues being discussed about a student, the guidance counselor would go back to their office and meet with the student, and they would then report to the teachers the outcome of the meeting. We will still have team meetings; they are just going to look different.
- Dr. Gretchen is asking for Board approval.
- Dr. Gretchen explained that he will meet with each teacher individually and explain what the schedule will look like.
- Will also speak to the principals of the elementary and high school to explain what is changing.
- Dr. Gretchen also addressed the Foreign Language classes. Nothing will change with them

5.09 Professional Development Workshop

MOTION: To approve a half day professional development on February 14, 2025, for high school Science teachers from the American Modeling Teachers Association (AMTA) to support the implementation of the new STEELS Standards in all science courses. The cost to the district is \$800.00, as presented.

5.10 Technology

MOTION: To approve the implementation of the AI platform, Magic School. The cost to the district is \$6,200.00, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of a wired computer mouse for all grade 3-5 students. The cost to the district will be approximately \$5,200.00.

- 5.11 Other Business ~ there was none
- 5.12 Public Comment ~ there was none
- 5.13 Adjournment ~ Mr. Siano adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM