

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

PRESENT: **Board:** President Carol DeLuca, Vice President Robert Moldoff, Mr. Richard Carpenter, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mr. David McGinley, Mr. Edward Partridge, Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro, Mr. Won Shin and Mr. Richard Sokorai

Student Representatives: 0

Principals: 0

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Mrs. Merle Horowitz and Mr. Joseph Driscoll

Press: 1

Audience: 1

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER and 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. DeLuca opened the meeting at 8:41pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to approve the agenda.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 9-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

4. COMMENDATIONS

No comments were made.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No comments were made.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

No comments were made.

7. SECRETARY'S MINTES

No comments were made.

8. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Shin made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to reappoint Mark A. Sereni as Solicitor in accordance with the following fee structure:

“in-court” attorney time:	\$165.00/hour (increase from \$160.00/hour)
“out-of-court” attorney time:	\$140.00/hour (increase from \$135.00/hour)
legal assistant time:	\$70.00/hour (no increase)
retainer:	\$5,500/year (doubled from \$2,750/year)

Mr. Shin stated that there is one change in light of the revision to the meeting schedules. We will now have two monthly meetings where the Solicitor will be present. In order for the Solicitor to attend both the Working Session and the Regular Board meeting, the annual retainer of \$2,750.00 will be doubled to \$5,500.00 for the year and that will include his attendance or someone from his office attending both the Work Session and the Regular Board meeting.

Dr. Shapiro asked if it is Mr. Sereni's intention to attend the Work Session or does that conflict with other obligations.

Mr. Sereni replied that right now, the second Tuesday of the month does conflict but that is something that he can juggle. It would be my intention to attend. There are occasionally things that come up like being stuck in court or otherwise unavailable where I would need to send somebody but my belief is I will be able to juggle my schedule and regularly attend just as I regularly attend the Regular Board meetings, at this point.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he is concerned about the fee structure if Mr. Sereni who is most intimately familiar, in his belief, than anyone in his office with our matters is unable to attend particular meetings.

Mr. McGinley stated that he has been on the Board for one year, and Mr. Sereni hasn't missed a meeting.

Dr. Shapiro stated that now we are asking Mr. Sereni to attend twice as many meetings. He is the Solicitor for other districts and that is why I am asking the question.

Mr. Sereni stated that he is the Solicitor for two other districts. The conflict that I have right now is not with another school district; it is with another community activity that I am involved with. That is why I say that I am pretty confident I will be able to juggle that. If I can't then I will be happy to make whatever adjustment is necessary. I do believe that I will be able to regularly attend barring the very rare event of being stuck in trial or vacation.

Mr. McGinley stated that he wasn't sure about Mark Sereni when he came on Board. I have dealt with a lot of solicitors in Newtown Square when I was on the board of supervisors there. Mr. Sereni is the best. He's kept us out of a lot of trouble and done a lot of things for us and he goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Partridge seconded Mr. McGinley's comments.

Mrs. Galbraith agreed with Mr. McGinley's comments.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 9-0.

9. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

No comments were made.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

No comments were made.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were made.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Carpenter made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph J. Driscoll, Board Secretary