

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

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

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Mrs. Merle Horowitz, Mr. Stanley Piccara, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mrs. Karen McGinnis, Mr. Michael Dumin, Mr. Lance Freeman and Dr. Connie Bompadre.

Press: 1

Audience: 14

CALL MEETING TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. DeLuca opened the meeting at 7:07pm, welcomed all in attendance and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Driscoll stated that all Board members are present except for Mr. McGinley and Mr. Shin.

Ms. DeLuca apologized for the late start. Prior to tonight's meeting, the Board met in Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

OTHER REPORTS

Items for Board Discussion

Ms. DeLuca asked Mrs. Horowitz for an update on the cable TV situation.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that she is pleased to say that as of Friday, November 9th, Newtown Township has a cable TV channel. It is 850 on the digital. Anna Deacon and I are in the process of gathering information and as soon as Newtown is prepared to upload our data hopefully by the winter season for inclement weather we should be live. I may even know more in two weeks at our public meeting.

Dr. Shapiro asked if this was Comcast Digital.

Mrs. Horowitz replied yes. We are aware that more people will be involved in Verizon, we thought the townships may work with Verizon as well.

Comments from the Audience

No comments were made.

Comments from the Board

No comments were made.

Motions

No comments were made.

New Business

No comments were made.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Items for Board Discussion

No comments were made.

Comments from the Audience

No comments were made.

Comments from the Board

No comments were made.

Motions

ATTACHMENT 1

To approve the following club requests at Marple Newtown High School: The Hackey Sack Club, Marple Newtown Dance Team, Marple Newtown Teenage Republicans and The Mandarin Club. All club requests comply with School Board Policy having submitted a charter approved by student council, faculty sponsorship and student officers.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he has nothing against clubs of any kind. I do want to ask some questions though about just how the MN Teenage Republicans Club is going to work in terms of bringing in politicians, having that advertised, having literature distributed, etc. We have had quite a few issues over the past year or so with that happening or not happening in classrooms and in other activities.

Mrs. Galbraith replied that Dr. Shapiro needs to know that the young Democrats will have their request almost before we take our next breath. It will follow.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he doesn't care whether it is Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians...whatever. We have had an issue with politicians coming in saying they were going to do one thing and doing another. We have had issues with politicians being extended invitations and then having them withdrawn. We have had issues with politicians coming onto school property and doing things that they are not supposed to do. As I look at the constitution for this proposed club and I suppose the Democrats' will be similar, I note several things: "The

publicity committee shall be responsible for publicity on all activities and projects of the club. The social committee shall be responsible for arranging and setting up all social functions for the club. The campaign committee shall be responsible for coordinating all campaign activities of the club with other republican groups. The program committee shall be responsible for arranging and setting up programs, speakers, etc. for club meetings.” I would like to gain a better understanding of how the proposed activities of this club jive with policy/practice that we have today. If you are going to have someone who is running for local office who happens to be a Republican come in and speak and it is advertised and their picture is in the hallway and they hand out literature at a club function where there are club members and non-club members, that seems to me to be contradictory to what we have allowed previously.

Mr. Piecara stated that Policy 122.1 has a provision for equal access for clubs for religious, philosophical and political reasons to gather in an open forum. We have the administrative regulations that would allow them to meet in our buildings as long as we have a faculty sponsor who does not participate. Any guest speaker must be registered in advance with the sponsor and with the building principal. They can use our building to meet after school to discuss political and philosophical things.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he does not understand, in light of some of the situations that we have had over the past year. We had a situation where a politician came in, said they were not going to hand out literature, they did hand out literature and it was a big broo-ha-ha.

Mr. Piecara stated that he believes that was a guest speaker who wanted to come in to meet with the class on a regular school day. This is an after school activity that does not conflict with the regular school day.

Dr. Shapiro asked if any of these groups wanted to have a politician come in and speak and they advertise it, the picture is up in the hallway and they are effectively advertising...

Mr. Piecara replied yes. It is the same as any other club.

Dr. Shapiro stated that the key is that it meets after school. A politician would be able to hand out personal campaign literature to anyone in attendance at that meeting.

Mr. Piecara replied yes. I believe in the document under Article 8, it does say that this club does not endorse any candidate.

Dr. Shapiro replied yes but then people run. The point is that this club will have the potential to endorse someone on their own after that point.

Mr. Piecara stated that he believes it is covered under Free Speech.

Dr. Shapiro replied that he agrees. I just don't want to get calls from people saying, "Hey, you've got a club where you've got candidates coming in and they are handing out political literature in the school." I don't want to get a call like that and not know what to say.

Mr. Sereni stated that he believes that Mr. Piecara is correctly pointing out the difference between the two situations. One involved alleged political activity during a classroom exercise where the students there are considered a captive audience. This situation deals with a before or after school club presumably the students who are participating are there with their parents permission doing it because they want to be there not because they are required to be there by law. Just like a religious organization could be invited into a Good News club and hand out religious literature under those circumstances, a political person could come in and give out political literature to a club as long as it is before or after school. That is the key difference there.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he is fine with all of this. I just want to make sure that we all have our ducks in order and we know what can be done and what can't be done.

Mr. Moldoff asked if this would just be for the High School. If they are coming in and there is literature being distributed, it is only there at that point and time. There would be no other distribution of literature on any other district grounds.

Mr. Sereni replied yes. It would be distributed only to the participants of the club in whatever room they are using at the time.

New Business

No comments were made.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY

Items for Board Discussion

No comments were made.

Comments from the Audience

No comments were made.

Comments from the Board

No comments were made.

Motions

Terminations

PROFESSIONAL

To approve the professional termination, item 1.

- 1) Kate Meehan – LTS Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary
Effective: November 9, 2007
Reason: End of Assignment

Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

To approve the professional appointment, item 1.

- 1) Christopher Buckley – LTS Math Teacher
B.S. Mathematics: West Chester University; Certification: Mathematics 7-12; Experience: 0 years
High School
Salary: \$40,145 (pro-rated)

Effective: November 5, 2007 through June 17, 2008
Reason: Replaces Tara Lauria-Wark (Child Rearing Leave)

CLASSIFIED

To approve the classified appointment, item 1.

1) Donna Furia-Sperone – Hall Monitor
High School
Salary: \$9.12 per hour
Effective: November 13, 2007
Reason: Replaces Darlene Siter (Resigned)

Activity Contracts

To accept the resignation from activity contracts for the 2007-2008 school year, items 1 through 3.

1) Jonathan Guarante – Assistant Coach – Girls’ Basketball
High School
Effective: October 18, 2007
Reason: Personal

2) Ray Gionta – Department Head-HPE/Nursing
High School
Effective: November 2, 2007
Reason: Reassigned to half time position

3) Patricia Roessner – Assistant Coach-9th Grade Girls’ Lacrosse
High School
Effective: November 5, 2007
Reason: Personal

ATTACHMENT 2

To approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2007-2008 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the present MNEA negotiated agreement.

Policy Revisions

ATTACHMENTS 3, 4 & 5

To approve the second reading of revised Board Policy No. 303.1, Nepotism: Administrative Employees as presented.

To approve the second reading of revised Board Policy No. 404.1, Nepotism: Professional Employees, as presented.

To approve the second reading of revised Board Policy No. 504.1, Nepotism: Classified Employees, as presented.

Dr. Shapiro stated that in terms of policy revisions, we have been batting this one around quite a bit. I guess we are going to have another attempt at a second reading in a couple of weeks. The Board has the drafts. I don’t believe there have been any changes. One of the things that we were discussing was the possibility of

modifying the part that had to do with Board members. I don't see any changes to the draft regarding that. I think Mr. Partridge raised the issue last time. Would you be kind enough to talk to that?

Mr. Partridge stated that this part of the policy said that the family of a Board member had to wait at least one year from the time that the Board member was no longer in office to be able to accept a position in the district. I have no personal interest in this but I don't see the purpose in it. We do have some Board members who will be leaving the Board after the next meeting. If a member of their immediate family applied for an open position in January and had the credentials, I don't see why we would rule them out. I don't think we would favor them but I don't see why we would rule them out. I don't see the purpose of this policy. Does anyone know why this was put in there?

Ms. DeLuca replied that she believes that the nepotism policy was stricter and we relaxed it a little bit.

Mr. Partridge stated that his recommendation would be to strike this. I don't see where it serves any purpose or why a qualified candidate would be ruled out for a period of a year.

Mrs. Horowitz asked if that was Mr. Partridge's recommendation for all three of the Nepotism Policies.

Mr. Partridge replied yes.

Mrs. Horowitz asked Mr. Freeman to make that change for the Board meeting.

Dr. Shapiro stated that the paragraph would be struck from all three Nepotism Policies. In terms of the other changes, I think everyone is comfortable with the other changes.

New Business

No comments were made.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Items for Board Discussion

No comments were made.

Comments from the Audience

No comments were made.

Comments from the Board

No comments were made.

Motions

ATTACHMENT 6

To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,006,172.07 and Capital Fund-RFB bills in the amount of \$653,952.00.

To approve the monthly financial reports for September 2007, Treasurer's Report for September 2007 and Budget Transfers for October 2007. *Informational item monthly financial reports for October 2007.*

To accept the June 30, 2007 Independent Audit Report by Major & Mastro, LLC. *The audit will be made available for public inspection in the Board Secretary's office at the Gauntlett Center, 38 Media Line Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.*

Mr. Driscoll stated that we are at the point in the year where the financial statements are completed and the audit has been completed. In front of the Board is the draft audit report. At the end of the meeting, the auditors would like to collect them back and they are here tonight to go over the fine points of that audit report. They will issue in two weeks (before the agenda) for final adoption, a final audit report in its real format. The partners of Major and Mastro are here to give a presentation to the Board.

Linda Majors stated that in their opinion, the financial statements referred to present fairly in all material respects the respective financial position of Marple Newtown School District. This is the best opinion that you can get.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the fund balance which we traditionally talk about among this group and at Finance meetings is the unreserved portion of the general fund which is about \$5.1 million - \$5.2 million. I have an Executive Summary that I am going to send out to the Board with the audit.

Mr. Sokorai stated that on page 37, which is the budgetary comparison schedule general fund it shows the fund balance's budgeted amount versus the actual amounts.

Mr. Driscoll replied that there are different components. When you look at those variances there are the reserves that aren't listed on that page and that is why I go back to that beginning page. It breaks out the reserve fund balance. Your total fund balance would be higher and the two numbers that make up the reserve are reflected differently. \$5.144 million is the audited fund balance after the books close.

Mr. Partridge asked what was in the capital fund.

Mr. Driscoll replied that it was \$2.8 million at the end but after the commitments that we made recently with the playgrounds and locker room there is about \$500,000 - \$600,000 left in there. Once we get the final change orders in for the locker room job, I will provide a Board hard copy in the Board packet of how much is available to be appropriated out of the capital reserve fund for planning purposes.

Mr. Partridge asked if we added a couple of million to the fund balance this year, and exceeded 8% would that need to be applied in the general fund.

Mr. Driscoll replied that if you didn't do anything during the budgetary process to have the unreserved, undesignated fund balance below 8% of budgeted expenses for next year, it could be okay. If you have an unreserved, undesignated fund balance over 8% when you adopt your budget, that excess must be used to offset taxes.

Mr. Sokorai asked when the final report is coming out.

Mr. Driscoll replied that it will come out the Wednesday before Thanksgiving packet in its hardbound copy.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he would like to take a moment to compliment Joe Driscoll and his staff. You are the subject of the audit and obviously the audit went well with no findings. I compliment you and your staff on a job well done.

Mr. Driscoll stated that we usually get a management letter every year. There is no management letter this year so there are no even small issues that have been brought to attention. We are excited about it.

Mr. Sokorai asked Mr. Driscoll to comment on the following appeals.

Mr. Driscoll stated that these are the latest appeals that the Solicitor's office has been working on.

Mr. Sereni stated that these are three appeals from the real estate tax assessment. The property owner has claimed that the county assessment office has over-assessed each property. We engage a real estate appraiser to evaluate that claim and provide us with his opinion as to what the fair market value of the property is and what the resulting assessment should be. These three represent proposed settlements of each of these claims for the Board's approval. We routinely state on the agenda what the numbers are for the current assessment and the resulting presumed market value and what the tax dollar effect would be to the district if these were approved for settlement. We recommend the settlements because we can do no better by continuing to battle these out in court. If our appraiser were to go to trial to testify, our appraiser's recommendation would be the best that we could get. We are obviously getting the best that we can get and that is why we are recommending that we settle.

Re: Rogers Appeal (Annual Appeal)

Property located at: 6 Greystone Circle, Marple Township

Folio No. 25-00-01836-05

Current assessment/presumed fair market value of the above property - \$904,570 asst./\$1,398,099 fmv

Property owner's claimed assessment/ fair market value:

2007: \$647,000 asst./\$1,000,000 fmv

2008: \$611,000 asst./\$1,000,000 fmv

Our appraiser's recommendations:

2007: \$647,000 asst./\$1,000,000 fmv

2008: \$632,385 asst./\$1,035,000 fmv

Annualized tax dollar loss to the School District for tax year 2007 - approximately \$3,642

To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize settlement of the above real estate tax assessment appeal for the following years and amounts:

2007: \$647,000 asst./\$1,000,000 fmv

2008: \$632,385 asst./\$1,035,000 fmv

Re: Mylonas Enterprises, LLC Appeal (Interim Appeal)

Property located at: 2725 West Chester Pike, Marple Township

Folio No. 25-00-05296-00

Current assessment/presumed fair market value of the above property - \$979,590 asst./\$1,351,159 fmv

Property owner's claimed assessment/ fair market value:

2006: (Interim effective 10/1/06) \$594,500 asst./\$820,000 fmv

2007: \$530,540 asst./\$820,000 fmv

2008: \$501,020 asst./\$820,000 fmv

Our appraiser's recommendations:

2006: (Interim effective 10/1/06) \$656,125/\$905,000 fmv

2007: \$656,125 asst./\$1,014,104 fmv

2008: \$656,125 asst./\$1,073,854 fmv

Annualized tax dollar loss to the School District for tax year 2006 - approximately \$4,574

To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize settlement of the above real estate tax assessment appeal for the following years and amounts:

2006: (Interim effective 10/1/06) \$656,125/\$905,000 fmv

2007: \$656,125 asst./\$1,014,104 fmv

2008: \$656,125 asst./\$1,073,854 fmv

Re: Berger Appeal (Interim Appeal)

Property located at: 201 Carriage Lane, Newtown Township

Folio No. 30-00-00429-25

Current assessment/presumed fair market value of the above property - \$1,849,150 asst./\$2,550,552 fmv

Property owner's claimed assessment/ fair market value:

2006: (Interim effective 3/1/06) \$1,184,923 asst./\$1,634,377 fmv

2007: \$1,057,442 asst./\$1,634,377 fmv

2008: \$998,604 asst./\$1,634,377 fmv

Our appraiser's recommendations:

2006: (Interim effective 3/1/06) \$1,185,375/\$1,635,000 fmv

2007: \$1,089,580 asst./\$1,684,050 fmv

2008: \$1,089,580 asst./\$1,783,274 fmv

Annualized tax dollar loss to the School District for tax year 2006 - approximately \$9,034

To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize settlement of the above real estate tax assessment appeal for the following years and amounts:

2006: (Interim effective 3/1/06) \$1,185,375/\$1,635,000 fmv

2007: \$1,089,580 asst./\$1,684,050 fmv

2008: \$1,089,580 asst./\$1,783,273 fmv

Mr. Driscoll stated that we will begin to see an increased number of appeals. We saw 65 brought in August. The Solicitor's office has begun to look at those to figure out which ones we should work with and which ones we should let go. Even though this school district has been in a unique position and a good position of assessment growth, as the assessment base gets older and that common level ratio gets smaller, you do start to see some negative pressure on your revenue base. We are fortunate in Marple Newtown to have a positive pressure on the other side to help offset it. Something that we need to consider is the difference between market value of 2000 and the market value of today's gap is getting greater for assessments.

Mr. Sokorai asked if the countywide reassessment happened before the real estate values popped why are these appeals coming now. Aren't we sitting on top of seven years of growth?

Mr. Driscoll replied that when you look at the homes that were built in 2002-2003 when the market value started to soar, those assessed values were based on 100% of market and they were already skewed. It is really going to be some of the newer developments that will probably file appeals because they are the ones who are going to see that the assessed value to market value is out of whack.

Mr. Partridge asked if Mr. Sereni is looking for direction from the Board on these tonight.

Mr. Sereni replied no. This is just to let the Board know they will be on for action at the November Board meeting.

New Business

No comments were made.

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

Items for Board Discussion

- **Proposed High School Renovation Presentation**

Mr. Dumin stated that there was a presentation on the High School a possible renovation or work in the future. I was asked to take a look at the Hayes Large report. I did do that. There is a lot of good information that can be used by an architect in the future. I did not agree with any of their three recommendations. They did examine our buildings thoroughly. Outdated at this point are the costs because this report is already two years old. Where we go from here is up to the Board to give me direction on where to go next.

Mr. Sokorai stated that the reason we asked Mr. Dumin to look at the Hayes Large report was because we started hearing talk amongst the Board to bring in an architect. We had to stop and step back because we have had architects come in who provided us with a lot of information. Perhaps, it might be better for us to have a project manager. My experience is that architects are great conceptual thinkers but they also are interested in padding their resumes with the newest of this and the most exciting of that and want to be the first one to say that they built a high school with this feature. Project managers are more nuts and bolts and can reign in those creative juices to make it more of something we might be interested in.

Mr. Carpenter stated that before we engage any architects or project managers or anybody else we need an educational action plan and a short-term and long-term facilities plan. Until we have those, we really don't have the information that we need in order to engage the kind of technical assistance that architects and project managers give us. I think our objective has to be to get some long-range planning done which starts with an educational plan.

Mr. Partridge stated that we can't build a new high school because we can't borrow enough money to build a new high school. Mr. Dumin, looking at the High School could you give us your opinion on what you see as the priority if we were to look for the next major project at the High School that you would consider.

Mr. Dumin replied that it would depend on the direction that the Board would want to go. Would you like to break the building up and do pieces or would you like to renovate the building? Whatever you plan on doing, you also have to look at something similar to what Mr. Carpenter said about the fact that anything we do should follow curriculum and be curriculum based. The Hayes Large report did not include anything about our athletic fields. All of those except for the stadium have needs.

Mr. Partridge stated that the issue with the cafeteria was capacity.

Mr. Dumin replied yes. The cafeteria is not large enough and we end up splitting a class to accommodate for it. It is also hard to monitor students. I have also heard from the cafeteria workers that items walk out of there because they just can't watch it. It is not a very good functional space and it's small.

Mr. Partridge asked if Mr. Dumin has any creative ideas for expanding the cafeteria.

Mr. Dumin replied that there are a few. I thought about expanding into the area where the loading dock is and putting the kitchen at the opposite end so that you could still get to it with trucks. I thought also about going up

a floor or moving the hallway around the classrooms across from the cafeteria and make those classrooms part of the cafeteria.

Mr. Partridge stated that we have heard that the ceiling is falling down in the auditorium, wiring behind the stage is suspect, the sound system is not good, etc. From your observation are these real problems?

Mr. Dumin replied yes. In the auditorium it is not as dramatic as the cafeteria. Some of the infrastructure needs to be changed. Where you are really lacking in the auditorium is the ADA. Everything we touch needs to be upgraded for ADA. Everything we touch also is going to have to be upgraded for code. We will run into a problem in that whatever we touch is going to grow because we don't meet code or ADA.

Mr. Moldoff stated that based on what Mrs. Horowitz had presented as far as the educational vision for the future recommendations from yourself and the administration saying, "This is what we think we need. These are the renovations." You had done a high level overview of that several months ago focusing on the High School. It would be nice to know how it would be phased in and things of that nature. There probably needs to be a lot of project planning and constructive management. At what point do we start engaging with architects?

Mr. Dumin replied that he thinks we first need to decide whether we want to renovate the High School based on the curriculum or do we want to repair sections of the building. I am hearing both. I am not sure of my direction.

Mr. Partridge stated that we have said that we are going to renovate it based on the curriculum. That means changing the areas of instruction. We are going to need a cafeteria in the school, no matter what we do on the educational side. If we don't have the capacity, that should be a priority. We should look at the auditorium that we have and what we can do with it. We have issues with the gymnasium.

Mr. Dumin stated that we have issues with the bleachers. We also have ADA issues with the doors that lead into the gym. None of the doors are compliant. That can be easily remedied.

Mr. Partridge stated that in his opinion, we should have an educational plan before we start doing anything in the instructional areas but the auditorium, cafeteria and the gymnasium are things that could be discussed without having an educational plan in place.

Mr. Carpenter stated that for a couple of years, we have had the need for a short term facilities plan which was basically upgrading what we currently have. That included also the kind of things that Mr. Partridge is talking about, in the High School. We need to have an action plan that says, "These are the things that we need to do short-term." Let's go ahead and do them.

Mr. Moldoff stated that everyone is saying similar things. There needs to be two types of plans; an ongoing maintenance plan and a renovations plan.

Mr. Carpenter stated that we have been at that point for about two years. What we need is to turn that theory and this discussion into an action plan. The Board has said a number of times that we should carry out a short-term plan.

Mr. Partridge stated that we need to expand the cafeteria. We have a capacity issue there.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the cafeteria has been on the short-term plan for years.

Mr. Partridge suggested that we ask Mr. Dumin to bring somebody in and take a look at the cafeteria expansion first. We should start there and then go on to the next thing.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he is interested in the thought that Mr. Dumin had about going up a level for the cafeteria. One of the reasons that I am interested in that is because the building that we are presently sitting in has various issues. Do you happen to know what the annual operating cost is of this building?

Mr. Dumin replied that he has done all that work but does not have it with him tonight. I can give you that.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he would appreciate if Mr. Dumin could get that to himself and his fellow Board members. One of the things about going up a level for a cafeteria is the possibility of moving the administration to the space that we would vacate. Maybe you would have to take over the alley to provide sufficient space but if this building has an operating cost of X plus we know that it has issues, maybe in a plan to do something with the cafeteria, the Board might also be interested in discussing the possibility of moving the administration in some form into the High School and we could do something creative with this building.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he would like to point out that the administration used to be in the High School.

Mr. Sokorai stated that he likes the train of thought in that the project, no matter what we focus in on is still going to affect a part of the school. That is where the educational plan ties in. I have been in the science labs and have seen the way that science labs are supposed to look. I don't think those science labs are laid out for the best instruction that you can give students because everything is around the outside of the room. We talked about distance learning opportunities in the next ten years. I would imagine that we can increase our ability to expand our curriculum without tremendous increases in the number of teachers because we can start sharing our teachers. I would be particularly interested in learning how much of the other parts of the school we are going to affect so that we are not stepping over ourselves. Then, that is where it ties into the educational plan. Do we think we have enough science labs? Are the science labs big enough? Should we relocate science labs? Do we need any more distance learning centers ten years from now? Before you can actually put a shovel in the ground, you have to actually tie all this together.

Mr. Dumin stated some of his fears are that if you expand the cafeteria, you are going to have to add HVAC to that. You will end up with a broken up system where you are going to have smaller package units on the roof.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that in June she presented an educational plan for the future. Mr. Dumin presented a facilities plan for the future. I talked about what I will call "smart classrooms". We were blessed to get a grant from the state. We are assured at this time, that we should have at least an equal amount of funding for next year that would be hopefully 13 additional classrooms to get us up to 26. I was asked to prioritize my needs for that High School in June. I consider the cafeteria a major priority because of the split lunches. It is unconscionable that students go to class for 20 minutes go eat and have to go back. I don't even know how they give a test. It is just inappropriate. As of this afternoon, we have 1226 children in that High School. We are up from last year. We are attracting youngsters to come into our district and we could be looking at closer to 1300 next year. We can't fit them in our lunches right now and I don't like the split. That is a major need. In June, I spoke about renovated science classrooms for the future. In April of this year, we will be giving an operational science assessment which was federally driven by No Child Left Behind. We are working very hard instructionally to prepare our teachers and our youngsters for that test. We will need to outfit our science classrooms for the future. I spoke about our related arts elective programs. Right across from the cafeteria we have 50-60 year old Family and Consumer Science classrooms. One of our favorite elective departments is the Preschool Program. We could expand upon that elective department as we look at that wing and begin to do what is right for our elective programs. We have a technology and computer wing downstairs that is dated from the 50's and 60's. We have to take a look at that wing. It is time we do it right at this High School. My recommendation is that we take a look at the entire High School and all of the needs and then let this Board decide how we prioritize what to do. Every classroom should be outfitted for the future.

Mr. Partridge suggested that Mrs. Horowitz categorize things. Example: We have ten of these classrooms that need to change from this to this. We have five of these classrooms and here is what is wrong with them. Identify every room in that building and what needs to be done with it. We can't build a new High School. Let's look at what we have and what is wrong with it. Categorize the 64 rooms at the High School and let's rule out any of them that doesn't need any work and prioritize the ones that need work.

Mr. Sokorai asked if there were any classes that aren't big enough. If we are going to be spending a significant amount of time and money building a cafeteria with space above it or below it then we should be building bigger classrooms there. Are there any classrooms that can be smaller? If you are going to do it, you only want to do it once. We need to know what kind of classrooms we are looking for in five to ten years time. We should focus on what it is we think we need. I don't know anything about the Family and Consumer Science wing. Maybe before the next Board meeting, the Board can go over and walk through it.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that there are state requirements that require certain things to be offered at a high school. Offering Family and Consumer Science, there are state standards for that. This is the same with technology education. I will work with Stan Piecara and we will be back in January with a plan for you per the classrooms that were discussed this evening.

- **Security Project Update**

Mr. Dumin stated that he hopes to bring to the Board a recommendation in January of the contractors to do the work. It is still in the specification writing stages. That got held up 30 days due to having to convert blue print to disks so that they could do the design. We searched far and wide for them in the district and I couldn't find them.

- **Locker Room Renovation Update**

Mr. Dumin stated that we are currently about a month behind. We are having a hard time nailing contractors to exact dates. There were some parts of the project that are still in dispute that have to do with some flooring work. We are trying to get that to the right price. There was a lot of moisture that is coming up from the ground and could cause damage to a finished floor. If we don't get the price that we want with the contractor, we may be bringing in another contractor to do the remediation.

Mr. Moldoff stated that the original completion date of Phase 1 was next week. It is now sometime in December?

Mr. Dumin replied yes. We are hoping for December 20th. We have opened up the old shower rooms in the existing gym locker rooms for the swim and dive team. We have spoken to the coaches to make sure they tell the kids to bring sandals to walk from those locker rooms to the pool.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that Ms. DeLuca and she had an opportunity to go through with Mr. Dumin about a week ago. It was exciting to not see the awful room that was there before. It's going to be so gorgeous when it is done.

Dr. Shapiro asked if Mr. Dumin could speak to the issues that he is having with the GC and why we are having them.

Mr. Dumin replied that going way back, the GC was supposed to give us certain information about who the sub-contractors were. We did not receive that in a timely fashion. By the time we got that, the GC came in looked at the job and told us that we may have a moisture problem which we did not consider until they cut open the trenches. It is concrete on dirt under there. No one could say exactly what we needed to remediate this so that

we could get the appropriate warranties. We did not want to get this job finished with the type of floor that we are getting and then have some kind of a failure and then have contractors pointing at each other. We wanted to get it coordinated so the warranty was done right. The moisture testing was just completed on Monday. The results of the test were that the moisture levels in all of the areas are above the recommended for the floor to be installed without the remedial work. We already approved a change order amount at our last meeting. The architect and I believe that is too high. We don't want to give the contractor the go ahead to move forward just to get the job moving. We want to get the right work for the right price. This is holding up the work. The other part that slowed us down was all of the remedial work needed for the fire protection above ceiling. They are asking for 17 days just to make up the time on what they had to do on the block work above ceiling to bring it up to code. That work is all done now.

Dr. Shapiro stated that none of this was clear because it was all above a hard ceiling.

Mr. Dumin replied yes. Most of it was above hard ceilings.

Dr. Shapiro stated that in the last major renovations project, if memory serves me, we had a lot of discussion and there was a big issue about digitizing all the blue prints. I thought money was spent to get it done.

Mr. Dumin stated that he contacted Mr. Gasior. He said that he did have them. I spent two days searching for the areas where they told me that they could be and they weren't there. I recently found out from Mr. Piccara that we might have given them to the police department so that they could use them to incorporate in their systems maps of the buildings. We have very few as-built drawings.

Dr. Shapiro stated that you may also want to check with the fire department for plans.

Mr. Dumin agreed.

Mr. Moldoff asked what if things are not done by December 20th. Does it have an impact on anything?

Mr. Dumin replied that we are going to continue plugging away to try to get it done before that. We also got the state and the township to go as far as to give us up to four inspections. What it is actually impacting is Phase II. I am constantly working with the principal and the athletic director with what we need to do to make sure that our kids are taken care of, the areas that they are in are safe and that we have the appropriate facilities.

Review Transportation Policy

Ms. DeLuca stated that a few months ago a parent of a student at Loomis stood in front of the Board at a regular meeting stating that it was a hardship for the family to transport their kindergartener to school each day. Since it is the Board's duty to set and review policy, I thought it might be a good idea to review the transportation policy in light of that statement by the parent. I reviewed the policy that we had and compared it to other districts. The meat of the policy does not change much from district to district. What changes is whether or not the district transports kindergarteners...some do, some don't. The reason that they do or don't is a financial decision. Mrs. Horowitz had made up a financial analysis of what it would cost to transport the public school students to kindergarten in the morning, do the transfer at mid-day and bus them home at the end of the day. She also did an analysis for the non-public schools because if we bus the public schools we also must bus non-public. The total cost is \$754,994.66.

Mr. Moldoff asked if that is an annual cost.

Ms. DeLuca replied yes.

Mr. Partridge asked if we ever bussed kindergarteners here.

Mrs. Horowitz replied no.

Mr. Partridge asked how many complaints have we received about not bussing kindergarteners.

Mrs. Horowitz replied one.

Ms. DeLuca stated that this is a good analysis to have if we ever do move to full-day kindergarten. You will have an idea of the cost of transportation.

- **Hall Monitor (Summer Security)**

Mr. Dumin stated that he talked with Stan Piccara regarding the students that are here in the summertime in trying to monitor them and upgrade our security for our students as well as the sports that start right after summer school. We looked at what the cost would be to increase one of our hall monitors and have them work during the summer to cover those times and to be available for whatever we may need them for. In the summertime all we really have is Tony Caso during the day. That cost comes out to be \$1,500 for five additional hours a day. We would like to recommend our hours for a hall monitor to cover summer school as well as the time between summer school and when school starts.

Mr. Moldoff asked that a motion regarding this be placed on the November Board agenda.

Comments from the Audience

Ted Uhlman from Marple Township stated that in the past there was a larger student population and the cafeteria used to be large enough. Why is it not large enough now?

Mr. Moldoff replied that the seating was more compressed then it is now and the layout was different.

Michael Scott from Newtown Township stated that he represents the Marple Newtown Athletic Alliance. This is a newly formed group of concerned parents. We are looking specifically at the athletic facilities available to our student athletes in our High School. The new stadium and the gymnasium are at odds with one another. It is quite a contrast. We envision and desire athletic facilities to be proud of. We would like the Board's permission to be involved and included in the improvements of these facilities. As a committee, we developed a list of High School athletic needs. This is an opportunity for us to engage the Board, become involved with the Board and hopefully serve in some capacity.

Gary Becker from Marple Township stated that as an audience member, we heard that the cafeteria is no good, the auditorium is no good, the gymnasium is no good, the lower fields are no good, the science lab is no good, etc. If this was my home or office, I would get a new one. Mr. Partridge said, "Obviously we are not going to build a new High School." Why is it "obvious"? Why are we going to fix a piece at a time?

Mr. Partridge replied that our capacity to borrow money is in the \$66 million range. A new high school from estimates that we have heard were in excess of \$100 million. We can't even borrow enough money to build a new high school. Since we cannot borrow enough to build another high school and then address the elementary schools in addition to that, what do we do? We need to look at what we have and find out what needs to be done to that to make it better. My preference would be to build a new high school but since we can't do that because of our limitations...

Gary Becker asked if there are other ways to get the money besides borrowing.

Mr. Partridge replied that we talked about different options. Looking at that possibility, we are so far under what we would need to build a new high school.

Gary Becker stated that we are in the search for a new principal now. Are we looking at principals in terms of their abilities to manage a building through construction?

Mr. Partridge replied that there was some discussion about that and that point was brought up. That is a good point. My suggestion is that you bring your input to the either the Facilities committee or the future Work Sessions.

Comments from the Board

Mrs. Galbraith stated that in her six years on the Board she has learned that she would love to have a new High School but we don't have any place to put it. That is the biggest problem.

Gary Becker replied that he suggests we could put it on the lower fields. You could not disrupt the school we have and then when you are done building it, you could go and demolish the one you had and put your fields there. There are options but if we can't borrow the money that is a whole other issue.

Motions

To approve the Marple Newtown High School locker room project's general contractor's Change Order No. 11 for additional tile work needed in the football/lacrosse locker room shower area due to the change of ceiling height for the total of \$874.00.

New Business

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms. DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Welsh, Confidential Secretary to the Board.