

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

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

Student Representatives: Miss Jordan Agostini and Miss Laura Nichols

Principals: Mr. John Sanville and Dr. Linda Bluebello

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Dr. William Duffy, Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mrs. Karen McGinnis, Mr. Stanley Piecara, Mr. Michael Dumin, Mr. Bill Gasior, Mr. Joseph Driscoll and Mr. Lance Freeman

Press: 3

Audience: 12

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

Ms. DeLuca opened the meeting at 7:33pm, welcomed all in attendance and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Driscoll stated that all Board members are present except for Dr. Shapiro.

Ms. DeLuca stated that immediately preceding the Work Session on January 9th, the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Immediately preceding the meeting tonight, the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Shin to accept the agenda, as presented.

Mr. Carpenter made a motion and seconded by Mr. McGinley to replace the motion under 14.03 with the following motion. To approve that the Marple Newtown School District direct the Marple Newtown Administration to submit to the Board a balanced budget without any increase in local real estate property taxes.

Mr. Shin asked for support for the motion.

Mr. Carpenter replied that in the past five years the revenue that the school district has received has exceeded the budgeted requirement by over \$9 million. There is every evidence that this year we will probably exceed last year. Last year, we exceeded the budget revenue by \$2 ¼ million. There is no reason to believe that this trend won't continue. In view of that, I believe that a tax increase is unnecessary.

Mr. Partridge stated that on the expense side just on benefits they were over budgeted at \$500,000 in the preliminary budget.

Mr. Moldoff stated that it is his understanding that the motion under 14.03 is the approval of the preliminary budget that is really not binding. It is the legal requirement to submit to the state which would then open up the discussions further on in the next several meetings to finalize the budget. I understand what Mr. Carpenter is saying but I was under the impression that this was a formality to submit and then over the next several months we were going to continue to work the budget to come in at an acceptable level.

Mr. Carpenter called the question.

Mr. Sereni stated that Mr. Carpenter has called the question which is a motion which would require a 2/3 vote to close discussion. You can either take a vote or more informally see if there is more discussion. If there is none, then you can proceed with taking a vote.

Mr. Shin stated that the points raised by Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Partridge are very valid points but believes that those points could be fully vetted and challenged and presented to the public in a lot more detail over the next several months as we examine the budget to come to a final budget come June. This is the preliminary budget that is on the agenda tonight which requires a Board's vote and approval by February 15th as per state law. There is no binding effect of the preliminary budget. It is our starting point to further address and develop points raised by Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Partridge over the next several months. I am not in favor of Mr. Carpenter's motion.

Mr. Partridge stated that it makes good sense to start with a balanced budget and then to justify to the taxpayers any increases in excess of a balanced budget. It could work either way.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the issue is a tax increase. I bet we always have a balanced budget. The way we have been balancing the budget the last few years has been by increasing taxes every year. What I am suggesting is that we prepare a balanced budget without a tax increase.

Mr. Shin stated that the preliminary budget that has been presented to the Board and to the Budget and Finance Committee prior to the December Reorganization Meeting has been the preliminary budget that we are voting on tonight. We do not have an actual preliminary budget that calls for a zero percent tax increase before the Board tonight. I would like to call the question.

Mr. Shin made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to call the question.

Mr. Sereni stated that now that the question has been called and seconded, it is not debatable and the Chair should call for a vote. If 2/3 of the Board is in favor of closing discussion then you move onto the vote on Mr. Carpenter's motion.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to close discussion.

Aye: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Carpenter

Nay: 0

Motion carried 8-0.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to approve replacing the motion under item 14.03 with Mr. Carpenter's motion.

Aye: Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Partridge, Mr. McGinley

Nay: Mr. Moldoff, Ms. DeLuca, Mrs. Galbraith, Mr. Shin

Motion failed 4-4.

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to amend the motion under item 10, Secretary's Minutes to include approving the minutes from the Work Session on January 9, 2007.

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to add a motion under item 11.04 that reads, "To correct the typographical error on page 4 of the minutes of the Tuesday, May 30, 2000 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors regarding the HVAC award for Paxon Hollow Middle School by deleting "Stone Creek Mechanical" and substituting "MRW Mechanical."

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote to accept the agenda as amended. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote on the approval of the amended agenda.

Aye: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff

Nay: Mr. Partridge, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Carpenter

Motion carried 5-3.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

No comments were made.

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

No comments were made.

7. COMMENDATIONS

7.01 School Director Recognition Month – January 2007

Mrs. Horowitz stated that January is always a special month for all 501 school districts in Pennsylvania because it has always been known as School Director Recognition Month. I would like to read a resolution that will be handed to each of our Board members this evening. "Whereas the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act of 1834 and whereas these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems and whereas locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this non-paid volunteer public service commitment and whereas the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system. Now therefore be it resolved that the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania School Board Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this Commonwealth and further resolve that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a program that brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizen rate of this commonwealth." Included in a packet to every Board member this evening is a special certificate for this month that states "Creating Opportunity and Inspiring Dreams" honoring each individual Board member who volunteers time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community. This past November during American Education Week, I honored and recognized over 700 employees in this district with a special

key chain that states “Key to Excellence”. We are presenting that very same key chain to our Board members because over 700 of us, including myself could not do our jobs each and every day if we did not have the support of these fine men and women of the School Board of the Marple Newtown School District. We have faith in them for supporting everything we do all year long. I will now give a packet to each Board member in recognition of their service to this community.

Lynn Lantz and Karen Brodsky, officers of the MNEA presented the Board with MN coffee mugs. The mugs are a token of our appreciation for all that the Board does.

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Horowitz stated that our middle school teacher, David Covell has suffered a serious accident. Exactly three weeks later today, David has not regained consciousness due to significant trauma to his brain. We are all still very optimistic that one day soon, we will see David’s genuine smile and hear his warm voice. With pride and gratitude for the warmth and caring of our entire organization, I want to thank the members of this Board for considering the motion for a joint Memorandum of Understanding for all Marple Newtown family members to donate a sick day to help David through this school year. I am delighted to report that we have gone live with our new Edline Parent Portal this month. Edline Parent Portal is a tool for parents to access on-line instant timely and secure information about their child’s assignments, attendance, progress reports and report cards. It is a means to further promote educational excellence by enhancing our program of communication between parents, students and teachers. Activation codes were distributed to high school parents beginning January 11th at an informational meeting. In one week, 167 parents utilized their activation code to examine their child’s information. High School students received their activation codes last week. Middle school parents will receive their codes at an informational meeting on February 8th. I want to single out a few of our educators for recognition regarding our Edline initiative. Thanks to Stan Piecara, Raymond McFall, Chris Netter, Deb Snell, Joe Violanti, John Sanville, Chris White, Steve Subers and John Beltrante for their support. One of my goals has been to reach out to the business community to partner with us to enhance our educational programs. I am pleased to share that because of the efforts of Stan Piecara, Connie Bompadre and Carl Funk we have a terrific partnership with the Lyondell Chemical Company in Newtown Square. Lyondell wants to have a positive impact on the communities where they do business through a range of community outreach programs. One such program is called Explore and Experiment where senior researchers from the Research and Development Division of Lyondell will conduct simple and fun demonstrations of principals of chemistry in our school district classrooms. The intent of these visits is to encourage those who might be interested to pursue careers in the sciences while providing good will for Lyondell in our community. This partnership was recently showcased in the Lyondell December 2006 newsletter. I look forward to sharing the positive impact of this partnership with you in the future. I have committed to all of you that we are working diligently to improve Marple Newtown High School’s SAT scores. This evening we will have a presentation from Stan Piecara and John Sanville to share all of the initiatives we have undertaken in this endeavor.

Mr. Piecara stated that the Board has charged this administration with improving student performance on high stakes tests. To accomplish this initiative one of my personal goals this year is to work with the High School Administration to improve student performance on the SATs. I have been meeting regularly with the High School Administration in an effort to identify and implement new programs and initiatives that will provide our students with the skills and the practice necessary to increase their performance on the SATs. John Sanville will share with you some of these exciting programs and initiatives that we are implementing this year.

Mr. Sanville gave a slide presentation. 95% of MN students take the SAT. In the state of PA only 74% of students take the SAT. We are well above the state average. The national average is only 48% of students who take the SAT. Over the past two years, we have launched a number of initiatives to address concerns that we have had about our students’ performance on the SATs. We feel that our students can do better and in fact they can. Every 10th and 11th grade student takes the PSAT. SAT prep courses were offered last year on a drop in

basis from 3-6pm in the evening at the High School. On line SAT tutoring program was made available to all 1200 students in the High School. Counselors met with all 10th graders to discuss their PSAT results. A phone survey went out to all parents regarding the SAT prep class and what was going to meet the needs of students and parents. SAT prep classes have been modified to meet those needs. We are currently compiling a mailing to go out to gear up for the March 10th administration of the SAT and the May administration of the SAT which is going to be held at the High School. Our counselors are meeting with all 10th and 11th grade students to review their results. Every junior has registered for the SAT online course that some students signed up for last year, now we have over 300 signed on just in the junior class. In February the counselors will meet with every 10th grader to get them signed on for the SAT online course. There is use of TeenBiz and Study Island which are software programs that addresses reading issues and math deficiencies. This summer, we took student results on PSAT, PSSA and Practice PSSA results and we identified students who were in need or were at risk for performance on either the SAT or PSSA. Math teachers and the reading teachers have been working with these identified students using the TeenBiz program, the Study Island program and using the laptop carts and addressing needs where they are deficient. We are hopeful on how that will translate into results on PSSA and SATs. We have had in-services in regards to student performance on the PSAT and other data on the students and how they can change instruction and differentiate instruction in their classroom to meet the needs of students. We are running hard and fast in regards to SAT. We are hopeful that our students are benefiting from everything that we are doing. In the summer, we will review what we have done and we will continue to reflect and look at next steps again at what we need to tweak.

Mr. McGinley asked how many kids showed up for the SAT prep course after school.

Mr. Sanville replied that a year ago, the total number was 25 students. The number who attended regularly was about four or five. One of whom is sitting behind you (Jordan Agostini). It was a drop in type of class. We looked at how we could offer something that would be more useful. We think that rather than doing a drop in course, we could offer courses that geared toward particular SATs. We are going to gear for the March administration and then we are going to gear toward the May administration. We are hoping we get a better turnout that way.

Mr. McGinley asked if there was an analysis of the students that showed up and where they were before versus where they were after the course.

Mr. Sanville replied that they did see an increase in students' scores across the board.

9. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Laura Nichols stated that the juniors have recently gone to the computer lab with their counselors and have received their PSAT scores. It is a great incentive that the PSATs are free for all juniors and the online course that is also free for us. The 1st and 2nd of February is the 30th Annual Variety Show. It is mostly student run. I am one of the junior directors. Last Friday night was the Junior/Senior Formal which went very well. We had a big turnout. This week is mid terms.

Jordan Agostini stated that they had the Winter Sports Pep Rally. A couple of weeks ago was the 10th anniversary of the Renaissance Program. We had a Positive on People (POP) Award breakfast. Renaissance is where students get recognized for having good grades, good attendance and a good disciplinary record. They get rewarded for the good things they do. The first marking period, we go on a field trip. The second marking period, we have a movie. The third marking period, we have a spring fling. The fourth marking period, we have a big party out on the football field.

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

ATTACHMENTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Shin to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2006 Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting, November 9, 2006 Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meeting, November 14, 2006 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting, November 28, 2006 Regular Meeting and the December 4, 2006 Reorganization/Regular Meetings and the January 9, 2007 Work Session meeting and have them made a permanent part of the record.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively except Mr. Partridge. Motion carried 7-1.

11. OTHER REPORTS

11.01 Special Education Agreements

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to approve a special education contract for Student No. 0701.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to approve a special education contract for Student No. 0702.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

11.02 Expulsion by Consent

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to approve the Adjudication of Expulsion by Consent for Student No. 802659, as presented.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

11.03 Joint Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to approve the Joint Memorandum of Understanding between and among Marple Newtown School District and the undersigned associations and employee groups relating to voluntary "donation" of sick days for the benefit of employee David Covell.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

11.04 Other Reports

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to correct the typographical error on page 4 of the minutes of the Tuesday, May 30, 2000 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors regarding the HVAC award for Paxon Hollow Middle School by deleting "Stone Creek Mechanical" and substituting "MRW Mechanical."

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

12.01 Board Policy

ATTACHMENT 7

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Moldoff to approve the second reading of Board Policy No. 130 – Homework.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY

13.01 Resignations

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the professional resignation, item 1.

1) Rebecca Reilly – LTS Fourth Grade Teacher
Culbertson Elementary
Effective: January 26, 2007
Reason: Personal

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the classified resignations, items 1 through 4.

1) Steven Moyse – Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective: December 1, 2006
Reason: Personal

2) Kathleen Lisacchi – Non-Instructional Assistant
Loomis Elementary
Effective: January 2, 2007
Reason: Personal

3) Beth Mariani – Non-Instructional Assistant
Worrall Elementary
Effective: January 12, 2007
Reason: Reassigned to Cafeteria Worker

4) John M. Lennon – Substitute Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective: January 9, 2007
Reason: Personal

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.02 Terminations

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the classified termination, item 1.

1) Elijah LaPrince- Custodian
High School
Effective: January 24, 2007

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.03 Leaves

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the professional leaves, items 1 through 5.

1) Heather Molyneaux – Social Studies Teacher
High School
Effective: January 2, 2007-March 2, 2007
Reason: Medical Leave

2) Christina Fink – Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow
Effective: December 4, 2006 – March 4, 2007
Reason: FMLA

3) Theresa Kohler – Special Education Teacher
Worrall Elementary
Effective: January 2, 2007 – June 18, 2007
Reason: Extension of Child Rearing Leave

4) Christina Ayoub – Fourth Grade Teacher
Culbertson Elementary
Effective: January 2, 2007 – June 18, 2007
Reason: Extension of Child Rearing Leave

5) Lauren Videon – Fourth Grade Teacher
Russell Elementary
Effective: January 16, 2007 – June 18, 2007
Reason: Medical Leave/FMLA

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.04 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the professional appointments, items 1 through 7.

1) John Lockyer – LTS Foreign Language Teacher
Paxon Hollow
Salary: \$38,933 (Pro-rated)
Effective: November 27, 2006

Reason: Replaces Mary Bollinger (Medical Leave)

2) Brian Isselman – LTS Social Studies Teacher
High School

Salary: \$38,933 (Pro-rated)

Effective: December 18, 2006

Reason: Replaces Heather Molyneaux (Medical Leave)

3) Geraldine Goebel – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow

Salary: \$38,933 (Pro-rated)

Effective: January 2, 2007

Reason: Replaces Christina Fink (FMLA)

4) Sharon Marabella – LTS Kindergarten Teacher
Culbertson

Salary: \$39,433 (Pro-rated)

Effective: January 29, 2007

Reason: Replaces Beverly Cella (Medical Leave)

5) Arnold Schwartz – Homebound Tutor
District

Salary: \$29.00 per hour

Effective: January 23, 2007

Reason: As needed

6) Joanne Garzarella – Homebound Tutor
District

Salary: \$29.00 per hour

Effective: January 26, 2007

Reason: As needed

7) Colleen Harley – Tutor
Russell Elementary

Salary: \$29.00 per hour

Effective: January 16, 2007

Reason: Provide after school PSSA tutoring

Mr. Carpenter asked how many of these are new positions.

Mrs. Horowitz replied that the professional teaching positions are all replacements.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the classified appointments, items 1 through 5.

1) Frideriki Biuikdus – Part-time Custodian
District

Salary: \$12.67 per hour
Effective: December 18, 2006
Reason: Replaces Zaron Holbrook (Reassigned to Full-Time Custodian).

2) Ellen Lemaitre – Special Education Assistant
Loomis Elementary
Salary: \$11,641 (Pro-Rated)
Effective: January 2, 2007
Reason: New Position

3) Lynne Hansell – Health Room Assistant
High School/District
Salary: \$8.83 per hour
Effective: January 22, 2007
Reason: Replaces Donna Fleming (Resigned)

4) Elaine Cahill – Non-Instructional Assistant (Shared position with Maureen Busa)
Worrall Elementary
Salary: \$8.83 per hour
Effective: January 16, 2007
Reason: Replaces Beth Mariani (Reassigned)

5) Theresa Battista – Non-Instructional Assistant (Substitute)
Worrall Elementary
Salary: \$8.83 per hour
Effective: January 16, 2007
Reason: As needed

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.05 Activity Contracts

ATTACHMENT 8

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the revisions to activity contracts for the 2006-2007 school year as attached. The amount of the salary revision is in accordance with the present MNEA negotiated agreement.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.06 School Police

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to authorize the administration to present the following employees to a Magisterial District Judge of Marple Township and Newtown Township to take and subscribe to the required oath to act as school police officers for the Marple Newtown School District and to grant said school police officers all powers and duties in accordance with the PA Public School Code, Article VII, Section 778.

Brandon Rhone
Joseph Veloric

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.07 ESY Program

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to approve the appointment of the following persons for the ESY Program at the rate of \$29.00 per hour:

Jeffrey Kuciapinski – Co-coordinator
Lauren DiBlasi – Co-coordinator

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

13.08 Tuition Reimbursement

ATTACHMENT 9

Informational Item (These reimbursements are in accordance with MNEA Contract)

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE

14.01 Bills for Payment

ATTACHMENT 10

Mr. Shin made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$3,453,031.27, Capital Fund-RFB bills in the amount of \$86,752.36 and Food Service bills in the amount of \$200,675.00.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

14.02 Transfers and Monthly Reports

ATTACHMENT 11

Mr. Shin made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to approve the monthly financial reports for October and November 2006, Treasurer's Report for October and November 2006 and budget transfers for November and December 2006.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

Informational Item (monthly financial reports for December 2006)

14.03 Preliminary Budget Proposal

Mr. Shin made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to approve and adopt the Preliminary Budget for the 2007-2008 school year in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 in the amount of \$59,500,000.00. This includes a tax levy of 14.66 mills (\$1.466 per \$100 of assessed value) or .01466 of assessed valuation of real estate and a levy of one-half of one percent (.50) tax on real estate transfers within the school district.

Mr. Partridge stated that he echoes the sentiments of Mr. Sokorai and Mr. Carpenter. It was evident at our Work Session that there were Board members who weren't comfortable with certain aspects of the budget and the revenue projections. Specifically, that there was an increase in expenditures of \$891,836.00 in benefits. We know that benefits were initially over budgeted by \$500,000 last year. There was an increase in supplies of \$196,371. Property and equipment increases of \$234,000. We have \$750,000 built into the financing. That is an increase in our budget. I'm not sure if we are going to need it. Professional services show an increase of \$245,000. These are pretty significant numbers. This Board and the previous Boards for the most part have always supported the administration and the teachers and provided what was needed to our students. I don't think this Board has ever denied our students anything. We also have an obligation and part of our oath is to be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. At this point we need to look at how we do things and change things and

start with a balanced budget. Then if there are items that need to go back in it'll be justified and we can all feel like we are doing the right thing. It is the responsible thing to do.

Mr. Partridge made a motion and seconded by Mr. Carpenter to amend item 14.03 with a motion to approve and adopt a preliminary budget for the 2007-08 school year in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 in the amount of \$57,873,000.00.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote on the motion to amend.

Aye: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Carpenter

Nay: Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff

Motion failed 4-4.

Mr. Moldoff stated that there are certainly questions about the preliminary budget. This is a preliminary budget that is non-binding. It is not just a matter of course of approving it but this is the point where once this is approved it opens up discussions. I don't question a lot on the revenue side. I have been doing some analysis on some of the expenses and I have noticed that there are certain things where we have not necessarily expended things that were budgeted to the same point that Mr. Partridge made earlier. There are certain ones that were unbudgeted where we had unpredictable expenses such as placement and tuition expenses that were outside what was budgeted some to the tune of 40%-50% increases if not more than that. To the point about some of the financing costs being bundled in this preliminary budget, I know they are in there. I don't see that as an increase as much as continuing what was in there. I think that is fiscally responsible to do that. We do have efforts underway on what we need to do in the schools themselves and removing that money would put us at risk to do any type of renovations or any type of efforts that we want to do in the next few years. I believe that this is a preliminary budget and I see it as a starting point. I would hope that there would be a significant amount of effort to change the final product but I don't see necessarily starting at zero and not knowing what the impact is on the operation as a prudent thing to do. I know that the preliminary budget was presented to the November Budget and Finance Committee and it was vetted at that time. I know that there have been some discussions and a lot of analysis about it. This is the starting point for a lot of the discussions moving forward. There is room to move with what has been submitted. We found some areas that should be looked at. I know Mrs. Horowitz has been working with the directors to look at items where there were budgeted expenses over prior years that were not expended and things of that nature. I am comfortable with the preliminary budget knowing that these discussions are going to be continuing. I'm not necessarily comfortable with the tax amount right now but I know that this is a work in progress.

Mr. Partridge asked Mr. Moldoff what he meant by saying that the \$750,000 was in there.

Mr. Moldoff replied that he believes that there was a certain amount of money that as a result of refunding certain past debt is factored into this year's budget. I believe that some of it is a one time refund for savings but I also believe that it was an effort to have money in the budget to be able to do a two phased debt service if need be to do any renovations moving forward. If that money was not in the budget this year and we wanted to do any effort in subsequent years it would adversely impact us under Act 1.

Mr. Partridge stated that there are two numbers in that financing that are both the same number. There is \$750,000 that you alluded to that we could drop this year out of the budget based on financing savings however it would have to go in next year. Also built in is an additional \$750,000 to finance renovations. In essence, the Board could remove \$750,000 and wait and put it back in next year. That would be money that we saved this year and in addition remove the \$750,000 that the administration decided to put in to do renovations. That's \$1.5 million that we could drop from the budget and not change anything.

Mr. Moldoff stated that the \$750,000 for refunding is a one-time occurrence. The \$750,000 allocated for new debt service is a two-year phase in. If it were not to put it in the budget this year, it would not be available for

debt service next year. This would mean that the increase next year would be twice what it would have been this year.

Mr. Driscoll stated that you are both right. There are two numbers in there that are ironically the same amount. We refinanced the 2001 bond issue (our largest bond issue) and took all that savings up front in 2007-08. It is a one-time savings. If it is removed from the 2007-08 budget, in 2008-09 we would have to add it back in. The other side of the equation is that there were additional funds that were added into the budget over last year's debt service to show the impact of a theoretical \$30 million bond issue. The reason that it doesn't look like \$750,000 was added was because with the early retirement of the debt for the athletic facilities at the High School that freed up about \$400,000 of appropriation so we didn't have to add \$750,000 to the budget this year to prepare for that debt. We only needed to add about \$300,000 with the way that everything worked out. If the Board has no interest or desire to plan for that debt or do anything with that debt or doesn't want that in there, the \$750,000 for possible future debt could be removed because it was in there as a "what if" scenario so the Board could see the impact in the preliminary budget. If you remove the other \$750,000 this year, it will have a double impact on you next year. Before we even start the expenditure budget next year, you are going to be up \$750,000. It is a one-time savings that comes down to a philosophical desire to either want to cut it out and find a way to put it in next year. My guess is that if you wanted to add \$750,000 for new debt, \$750,000 for debt you already have it would make next year's budget a little bit more difficult.

Mr. Partridge stated that the \$750,000 one-time savings that has to go back next year could easily be offset by some of the development that is out there where we are going to get significantly more than that. It could be taken out and given back to the taxpayers right now and covered easily by increased revenue next year.

Mr. McGinley stated that there has been no vote on borrowing the \$30 million this year. What would prompt you to put that in the budget?

Mr. Driscoll replied that he made it clear in the fall that it was his understanding that the Board understood that we would put that in the preliminary budget to see the impact. I made that clear in all my budget discussions and presentations. In November, the presentation showed the cost drivers which reflected the increase of debt of \$300,000 or so to add to the \$400,000 that was in there from the payment of the debt. In addition, the majority of the increase in equipment was because of the severe increase in the cost for buses next year. They were pointed out to build a discussion tool for the Board to further narrow down its priorities and objectives to the final budget.

Mr. McGinley asked if it is fair to say that if that money is not borrowed in this coming year, that the money could come out.

Mr. Driscoll replied yes. That is accurate.

Mr. Moldoff stated that this is a preliminary budget. This is the discussion part of it. This is the starting point.

Mr. McGinley stated that when you start at a point, that has been where it has ended for the last six years. Instead of starting at zero and making it justifiable for adding money to the budget, we are adding everything and now we have to take things out that maybe we are not even going to use. Since there was no vote on the \$30 million, why not take that out right away and start at zero? If we vote on adding it, then you add it. You don't add it before you even vote on adding it.

Mr. Moldoff asked if historically things have ever been added to the budget once the preliminary budget has been presented.

Mr. McGinley replied yes.

Mr. Partridge called the question.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to approve ending discussion.

Aye: Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Partridge, Mr. McGinley

Nay: Mr. Sokorai, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff, Mrs. Galbraith, Mr. Shin

Motion failed 3-5.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that when the school tax bill comes to her house, it is very personal. In the time that I have been on this Board, I have not seen an administration put together a budget or this Board pass a budget without doing its due diligence. This is a starting point. This will only fulfill our legal obligations to have passed a preliminary budget. My vote will be to pass this preliminary budget.

Mr. Shin stated that we are required to pass a preliminary budget based on information that historically has been premature. Prior to this year and for the other three budgets that I have worked on we have been able to pass a preliminary budget come April with a lot more information and a lot more detail than we have available to us now. This preliminary budget is not perfect. It does not address all of our issues and concerns. I agree with Mr. Sokorai that there is additional time but whether it is a week or 10 days, the fact is Act 1 requires us to pass a budget by February 15th. We are trying to pass a budget for 2007-08 with information that we don't have. I would encourage the people who are doing the development in Newtown to come to our meetings and present that information. If we start from zero and work our way up, the zero would cause significant cuts in our programs and services that we offer. We would be cutting and then deciding what we could bring back. This is a good starting point to have our budget discussions over the next several months. I am in favor of passing the motion.

Mr. Partridge made a motion and seconded by Mr. Carpenter to call the question and end discussion.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to end discussion.

Aye: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Carpenter

Nay: Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff, Mr. Sokorai

Motion failed 3-5.

Mr. Shin asked Mr. Driscoll to tell the Board what would happen if the preliminary budget is not passed by the February 15th deadline and what the options would be for the Board at that time.

Mr. Driscoll replied that there are two issues at stake for Act 1. It poses challenge for the Board and administration to pass a preliminary budget that can build consensus. Certain things have to be done by February 15th to enable the district to file for exceptions with the state and/or prepare for referendum. There is another option. The Board could pass a resolution by this Thursday (two days) to certify to the Department of Education that it has no intention of increasing taxes above the index. All that does is allow the Board to get off of the Act 1 preliminary budget cycle and go back to the old calendar but in no way could we apply for any exceptions or have a tax increase above the index. If the Board doesn't want to entertain that idea and the motion fails tonight I would have to ask Mr. Sereni what the repercussions under Act 1 are.

Mr. Carpenter stated that we could replace the calendar that we are now under if we vote for a resolution that we would not exceed a 3.4% tax increase. Also, can we pass that resolution instead of a preliminary budget?

Mr. Driscoll replied yes. That is my understanding.

Mr. Sereni replied that Mr. Driscoll is accurate. Because the deadline to pass an "index resolution" is January 25th, there would not be sufficient time to advertise for a Special Meeting and take a meeting other than tonight. If the Board is going to go in that direction, it would have to do so tonight. One consequence of this would be

that the district could not apply for exceptions. The other thing to keep in mind is that the Board would be back in this position when it is operating under the old school code provision of still having to pass a preliminary budget before 30 days before passing your final budget. Mr. Driscoll had anticipated this development and has worked with our office to come up with language for this type of “index resolution” motion. If the Board is going to do that, I urge the Board to take the action tonight. We will not have time to meet the deadline otherwise.

Mr. McGinley asked if we plan on any exceptions.

Mr. Driscoll replied no, the goal from the start has always been to try and keep the tax increase as the maximum of 3.4%. What the exceptions would allow you to do is to pass at tax increase without referendum higher than the index. If the Board has no intention of passing the tax increase higher than the index then the exceptions are nil.

Mr. Partridge made a motion and seconded by Mr. McGinley to approve and adopt a preliminary budget for the 2007-08 school year in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 in the amount of \$57,873,000.00.

Mr. Shin stated that no one has a copy of the budget that Mr. Partridge is talking about. You are asking the Board to pass a budget that no one has seen.

Mr. Partridge replied that Mr. Shin is asking the Board to pass a budget that we can't substantiate.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote.

Aye: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Carpenter

Nay: Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff

Motion failed 4-4.

Mr. Partridge made a motion and seconded by Mr. McGinley to call the question on the original motion.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to call the question and end discussion.

Aye: Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Partridge, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Shin, Mr. McGinley

Nay: Mr. Moldoff, Mrs. Galbraith

Motion passed 6-2.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to approve the original motion.

Aye: Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Moldoff

Nay: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Carpenter

Motion failed 4-4.

Mr. Carpenter asked if we passed a resolution what effect does that have on January 30th concerning the LTSC and the potential earned income tax.

Mr. Driscoll replied that they are two separate issues. The Public Hearing on the 30th is to discuss the referendum question.

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. Shin to adopt the following index resolution.

Mr. Partridge made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Galbraith to recess until all Board members are seated at the table.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

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

Ms. DeLuca reconvened the meeting at 9:03pm.

Mrs. Galbraith made a motion and seconded by Mr. McGinley to approve the following resolution:

Marple Newtown Board of Directors Resolution: Whereas on June 27, 2006 the Pennsylvania Legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006 entitles the Taxpayer Relief Act hereinafter Act 1. Whereas Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains by the Department of Education or a Court of Common Pleas certain referendum exceptions whereas Act 1 does however allow the Board of School Directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year. Whereas the Marple Newtown School District index for the 2007-2008 fiscal year is 3.4%. Whereas the Marple Newtown Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Marple Newtown School District for the 2007-2008 by more than its index and now on this _____ day of _____ it is hereby resolved by the Marple Newtown School District hereinafter district Board of Directors hereinafter Board the following. 1) The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2007-2008 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. 2) The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code hereinafter school code 24PS6687 for the adoption of its proposed and final budget. 3) The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2007-2008 fiscal year. 4) The administration of the district will submit the district's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the district to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this resolution. 5) The administration of the district will send a copy of this resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this resolution. 6) The Board understands and agrees that by passing this resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under section 333F of Act 1 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. 7) Once this resolution is passed the administration of the district is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs A and C of section 311 of Act 1 provided however (a) the Board understands and agrees that upon receipt of the information submitted by the district as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the districts proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index. (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the district whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index. (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the district's proposed increase in the rate of the district's tax exceeds the index, the district is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of section 311 of Act 1 dually adopted by the Board of School Directors of this school district this _____ day of 2007.

Mr. Moldoff stated that if we approve this, we are not entitled to exceptions for 2007-2008. Is this only for 2007-2008 or is this permanent?

Mr. Driscoll replied that this would only be for 2007-2008.

Mr. Moldoff asked what paragraph (c) of the resolution meant.

Mr. Sereni replied that if the district passes a budget that exceeds the index then the Department of Education is going to say that we have a problem and that we should have complied with Act 1.

Mr. Moldoff asked what the Pennsylvania Department of Education would do.

Mr. Sereni replied that if any Board were to pass this type of resolution and then violate its terms it is breaking the law and the Board members could be individually exposed to personal liability if that causes harm to the taxpayers of the district. There may be some sort of sanction that is applicable but that I hope is a hypothetical scenario that would not apply ever in our Board.

Mr. Shin asked if there were any advertising timeframes that were required for the preliminary budget timeline like there is for the final budget. Does the preliminary budget have to be advertised for a certain number of days before it is adopted?

Mr. Driscoll replied that the preliminary budget has to be circulated for public inspection 20 days before the Board takes actions.

Mr. Shin asked if we are even able to adopt a revised preliminary budget tonight because it has not been advertised or made available for public inspection 20 days before action is taken.

Mr. Sereni replied that it would be his opinion that it would be proper for the Board to do that only if the revised resulted in a proposed increase higher than what has been advertised. The proposal that had been made that is not on the table right now called for an increase lower than that advertised. I think that would fit into the category "no harm, no foul."

Mr. Partridge stated that past practice is that we have budgets that come to the table and then they are changed at the Board meeting. I would say that is common practice.

Mr. Shin replied that it doesn't mean that it was the right thing to do.

Mr. McGinley stated that maybe we can reach a compromised number with the Board so that we still have the ability to do the exceptions if it were to come to that if there was a problem with the budget. This would be an increase of about .3%-.4% which at least would satisfy the zero people and satisfy the people who were looking at the .3%-.4% because it would still allow you to do exceptions if we go through the budget and find we need the money.

Mr. McGinley made a motion and seconded by Mr. Partridge to amend the motion and replace it with a motion to approve and adopt a preliminary budget for the 2007-2008 school year in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 in the amount of \$58 million.

Mr. Shin asked what you mean by balanced budget. All of our budgets are balanced.

Mr. McGinley replied that it would go up to \$58 million from the \$57, 873,000. I am saying to go up an extra \$200,000.

Mr. Partridge replied that balanced means no tax increase.

Mr. McGinley stated that it would be a minimal tax increase if we approved it.

Mr. Partridge replied not really because you are going to move the revenues up to \$58 million and you are going to make the expenses \$58 million.

Mr. McGinley stated that a zero balanced budget would be \$57,873,000.

Mr. Partridge stated that if you are making a motion for a balanced budget of \$58 million, you are raising the revenue \$120,000 and you are lowering the expenses \$1.5 million. What you are saying to the administration is the balanced budget of \$58 million means that they need to make the revenue \$58 million and make the expenses \$58 million and we will work out the rest before the final budget.

Mr. McGinley replied yes. I will reiterate that this is a preliminary budget so we will be able to examine it over the next couple of months. We will be able to add to it and we will be able to put exceptions in if we need to. It should satisfy everybody.

Mr. Partridge stated that it satisfies the legal requirement and doesn't restrict us in the future.

Mr. Moldoff stated that the preliminary budget that we had had the detail of what was in the budget. I understand the effort to try to come to terms on things and come to an agreement and I applaud that. My concern is that we do not know what is not in that. I was going to add that this be amended to the 3.4% because that seemed what the resolution was going to be on.

Mr. McGinley stated that he is just suggesting to get it done, put a number in there and let Mr. Driscoll work to the expense end back to it and submit the preliminary budget so that we at least keep all of our timetables on track and we don't have to give up our rights for exceptions.

Mr. Driscoll asked if by amending this motion, you are approving a preliminary budget tonight of \$58 million.

Mr. McGinley replied yes.

Mr. Driscoll stated that he has to submit that within five days of adoption with no discussion on where the cuts are coming from.

Mr. Partridge stated that we are giving you that leeway.

Mr. Shin asked if Mr. Driscoll could get it down from the \$59.5 million to the \$58 million by pulling out the debt service.

Mr. Driscoll replied that if he takes out the debt service and scale back medical benefits, he could easily get to \$1 million of reductions in expenses. What I am concerned about is where to take the other \$500,000 without any input or a lot of time for discussion.

Mr. Partridge asked Mr. Driscoll to pull it out proportionate out of the other accounts except for salaries. Then we will come back and talk next month.

Mr. Sokorai stated that by passing this resolution, what we would in effect be doing is limiting any tax increase to 3.4%. The talk of the exceptions is only if we want to go over the 3.4%. I suggest we pass the resolution and pass a motion to direct the administration to present the Board at the next Work Session a budget with a zero tax increase and balanced. What we can then do is compare the two budgets. The purpose of what we want to do is cut where we want to cut and raise if we have to. It is only by that comparison, an honest hard approach by the administration to look and come and say this is why we put this in here and this is why we don't like it. We can have a full, open discussion at the next Work Session side by side with these proposals rather than just make a blanket 5% reduction on every category on expenditure which I don't think is helpful for moving the process forward.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that she has been working diligently with Mr. Driscoll and all cabinet members. They have been working with all of our building level administration. Please recognize that we are just in the midst

of scheduling students now and we are examining every expenditure line. I am concerned that February 13th is very early on for us to be able to present a zero tax increase. Mr. Driscoll is just getting in revenue numbers this week that we committed to taking a real hard look at to see what we can cut.

Mr. McGinley stated that Mrs. Horowitz's comments support his motion to go to \$58 million. It keeps us on the same timetable. It allows us to do the exceptions if we find they are needed. I would suggest that Mr. Sokorai's suggestion would limit us.

Mr. Partridge suggested that Mr. Driscoll not take the reserve. Take the expense accounts. You have the \$750,000 one-time savings because we are going to have the revenue to get that back next year. It's not a high-risk thing here. If you take away the \$750,000 one-time savings and you take away the \$750,000 bond that is \$1.5 million and you take away the \$500,000 in budgetary reserve that is \$2 million.

Mr. Driscoll stated that if the Board wants to go into the one-time savings then that is okay.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that Mr. Driscoll just recently said that he could come up with \$1 million. We are looking at \$500,000. I cannot promise you in five days that I could recommend cuts. Would you consider \$58.5 million as a preliminary budget figure?

Mr. Partridge stated that the Board has a one-time \$750,000 savings that we can take right now and make a Board decision to put back in next year. So, there is \$750,000 of the other \$500,000. It doesn't affect the expense accounts.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that that is the Board's decision. What Mr. Driscoll has to submit, if we are talking about \$500,000, is an explanation of where that is coming from. I don't know that we can do it in five days.

Mr. Driscoll stated that what Mr. Partridge is saying is that you take what you need out of the one-time savings and take the debt service that we are not going to use. Then take what I think that we have in benefits and you can get to \$1.5 million without going into salaries, benefits and the other areas. Then the additional things that we may have to add will be itemized at a later date.

Mr. Shin spoke to Mr. Sokorai's proposal. If we adopted the index resolution, that would buy us more time. Why would we need the zero preliminary tax budget by our next Work Session?

Mr. Sokorai replied that it is because he doesn't want to have the same discussion that we are having now in April. We can actually look at what is being proposed as a cut in a program, is it acceptable and is it really necessary. A side-by-side comparison is something concrete to work with.

Mr. Shin asked if it is possible to get a zero tax preliminary budget for us to look at by the next Work Session. Why pass the index resolution now? Why not just make a decision on the night of the Work Session and not limit ourselves by passing an index resolution tonight?

Mr. Driscoll stated that for information purpose, if an index resolution is not passed tonight, you can't do it on February 13th. You are destined to approve an Act 1 preliminary budget.

Mr. McGinley stated that if we are going to try to go to a zero budget by February 13th, why not just do a forced \$58 million now so that we can stay on the same timetable and we don't have to deal with the resolution and we just go forward. It seems like the logical thing to do.

Mr. Moldoff asked if we approved the resolution, what is the new timeline. Do we just revert to the timeline as it existed prior to Act 1?

Mr. Driscoll replied yes. We have to adopt a preliminary budget 30 days before we adopt a final budget.

Mr. Moldoff asked if we would be able to theoretically do whatever the effort would be for a zero based budget by March or April timeframe without impacting education now and things that are underway.

Mr. Driscoll replied yes. I recommend we take a hard look at the “knowns” that we don’t think we need and if the Board is comfortable with those cuts, find out what that drives out and then have a Work Session with the Board specifically geared to budget so that we can detail the things that have been cut, do we want to go deeper, etc.

Mr. Moldoff stated that he would be more comfortable if Mr. McGinley’s motion was for \$58,750,000 which is pulling out the one-time savings. It doesn’t impact the benefits and the other things that are on the current budget.

Mr. McGinley stated that philosophically, if you have the money in there, you are going to spend it. If we start at zero, we can add what is needed.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the original motion that he made was for a balanced budget with no tax increase. I also projected that we could anticipate maybe as much as \$2.5 million in new revenue based on a five year trend where we got unexpected funds in that general range. Such a motion provides the flexibility we need to avoid having to do all these things. I don’t know why we are sitting around here talking about where we can cut money at this stage of the game when we don’t even have a realistic idea of how much we are going to get. The problem is that Mr. Driscoll can’t foresee what it is ahead of time. There is no reason why we can’t anticipate substantially more revenue. Our objective is to avoid a tax increase.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote on Mr. McGinley’s motion to amend.

Aye: Mr. McGinley, Mr. Shin, Mrs. Galbraith, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Carpenter

Nay: Mr. Moldoff

Motion passed 7-1.

Ms. DeLuca called for a roll call vote to approve the motion as amended.

Aye: Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Sokorai, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Shin, Mr. McGinley

Nay: Mr. Moldoff, Ms. DeLuca, Mrs. Galbraith

Motion passed 5-3.

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

15.01 Safety and Security

Mr. Moldoff made a motion and seconded by Mr. McGinley to approve advertising a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to evaluate the needs of the district regarding safety and security.

Mr. Shin asked if a motion like this requires some type of monetary range.

Mr. Driscoll replied no. You will get a chance to approve the contract. This is just to seek proposals from vendors for comparative purposes.

Mr. Shin asked if we have drafted the RFP.

Mr. Gasior replied no.

Ms. DeLuca called for a voice vote. All present voted affirmatively. Motion carried 8-0.

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

No comments were made.

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

No comments were made.

18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Ms. DeLuca thanked Mr. Gasior for all that he has done for our district over the years. As Director of Operations, Bill has guided us through the end of a renovations project, expansion of the bus garage area, the athletic field construction and the construction of the maintenance garage. Many other things operate smoothly under his leadership that are less noticeable but just as appreciated. The Transportation Department runs effectively and efficiently and the buildings are well maintained. I could go on and on. Bill has been a dedicated employee and it has been a pleasure to work with him these last three years. We will miss you, Bill and I hope you enjoy your retirement.

Ms. DeLuca announced that the Board will hold a retreat on the evening of February 9th and the morning of February 10th. The retreat is open to all Board members and is being held to provide Board development in the areas of effective school governance and goal setting. The Potter Cup will be held January 26th at Haverford High School from 2pm-8pm. The Public Hearing is scheduled for 7pm on January 30th to hear public comment on the Local Tax Study Commission's recommendation.

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No comments were made.

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. McGinley stated that he would like to do lunch with Mr. Gasior.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he would like to comment on Bill Gasior's time here. I was on the Board when Bill was hired. The school facilities were in terrible shape. We had complaints about the bus system practically every day. Bill took hold right away and built a strong organization as part of the Operations Department. Since that time, the school buildings have been put in much better shape than they were in including this building. The school district owes Bill a lot more than we could ever repay him. I hope his retirement is a pleasant one. I am going to miss him.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that she will echo what Ms. DeLuca and Mr. Carpenter have both said. I have been a part of the Facilities and Transportation Committee since I came on this Board five years ago. I have worked with Bill Gasior for all five years. It was always a pleasure. I thank you for everything that you have done for this district. I know you will miss us on nights like this. Ha Ha. Every fourth Tuesday of the month, you will be sitting at home laughing cause you don't have to be here anymore. I thank you. It was a pleasure. I wish you much luck, much happiness and some time to just relax.

Mr. Moldoff stated that like Mr. Carpenter, he was around when Bill first came on. I concur with what he had said about the state of the district. The district is in a far, far better position because of your efforts and your knowledge. It has been interesting to watch the progress that has been made over the last several years. It is

quite evident that your leadership really was very important to the state of the district now moving things forward. I wish you the best. Hopefully you will get back to Hawaii and the beautiful scenery there that we have been talking about. I wish you much happiness and much rest in enjoying your retirement. Hopefully, we will be able to tap into the wealth of knowledge and expertise that you have as we move forward with some of our plans. Good luck.

Mrs. Horowitz thanked Bill for everything that he has taught her in the past year and a half about this district and its facilities and its history. I thank him for all of the hours he has spent with Michael Dumin to prepare him to take over the helm next Monday. I feel certain that we will remain in touch. Thanks and God bless you.

Mr. Partridge stated that it has been a pleasure working with Bill over the last three years. You are a gentleman and I wish you the best of health. Best wishes to your family. Enjoy life in your retirement. Thanks Bill.

Mr. Sokorai joked that in the three months that he has known Bill, he has never lied to him once. I think the SAT initiative plan that was presented by Mr. Sanville and Mr. Piccara is absolutely fantastic. Every time that I have met Mr. Sanville, he is energetic and you can tell that he really loves what he is doing. You can tell a lot of effort went into this. I think it is great to have him around. If we don't get better SAT scores with this, I don't know how you can.

21. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ms. DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 9:53pm.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph J. Driscoll, Board Secretary