

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
BOARD ROOM MINUTES**

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mr. Richard Sokorai, Mr. Michael Molinaro and Mr. Fred Dewey

Board: Dr. Jeff Shapiro, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, and Mrs. Dana Kauffman

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mrs. Denise Land, Mr. Mike Dumin

Press: 0

Audience: 3

1. Call Meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Sokorai called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Approval of the agenda

No additions were made to the agenda for September 8, 2009.

3. Approval of August 11, 2009 meeting minutes

Mr. Sokorai made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Molinaro to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009 meeting minutes. With no discussion, motion passed.

4. Business Office/Finance Reporting

Bills for payment: Motion approved to take to full Board the General Fund bills for August 2009.

Monthly Financial Reports July 2009

Mr. Joe Driscoll spoke about the Capital Fund along with the July and August reports as presented to the Board. As noted there were two large payments for the month to Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Mr. Driscoll discussed that the State still does not have a Budget. He discussed that some of the mortgage payments and tax bills have come in earlier than last year, and that we did receive the property tax relief money, although we have not received any of the subsidies.

5. Act 32 Earned Income Tax Collection

Mr. Driscoll discussed the Act 32 Earned Income Tax Collection and of the County meetings that are being held statewide. He stated as a non-voting delegate it is not mandatory he attend the meetings but feels it would be in the district's best interest to attend as a delegate.

Motion to present to full Board was approved.

6. Audit Update

Mr. Driscoll stated the audit was delayed by one week and will begin on Monday, September 14, 2009. This will not delay the reporting to the Board. He stated we came in pretty much better than expected; in fact the revenue shortfall came in at 1.3 million dollars. He stated Major and Mastro are conducting the audit which will be available in November.

7. Plan Con J – Old School Project

Mr. Driscoll explained that Plan Con J is the reconciliation of the 2000 Marple Newtown High School Project. He stated that Plan Con J needs to be independently audited. He believes there could be money on the table from the project that the State owes us from the project. He stated PASBO also could do the audit that is needed but believes it would be less expensive for and independent audit. He will, in the next two months, bring a motion for this to the Board.

8. Disposal of Food Service Equipment

Mr. Driscoll stated that we need to dispose of the unused equipment at the Gauntlett Center and at Paxon Hollow Middle School. The unused equipment consisted of two candy machines and a frying unit.

Motion to present to full Board was approved.

9. Status of Comparison of PDE Educational Requirement vs. Current District Programs

Dr. Merle Horowitz stated she has already begun to prepare what is required by the State Board of Education for the Educational Departments for Curriculum and what is required to teach at each of the three levels. She stated that she and Connie Bombadre will be working together to see how we are doing here at Marple Newtown School District. She discussed how many children we are currently serving. She is reviewing any and all programs that are under enrolled, with the possibility of eliminating those programs.

Dr. Horowitz stated she will need to wait on those findings until October 1, 2009 simply because we still have children being enrolled and actually had fourteen new students enroll the first day of school. By the October 1, 2009 date, she will have the actual existing enrollment and they can examine the schools and the State requirements at that time.

Dr. Horowitz then stated she would like to look at the unfunded mandates (at a future session) such as the Special Education, Gifted Programs and the Nursing Program. One nurse is needed for every fifteen hundred children, which includes all of the private schools in our district. She would like to share at a public session what exactly the cost is for Unfunded Mandates. Dr. Horowitz would also like to discuss the transportation issues within our district, including the ten mile radius requirements within the townships for bussing the students. She stated the cost will be in the millions for the children being bussed to all the other schools other than our six public schools within the district.

Dr. Horowitz stated her plan is to look at the educational requirements and how we are addressing them here at Marple Newtown School District and examine the Unfunded Mandates through our district.

Mr. Sokorai suggested a work session for October 5, 2009 concerning the above. (The majority were in agreement.)

Mr. Fred Dewey stated we simply cannot change anything on the above matters and why put more time into it. He then stated there is Board Policy concerning the number of enrolled students in our programs and if indeed that policy should be revisited.

Dr. Horowitz agreed, stating yes, the policy should be revisited for elective courses.

10. 2010-2011 Budget and Work Session Dates

Mr. Driscoll stated he is actually doing the ground work on the Budget and will have a Budget document for the Board in the Friday packet for their review. In addition to that he will have the preliminary Act 1 budget time line. Mr. Driscoll then discussed having three budgets this year. The first is a proposed Preliminary Budget. The second is a Proposed Final Budget. Last is the Final Budget, which will be ready for public inspection by January 28, 2010.

11. New or Additional Business

There was no new or additional business.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.