



There were no public comments at this time.

## **6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

There was no report.

## **7. COMMENDATIONS**

There was no report.

## **8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT**

Ms. Nancy Ding reported that Student Council held a breakfast at which ideas were discussed on generating successful student functions. Elementary schools will be encouraged to come to football games. There will be a contest to see which of the four schools has the most school spirit. The football team and the Student Council will visit each school for pep rallies to generate school spirit.

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Merle Horowitz announced that the district has had an excellent transition to the 2009-2010 school year. She thanked the staff and parents for working collaboratively to motivate the students for this great beginning. We had 147 new students register for school this year. Over thirty of them come from homes where the first language spoken is not English. These students are being evaluated for their English language proficiency by our ELL teachers. Dr. Horowitz then invited everyone to the Youth and Elementary night this Friday night, September 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in our stadium. The Marple Newtown Tigers will have community support as they take on the Conestoga football team, beginning with pep rallies at each elementary school at the end of the day; the evening will surely be a success. Student Council, Band, Cheerleaders and Football players will make their annual trek to the elementary schools to garner Tiger spirit. Student Council will then monitor the number of people from each school, and then award the first ever Marple Newtown Youth Spirit Award at the end of the third quarter to the school with the greatest number of students represented.

Student Council will also be giving out spirit items to youngsters as they enter the stadium. The Paxon Hollow Middle School Eighth grade band members, under the direction of Laura Wooden, will perform with the High School band at halftime. Following their routine, the Marple Junior Tigers will play their annual flag football game against Tredyffrin. The Junior Tiger Cheerleaders will perform during the first half with the High School Cheerleaders. It promises to be an exciting night.

Dr. Horowitz then stated that communication between home and school is critically important to the success of our students. She then introduced Mrs. Christine Netter, who presented an update on how we are progressing with our communication with elementary parents using the Ed-line program.

Mrs. Netter stated that changes have been made in the web sites this year to improve communication. All building web sites are now created through Edline. The major change is the log-in screen so students and parents can get personalized information regarding their students. Once logged in, a parent will see all their children listed. The parent can then select any of their students, and they are connected to the teacher page where information about that student is located. Grade reporting is not yet available for elementary students, but it will be in the future. Training is ongoing for teachers to become comfortable in using the web page portion. Parents asked if teachers are required to use this tool, and how often the pages are updated. Mrs. Netter responded that all teachers will be using the tool, and that updates are individually driven currently, according to the need, i.e. elementary assignments don't change as frequently as secondary assignments do. Progress reports at the secondary level will go up frequently if the student is having a problem; there is no standard to post all test grades or progress on a standard timeline.

## **10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES**

Mrs. Dana Kauffman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2009 Regular Meeting and have them made a permanent part of the record.

Motion was made by Mr. Fred Dewey and seconded by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

## **11. OTHER REPORTS**

### **11.01 School Liaison Reports**

Culbertson

Mr. Fred Dewey reported that Mr. Orwig is off to a great start and filling some big shoes very well. Back to School Night went very well; a nice security system demonstration was performed, the playground is very nice, and parents are pleased. The PTO is planning another big project, and Mr. Dewey will keep the community informed. He congratulated Mr. Orwig for a great start and offered appreciation for his efforts.

Paxon Hollow Middle School

Nancy Galbraith reported that Mr. Flood is the new Assistant Principal, and T. J. Gretchen is the new Dean of Students. September 23 will be Back to School night for the Sixth Grade, and September 24 will be Back to School night for seventh and eighth grades, both at 7:00 p.m. September 24 will be the magazine drive kick off. Paxon Hollow staff will participate in the boat races. This year Paxon Hollow is establishing a lifesaver fund for Paxon Hollow families. Dr. Subers reports that many Paxon Hollow families are struggling this year, and in need of support. The Paxon Hollow Lifesavers fund will distribute aid to any families in need of assistance, and asked for help raising monies for those families. Every donation is tax deductible.

Worrall

Mrs. Dana Kauffman reported that Back to School night was September 10 and very well attended. Mr. John Trezise was well prepared and it was a great night. Dr. Horowitz was the special guest at the first PTO meeting on September 16. She gave a presentation on Swine flu and led a discussion about the new security systems. Everyone seems to be embracing this topic. The Going Green initiative is starting also, and Worrall is a recycling location, and students are encouraged to spread the word to neighbors. Every time the Worrall bin is full, our school saves 17 Trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 390 gallons of oil, and 60 pounds of air emissions. Worrall will also earn money on this project, while teaching students the value of recycling.

### **11.02 Tuition Agreement**

Mrs. Dana Kauffman then asked for a motion to approve a Tuition Agreement in the amount of \$64,000.00 with Child Guidance Resource Centers (CGRC) to provide independent contractor services in connection with Special Education for the 2009–2010 school year.

Motion was made by Mr. Fred Dewey and seconded by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **11.03 Board Policy Manual**

Mrs. Dana Kauffman asked for a motion to approve the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's revisions and update of the entire Marple Newtown School District Board Policy Manual. This includes the replacement of Policy No. 113.1, Special Education Behavior Management, with Policy No. 218.3, Positive Behavior Support.

Motion was made by Mr. Fred Dewey and seconded by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that she and Mrs. Kaufmann read the entire policy manual, and learned a lot. Dr. Shapiro asked how revisions could be adopted without a first and second reading.

Dr. Horowitz stated that the legal department of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association did an extensive overview of every statute code across the Commonwealth, and recommended the approval.

Mr. David McGinley asked if a reading was necessary for the revised policy 218.3. Dr. Horowitz responded that 218.3 was reviewed by the legal department of PSBA, and recommended for adoption.

Dr. Shapiro then expressed concern that the Marple Newtown School District Board of School Directors did not vote to do away with a policy that says there must be a first and second reading of any revised policies, and therefore he can't vote for this.

Mr. Mark Sereni, Esq., responded to Dr. Shapiro's concern, stating that the Board has the power to waive that policy.

Mr. McGinley stated that the Board would use this as an opportunity for the first reading. Dr. Shapiro stated that he still couldn't vote for it because he hasn't read it. Mr. McGinley requested that the motion be changed to "approve the first reading of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's revisions and update of the entire Marple Newtown School District Board Policy Manual. This includes the replacement of Policy No. 113.1, Special Education Behavior Management, with Policy No. 218.3, Positive Behavior Support."

Mrs. Dana Kauffman requested a motion to approve an amended motion to approve the first reading of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's revisions and update of the entire Marple Newtown School District Board Policy Manual. This includes the replacement of Policy No. 113.1, Special Education Behavior Management, with Policy No. 218.3, Positive Behavior Support.

Motion was made by Mr. Fred Dewey and seconded by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith.

With no further discussion, motion passed, 6-2

Mrs. Kauffman then asked for a motion to approve the first reading of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association's revisions and update of the entire Marple Newtown School District Board Policy Manual. This includes the replacement of Policy No. 113.1, Special Education Behavior Management, with Policy No. 218.3, Positive Behavior Support.

Motion was made by Mr. Fred Dewey and seconded by Mrs. Nancy Galbraith.

A roll call vote was requested:

Ayes: Mr. Edward Partridge, Mr. David McGinley, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Dana Kauffman, Mr. Fred Dewey

Nays: Mr. Richard Carpenter, Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro, Mr. Michael Molinaro

Abstentions: 0

Motion passed, 5-3

## **12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

### **12.01 Committee Report – Nancy Galbraith, Chairwoman**

### **12.02 Technology Update**

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith introduced Mr. Christopher Lee for a technology update. Mr. Lee shared a powerpoint presentation with the Board showing the technology used in the classrooms, including traditional technology such as projectors, desktops, laptops, televisions and digital cameras.

He also showed some of the newer technology such as white boards, mobile labs, showing that the District is aggressively integrating core content areas with the newest methods of teaching and learning.

**12.03 Disposal of Textbooks**

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith asked for a motion to approve the disposal of Mathematics textbooks as listed on the attachment.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dana Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Fred Dewey.  
With No further discussion, motion passed 8-0

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith asked for a motion to approve the disposal of Health textbooks as listed on the attachment.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dana Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Fred Dewey.  
With No further discussion, motion passed 8-0

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith asked for a motion to approve the disposal of Social Studies textbooks as listed on the attachment.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dana Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Fred Dewey.  
With No further discussion, motion passed 8-0

**12.04 FIELD TRIP**

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith asked for a motion to approve two Student Council/MNSB Student Representatives and one teacher/chaperone to attend the PSBA Student Delegate Program at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East departing October 14, 2009 returning October 16, 2009.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dana Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Fred Dewey.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

**12.05 STUDENT CLUB**

Mrs. Nancy Galbraith asked for a motion to approve the request to establish the Guitar Club.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dana Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Fred Dewey.  
Dr. Shapiro abstained as a result of his son making the request.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0; with one abstention

**13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**13.01 Committee Report – Edward C. Partridge, Chairperson**

**13.02 RETIREMENTS**

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following classified retirement, item 1.

- 1) Giovanna Castagna – Cook  
High School  
Effective: June 19, 2009  
Reason: Retirement (23 Years)

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### 13.03 RESIGNATIONS

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following classified resignations, items 1 through 7.

- 1) Deborah Sabatino – Theme Editor  
High School  
Effective: August 24, 2009  
Reason: Personal
- 2) Alyson Dickey – Title I Assistant  
Russell Elementary  
Effective: August 24, 2009  
Reason: Other Employment
- 3) Ann Bradley – Instructional Assistant  
Culbertson Elementary  
Effective: August 19, 2009  
Reason: Personal
- 4) Elizabeth Cotruffello – ELL Assistant  
District  
Effective: October 16, 2009  
Reason: Personal
- 5) Cynthia Collins – Instructional Assistant  
Loomis Elementary  
Effective: September 18, 2009  
Reason: Personal
- 6) Denise Metz – Special Education Assistant  
Culbertson Elementary  
Effective: September 18, 2009  
Reason: Personal
- 7) Steven Copeland-Van Driver  
Transportation  
Effective: September 11, 2009  
Reason: Personal

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### 13.04 LEAVES

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following classified leaves, items 1 through 5.

- 1) Denise Cancellarich – Payroll Clerk  
Business Office  
Effective: September 8, 2009 through September 28, 2009  
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Anne Marie Tacchi – Cafeteria Worker  
Food Services – Worrall Elementary  
Effective: September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009  
Reason: Leave Without Pay
- 3) Daniel Incollingo – Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective: January 5, 2010 through February 19, 2010  
Reason: Leave Without Pay
- 4) Eugene Tacchi – Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective: September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009  
Reason: Medical Leave Without Pay
- 5) Samuel Lewis – Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Effective: September 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009  
Reason: Medical Leave Without Pay

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **13.05 APPOINTMENTS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following administrative appointment, item 1.

- 1) Fred Hilliard – Full-Time Security Officer  
Operations  
Salary: \$13.75 per hour  
Effective: September 16, 2009  
Reason: New Position

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

#### **PROFESSIONAL**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following professional appointments, items 1 through 8.

- 1) Michael Murphy – Behavioral Health Worker  
Pupil Services  
B.S.-Psychology: St. Joseph's University; M.S.-Social Work: University Of Pennsylvania  
Loomis/Worrall Elementary  
Salary: \$46,630.00  
Effective: September 1, 2009  
Reason: New Position
- 2) Brittany Fertman – LTS Special Education Teacher  
B.S. - Special Education: University of Scranton; Certification: Special Education N-12; 0 Years Experience  
Culbertson Elementary  
Salary: \$40,788.00 (Pro-Rated)  
Effective: September 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Lauren DiBlasi (FMLA)
- 3) Dolores Endicott – Mathematics Teacher  
B.S. – Mathematics: Elizabethtown College; M.Ed.-Trenton State University; Certification: Mathematics (Pending); 23 Years Experience  
Marple Newtown High School  
Salary: \$51,330.00 (Pro-Rated)  
Effective: September 1, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Cynthia Gill (Resigned)
- 4) Kimberly Colsher – Behavioral Health Worker  
Pupil Services  
B.S.-Criminal Justice: West Chester University; M.A.-Educational Counseling: West Chester University  
Culbertson/Russell Elementary  
Salary: \$46,630.00 (Pro-Rated)  
Effective: September 14, 2009  
Reason: New Position
- 5) Ashley Pohlig – LTS Special Education  
B.A.- Education: West Chester University; Certification: Elementary Education/Special Education N-12;  
0 Years Experience  
Paxon Hollow  
Salary: \$40,788.00 (Pro-Rated)  
Effective: September 1, 2009 through January 22, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Dana Locher (Child Rearing Leave)
- 6) Samantha Grimes – Behavioral Health Worker  
B.S.- St. Joseph's University; Criminal Justice; M.Ed.-Social Work: Widener University  
Paxon Hollow  
Salary: \$46,630.00  
Effective: September 1, 2009

Reason: New Position

- 7) Tara Baselice – LTS Elementary Counselor  
 B.A-Psychology: Moravian College; M.Ed-West Chester University;  
 Certification: Elementary Education, Elementary and Secondary Counseling; 0 Years Experience  
 Russell Elementary  
 Salary: \$40,788.00 (Pro-Rated)  
 Effective: September 8, 2009 through January 22, 2009  
 Reason: Replaces Kimberly Polonsky (Child Rearing Leave)
  
- 8) Mary Flounders – .5 Special Education Teacher  
 B.S.- Elementary Education and Special Education: Millersville University; Certification: Elementary  
 Education, Special Education N-12, and Mid-Level Mathematics 7-9; 0 Years Experience  
 Paxon Hollow  
 Salary: \$26,646.50  
 Effective: September 9, 2009  
 Reason: Replaces Anne Freney (Reassigned)

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
 With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following classified appointments, items 1 through 12.

- 1) Jeanne Ricci – Instructional Assistant  
 Russell Elementary  
 Salary: \$5,788.00  
 Effective: September 8, 2009  
 Reason: Replaces June Eicholz (Reassigned-Non-Instructional Asst.)
  
- 2) Steve Moffat – Custodian  
 Operations  
 Salary: \$14.28 per hour  
 Effective: August 24, 2009  
 Reason: Replaces Trevor James (Re-Assigned-Part-Time Custodian)
  
- 3) Deena Bhrim – Non-Instructional Assistant  
 Worrall Elementary  
 Salary: \$9.42 per hour  
 Effective: September 8, 2009  
 Reason: Replaces Lisa Bradley (Reassigned-Pupil Services Clerk)
  
- 4) Karen Gray – Non-Instructional Assistant  
 Russell Elementary  
 Salary: \$9.42 per hour  
 Effective: September 8, 2009  
 Reason: Replaces June Eicholz (Reassigned-Non-Instructional Asst.)
  
- 5) Judith Anne Smith – Instructional Assistant  
 Culbertson Elementary  
 Salary: \$5,788.00

Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Ann Bradley (Resigned)

- 6) Marie Summerfield – Bus Assistant  
Transportation  
Salary: \$12.94 per hour  
Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Marie Rafferty (Resigned)
- 7) Charles Miller – Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Salary: \$17.91 per hour  
Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: Replaces James Donnon (Retired)
- 8) RoseAnna Cardelli – Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Salary: \$17.91 per hour  
Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Joseph McAleer (Deceased)
- 9) Michael B. McNally – Bus Driver  
Transportation  
Salary: \$17.91 per hour  
Effective: October 5, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Joan Renner (Retired)
- 10) Jerry Williams – Substitute Custodian  
Operations  
Salary: \$14.29 per hour  
Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: As Needed
- 11) Daniel McCormick – Grounds/Transportation  
Operations  
Salary: \$14.66 per hour  
Effective: September 14, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Salvatore Amelio (Retired)
- 12) Timothy Bambrick – Title I Assistant (Math)  
Worrall Elementary  
Salary: \$13.09  
Effective: September 1, 2009  
Reason: New Position

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the recall from furlough of the following employees in accordance with the Marple Newtown Educational Support Personnel Association (MNESPA) Bargaining Agreement effective September 21, 2009. Employees are listed in order of recall rights.

- 1) Lori Robinson, Special Education Assistant, Culbertson Elementary
- 2) Michelle Pantellas, .5 Special Education Assistant, Culbertson Elementary

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **13.07 REASSIGNMENTS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following administrative reassignment, item 1.

- 1) Christopher Vandevere  
From: Part-Time Security Officer  
To: Full-Time Security Officer  
Operations  
Salary: \$13.75 per hour  
Reason: New Position

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

#### **CLASSIFIED**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following classified reassignments, items 1 through 2.

- 1) Craig Robinson  
From: Part-time Custodian  
To: Full-time Custodian  
Operations  
Salary: \$14.28 per hour  
Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Charles Dougherty (Voluntary Transfer)
- 2) Charles Dougherty  
From: Full-time Custodian  
To: Part-time Custodian  
Operations  
Salary: \$14.29 per hour  
Effective: September 8, 2009  
Reason: Replaces Craig Robinson (Reassigned)

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **13.08 TRANSFERS**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following transfer of professional staff for the 2009-2010 school year.

Name	Location	Assignment	Transfer to:	Assignment
Elizabeth Mongan	PHMS	Music	Culbertson/Loomis	Music

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **13.09 PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSERS) CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the attached Resolution to encourage the Pennsylvania State Legislature to take immediate action to substantively reduce the employer contribution rate, and/or provide other sources of revenue independent of the employer contribution rate to PSERS.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **13.10 2009-2010 ACT 93 SALARIES**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the 2009-2010 salaries for Act 93 employees in accordance with the Marple Newtown School District Administrative Compensation Plan for Act 93 Confidential Employees as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Mr. Fred Dewey  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-1

### **13.11 DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the agreement with the Centers for Occupational Health/Crozer-Keystone Health System (COH) to provide Medical Review Officer (MRO) services, to conduct drug and alcohol testing and serve as Administrator for the purpose of complying with the law, including the regulations mandated by the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PENNDOT) upon legal review of the Solicitor.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
Mr. Molinaro asked if this was strictly for Transportation staff. Mr. Lance Freeman responded that this was for Transportation, as required by PennDot.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

### **13.12 ACTIVITY CONTRACTS**

#### **RESIGNATIONS**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the following resignations from activity contracts for the 2009-2010 school year, item 1.

- 1) Peter MacNeal – Coach-Girls' Volleyball; Assistant Coach-Boys' Wrestling;  
Assistant Coach – Boys' Lacrosse  
Paxon Hollow  
Effective: August 25, 2009  
Reason: Personal

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

#### APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2009-2010 school year as attached. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the present MNEA negotiated agreement.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

#### **13.13 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve tuition reimbursement, in accordance with present MNEA negotiated agreement, as attached.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

Mr. Richard Carpenter excused himself from the meeting.

#### **13.14 AASA National Conference on Education**

Mr. Edward Partridge requested a motion to approve the attendance of Dr. Merle Horowitz at the American Association of School Administrators' National Conference on Education in Phoenix, Arizona February 11 -13, 2010.

*(Registration fee to be paid by Marple Newtown School District. Travel expenses to be paid by Dr. Horowitz).*

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0

#### **14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

##### **14.01 Committee Report – Richard Sokorai, Chairman**

President David McGinley requested Mr. Fred Dewey read the report in the absence of Mr. Richard Sokorai.

##### **14.02 Bills for Payment**

Mr. Fred Dewey requested a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,975,328.63, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$45,907.70 and Food Service bills in the amount of \$89,148.10.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Mrs. Dana Kauffman.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0

##### **14.03 Transfers and Monthly Reports**

Mr. Fred Dewey requested a motion to approve monthly financial reports for July 2009.

*Informational item monthly financial reports for August 2009.*

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0

**14.04 Act 32 Earned Income Tax Collection**

Mr. Fred Dewey requested a motion to designate Joseph Driscoll, Business Administrator, as Marple Newtown School District Non-Voting Delegate to the County Tax Collection Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Mr. Edward Partridge.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0

**14.05 Disposal of Food Service Equipment**

Mr. Fred Dewey requested a motion to approve the disposal of the following Food Service equipment. (This equipment is in working order and can be sold at a fair price.)

- 1-M & M candy machine located at the Gauntlett Community Center
- 1-Small candy dispenser located at the Gauntlett Community Center
- 1-Single frying unit located at Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Mrs. Dana Kauffman.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0

**14.06 Donation Acceptance**

Mr. Fred Dewey requested a motion to accept a \$1,200.00 grant from Individuals Concerned for Newtown Square (IC4NS) for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and to expand the budget accordingly.

Motion was made by Mr. Michael Molinaro and seconded by Mr. David McGinley.  
Mr. Dewey thanked IC4NS for the donation.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 7-0

**15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**15.01 Committee Report – Michael Molinaro, Chairman**

Mr. Molinaro began with the motions.

**15.03**

Mr. Michael Molinaro asked for a motion to approve a change order to Noble Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc for the Paxon Hollow Roof Project to add one additional roof drain at a change order price of \$4,000.00.

Motion was made by Mrs. Dana Kauffman and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

Mr. Michael Molinaro asked for a motion to approve a change order to MEI Systems for the District Wide Security Project to add door hardware and card access to an entrance that was overlooked during the original survey at a change order price of \$3,425.00.

Motion was made by Mr. Fred Dewey and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.  
With no further discussion, motion passed 8-0

## **15.02 Facilities Update**

Mr. Michael Molinaro requested that Mr. Michael Dumin give an update on the facilities.

Mr. Dumin stated that the security system is operational in all schools except the High School. It will go in as part of the renovation project in that location. Parents should now bring their licenses into the schools to have a temporary ID badge created at a kiosk located in the lobby. If they ring the doorbell, a secretary will buzz them in the front door, which is the only door they will be able to access. They will have the ability to create temporary ID's without a license as well, through the same method.

Pictures are taken for staff ID badges, and will be distributed as soon as possible. The system will be completely operation once the badges are finished.

The Paxon Hollow roof project is near completion; the ductwork needs to be re-wrapped and the white coating needs to be applied to the existing rubber roof. We were slightly off schedule due to the excessive amount of rain over the summer.

Mr. Molinaro asked what the next step is in roof projects. Mr. Dumin responded that specs would be developed for roofing in two elementary schools for the summer of 2010.

Mr. Molinaro then asked about the High School renovation project. Mr. Dumin responded that bids were opened last Thursday, [September 17]. Mr. McGinley asked when contracts would be awarded. Mr. Molinaro responded there would be a special meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. for that purpose.

Mr. Molinaro then introduced Peter Medica and Damion Spahr to speak about the process. Mr. Spahr stated that bids came in under budget, and a substantial savings will be recognized.

Mr. McGinley asked if the savings could be re-applied to add administrative offices into the high school building.

Mr. Medica stated that it would re-configure the PlanCon submissions to the state, and the whole project would have to start over.

Mr. McGinley asked if the architects could take a quick look at the feasibility for the October special meeting.

Mr. Richard Carpenter returned to the meeting.

## **16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT**

There was no report.

## **17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Shapiro reported that the Act 1 Base Rate was issued at 2.9%. That means that including any exceptions we apply for and for which we are approved, taxes can't be raised higher than 2.9% without a referendum, excluding the 4% which is already an exception for the construction project. Mr. Partridge asked if the numbers were up in the rest of the county. Mr. Joseph Driscoll responded that it was relevant to the socio-economic demographic; for instance Chester Upland was 4.6%.

## **18. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

There was no report.

## 19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Ms. Roz Gosselin, from Marple Newtown Players expressed a concern regarding the closing of the Gauntlett Center. It has housed the community group of theatre programs, making it a definite boon to the community. She expressed hope that alternative space would be provided if the Gauntlett Center should close. She asked what the next few months would hold in store for the Marple Newtown Players.

Paula DeJoseph of Newtown Square spoke regarding the need for the Community Theater. She has directed children's theater and sees the need for the theater group to maintain the participation of the community, allowing the constituents from public, parochial and private sectors of the community.

Mr. McGinley then made a statement to the community regarding the Gauntlett Center. He said that the building is in very poor repair, and costs approximately \$300,000.00 per year to maintain. Its state is getting worse. The façade is falling off the front, the roof leaks constantly, and the heating system could cost exorbitant amounts to repair or replace. "We are examining all options. Never has it ever been discussed that we put anyone out on the street; we would love to keep this open, but you can only put so much into an old building before there is a point of diminishing returns."

Ms. Yasmin Kajouri spoke to the Board regarding the possibility of students having more input in Board decisions. She proposed that a student be on the School Board, with the power of a vote, to assist in determining the path the District takes. Working together will make the students, staff and administration feel more like there is a common interest being served.

Mr. Eric Hammond of Marple and parent of a student in KidStop, commented on the manner in which participants of that program found out about the possible closing of the Gauntlett Center. He implored the Board to find temporary, or more beneficially, permanent space to set the program up to meet the needs of working parents in the Marple Newtown community.

Mr. McGinley stated that rumors are just that – rumors. There are more people at this meeting than at the last twenty meetings. The way you heard the rumors is through the handful of people who have attended telling you. This situation has been under discussion for the past couple of years; it came to the forefront when we discovered that we can't turn on the heat. It doesn't help to criticize the School Board when you don't have all the facts. When you say that we don't consider things, then you don't take into account all that is under consideration.

Ms. Karen Downard of Newtown Square stated her concern regarding transportation to KidStop should the program be moved, and what can the public expect in terms of costs for the program if it moves.

Ms. Joan Tobin of Newtown Square asked the Board to address concerns regarding unpaid school taxes. She spoke of the Act 1 being 2.9%; will the taxes be raised?

Mr. McGinley stated that the answers would be discussed at the Budget meeting.

Mr. Bill Ebbecke of Newtown Township remarked on the School Board decision to investigate outsourcing for food services, custodial services and transportation. He said that, as a taxpayer, and as an employee of the district, he would caution going forward. Those employees do not get health benefits, and 60% of the people that are in those groups reside in the district. When this was tried in the seventies, custodians were brought in from out of district, and the District was taken to the cleaners. He just wanted to make the Board aware of that fact.

A community member of Newtown Township asked if there was a time frame in making a decision about the Gauntlett Center, and how would notice be given.

Mr. McGinley stated that there is no time frame, and as much notice will be given as is possible.

Mr. Chris D'Angelo of Broomall stated that there is a timeline; winter is coming, and the heat must come on. He said there is no assurance that heat won't be necessary before the date of the special meeting.

Mr. McGinley responded that the Board is acting as quickly as possible.

Mr. D'Angelo appreciates the problems in making the decision, but didn't the Board just say we were saving money on the renovation? The cost of repairs does not add up to the savings.

Mr. McGinley stated that this building may be at the point where the repairs may cost more than the savings. We are reacting to the heating as an immediate issue, but there are also roof repairs and repairs to the façade to consider.

Another Marple resident stated that her daughter chose to send her grandchildren to Marple based on the availability of the KidStop program. She asked the Board to be judicious in keeping the needs of the parents in mind when searching for alternatives.

Another resident stated that the disrepair of this building didn't happen all at once. Why wasn't something done before now?

Mr. McGinley stated that this building has been band-aided for the last few years, and now it is reaching a point where that is no longer an option.

A resident from Newtown Square stated that if the problems in this building have worsened in the last two years, why was there no plan to phase everyone out over that period of time?

Mr. McGinley responded that the problems with the boilers only appeared since August, we have fixed other things over the past two years. We don't want the kids in an unsafe building, so were trying to do what's best. Mr. McGinley made the point that funding for programs in the Gauntlett Center are not the responsibility of the District.

Mr. Edward Partridge explained that the Board is made of 9 elected members that vote by majority. You might think that the Board has reached consensus on this issue; we haven't. We might all agree that this building is in need of repair, although he did not want to speak for all, but that there is no consensus on the remedy. He further stated that each Board member has an opinion, and they are not all in agreement. He urged the community to talk to their individual elected representatives about what course the District should take.

Ms. Amy Avalino, mother of a child in KidStop, asked if there would be postings on the website regarding updates on the search and decisions regarding the building.

Mr. McGinley requested that all concerned individuals please attend the special meeting in October, as well as the budget and finance and facilities meetings.

Ms. Patricia Crabtree asked if there was a building in mind to move to? Will there be more information at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting?

Mr. McGinley stated that there would be more discussion, but he could not promise a solution.

Ms. Ashley Baptiste of Broomall stated that the issue in front of the Board is one about which the community is passionate. She asked if there was something the community could do to help the Board in coming up with a solution.

Mr. Partridge restated the need to talk to individual School Board members; Dr. Shapiro added that the community should speak to elected township officials as well.

A senior at the High School stated that the students are not content with some policies, especially those governing raising funds for programs. Cuts in activities like fall play keep funding low. Please use your influence with administration to allow some of the funding to be reinstated, such as more nights for the play.

Mr. Edward Partridge stated that the best course would be to approach administration directly; if the answer wasn't satisfactory, then make an appointment to see Dr. Horowitz. Mr. McGinley reinforced that statement, saying that Dr. Horowitz will deal with the problem, or if necessary, bring it to the Board.

Ms. Cathy McMann stated that she realized how difficult this decision is for the Board, and asked members to please consider the impact their decision about the Gauntlett Center has on parents. She then asked the Board to reconsider their decision regarding eliminating FLES at the elementary level. She spoke to the adaptability of elementary students to a foreign language, where it becomes more natural, than trying to learn as they get older.

Mr. Brian Cross stated that he understood the difficulty of the decision regarding the Gauntlett Center. He asked whether the architects will be able to give quotes regarding the needs of the building and the District at the special meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

Mr. McGinley again stated the importance of coming to committee meetings, where all discussions will take place.

Mr. John Vidanya then stated that he heard about this through the press articles and through the grapevine. He asked if it would be possible for the Board to post information on the website, to control the rumor mill.

Mrs. Dana Kauffman stated that, if people can't make the meetings, they should send a representative.

A senior from Marple Newtown High School stated that students are not able to come to the meetings due to schedules; they [the students] hear about changes after the fact. She stated that a lot of students are ready and willing to serve as representatives to and on the Board, please take Yasmin's suggestion under consideration.

A parent from Broomall stated that she is aware of the difficulty of being on the Board. She implored the Board to take care in their decision regarding the Gauntlett Center, the building is crucial to parents who work. She then asked how contractors were considered, who checked their qualifications, and how contracts were awarded.

Mr. McGinley stated that it is the job of the Construction Manager to examine and verify contractors' qualifications at the time of bidding, and that contracts were awarded by accepting the lowest responsible bidder.

She then stated her disappointment that the Board didn't have Plan A accompanied by a back up Plan B. Mr. McGinley stated that we don't need a Plan B; Plan A will work once a decision has been made on how to implement it.

Ms Yasmin Kajouli returned to thank the Board for its patience. She wanted to make the point that the Board can do nothing without money – and since there is a ceiling on how much taxes can be raised, it's time to see a referendum.

**20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

President David McGinley asked for comments from the Board.

Mr. Edward Partridge again stated that, while the President addresses the public, his statements don't necessarily reflect the opinion of each individual Board member. Please contact your elected officials with your opinions and to discuss where each of us stand on Board matters.

Mr. McGinley stated that he made that clear by saying that the Board cannot come to agreement.

Mr. Richard Carpenter stated that he echoed Mr. Partridge's thoughts, and that no one in this meeting has spoken for him. "I don't agree with what has been said; and I believe you should address questions to Mr. Richard Ehnou, head of Leisure Services, who may have more information that will be helpful to you."

Dr. Merle Horowitz announced that there would be a special public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, followed by our Budget and Finance work session.

The CIT meeting will be Thursday, October 8, 2009, followed by the Academic Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee meetings will be Tuesday, October 13, 2009, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The October public meeting will be October 27 at 7:30 p.m.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

President David McGinley adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Secretary**