

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 24, 2024
Marple Newtown School District Board Room
Minutes

Board: Mrs. Dana Altobelli,, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. Anthony Maalouf, Mr. John McKenzie, Mrs. Lisa Pacell, Mr. Nicholas Reynolds, Mr. Nicholas Siano, Vice President,

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher. Dr. Kerri McGinley

Press: 0

Audience: 50 beginning ~ 25 after presentation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive Session to discuss Legal and Personnel matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Siano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENT

Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf (by phone), Mr. McKenzie (by phone), Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Siano

8 Board members present.

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Saino

Change to 12.02 June 6th to June 2nd

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to amend 12.02.

Motion was made by Mrs. Pacell, seconded by Mr. Siano

With no further discussion, motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Student representatives gave the following report:

The Murph Basketball Tournament held on March 22nd was a huge success we raised over \$4000 towards the scholarship fund in Mr. Murphy's name.

The World Language Honor Society Induction was held on April 18th for all its new members. Prom Ticket sales ended on April 19th and we have around 400 students registered to attend on May 10th at Drexelbrook.

Positive on People award breakfast ceremony is tomorrow morning, April 25th.

Prospective Student tours will be held on Thursday, May 2nd.

SAT testing will be on Saturday, May 4th.

National Honor Society Induction is on Thursday, May 9th in the auditorium.

AP Exam testing begins on May 6th and lasts through May 17th.

Last day for seniors is Friday, May 17th.

7. COMMENDATIONS

Young Authors' Project Winner's:

For the past 46 years, thousands of students in grades 1 through 8 have taken pen to paper to express themselves through the written word, using imagination and passion to create writing pieces that deserve to be read. This year, nearly 600 students across Delaware County public and nonpublic schools submitted pieces to the 2024 Young Authors' Project, hosted by the Keystone State Literacy Association of Delaware County. At this time, I invite Brooke Tocci, Teaching and Learning Supervisor to present the awards to the children. Mrs. Tocci presented the certificates to the students.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Districtwide students and staff enjoyed watching the solar eclipse outside.

Culbertson students participated in their annual March Madness Book Tournament. The homeroom with the most accurate bracket gets to house the trophy until the next season and gets a copy of the winning title. The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog by Mo Willems was crowned the 2024 March Madness champion.

Loomis Elementary students were able to be hands-on scientists with a visit from the Agricultural Lab truck.

Russell is extremely proud that their 4th grade group placed 2nd in the state for the March Continental Math League meet. The national problem-solving competition requires students to complete timed, written tests that include six challenging word problems. The students placed 3rd in the state for overall cumulative scores for the year.

Worrall celebrated Earth Day in a big way this year! There was a school-wide Earth Day event on Monday, April 22. The theme was Worrall vs. Plastics. Older students then paired with younger students to make bracelets out of over 1,200 single use plastic bags collected earlier from families. What a great way to reuse these bags and remind students to take care of the Earth!

April was a busy month at PHMS. They hosted their annual curriculum night for incoming 6th grade parents, hosted our spring concert for students in band, and Student Council completed their collections for cradles to crayons.

Future Business Leaders of America Advisors accompanied 13 students to the State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA. MNHS FBLA competed in business competitions among 5,000 FBLA members from schools all over the state. Three of our high school students (Sarah Koh, Aila Lam, and Emily Wechter) advanced to the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL May 31-June 2. Congratulations to our students who placed in the top 10 and best of luck to our students moving on to the National level.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mr. Siano

With no further discussion, motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

10. OTHER REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and AnthroMed Education, a staffing agency used to fill Speech Therapist positions for students. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and GAMUT Behavioral Services for behavioral support services. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and Seagull Speech and Language Services, a staffing agency used to fill Speech Therapist positions for students. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for students 881429 and 882413 to attend Approved Private School for Extended School Year Summer 2024. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and Lalia Speech Therapy Services for speech services to be provided to our students during Extended School Year (ESY) 2024. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and Lalia Speech Therapy Services, a staffing agency used to fill Speech Therapists positions for students during the 2024-2025 school

year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 884515 to attend Private School for Extended School Year (ESY) for 2024. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 882399 to attend Private School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Resolution electing individuals to serve as members of the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for the term commencing July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

Chichester	Frank Sill
Penn-Delco	Dr. Melissa Huber
Rose Tree Media	Hillary Fletcher
Upper Darby	Rachel Mitchell
Wallingford-Swarthmore	Rachel Holbert

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Pacell

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the proposed Adjudication of Student No. 880370.

Motion was made by Mr. Siano, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

Board Member	Read/Attended	Vote
Mrs. Altobelli	Read	Yes
Mr. Bilker	Read	Yes
Mr. Dezzi	Read	Yes
Mrs. Harvey	Read	Yes
Mr. Maalouf	Read	Yes
Mrs. Pacell	Read	Yes
Mr. Siano	Read	Yes

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 – 0

Stepped out- Mr. McKenzie

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

11.02 Bills for Payment

Mrs. Harvey asked that motions 11.02 through 11.05 be approved.

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of

\$6,458,685.40, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$165,127.02, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$148,915.21.

11.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for February 2024, Treasurer's Report for March 2024, Investment Schedule for March 2024 and Budget Transfers.

Informational item monthly financial report for March 2024.

11.04 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget

Motion to adopt the 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget, as presented on PDE 2028, in the amount of \$112,500,000.00 and to give notice that it is available for public inspection. The 2024-2025 Proposed Final Budget may change prior to the adoption of the Final Budget.

11.05 2024 Tax Assessment Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-00429-12 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2024 \$2,961,000 assessment/ \$4,500,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$1,539,000 below the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$17,866 to our District for tax year 2024.

Motions were made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mr. Siano

With no further discussion, motions passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Nicholas J. Reynolds, Sr., Chairperson

12.02 Facilities Use

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve from The Top Dance Studio, Newtown Square with the rental of the high school auditorium for a dance recital on Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, along with one rehearsal during that week as amended.

Motion was made by Mr. Siano, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion, motion passed as amended 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Vice President

13.02 Affiliation Agreements

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Counselor Education Affiliation Agreement with Widener University for field experience and student teaching, as presented. This Agreement has been reviewed by district council.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey
With no further discussion, motions passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked that the following motions be approved

13.03 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Tracy Jacobson, College and Career Access Counselor, to attend the Annual Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling Conference (PACAC) in Pocono Manor, PA on June 22-25, 2024. The cost to the district is approximately \$778.18.

13.04 Student Trips

Motion to approve Morganne Piestrak and Joseph Borell, Music Teachers, to accompany the fifth grade Orchestra students to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association String Fest at Garnet Valley Middle School in Glen Mills, PA on April 11, 2024. There is no cost of transportation as parents are transporting. The cost of the activity is approximately \$144.00 and paid by the district. The cost to the district is approximately \$144.00.

Motion to approve Michael Karpyn, Advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Mock Trail Team to compete at Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington, DE on May 4, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$402.97 and paid by the district. The cost to the district is approximately \$402.97.

Motions were made by Mr. Biker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey
With no further discussion, motions passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.05 Disposal of Books

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the disposal of infrequently used books from the Paxon Hollow Middle School Library, as presented.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker
With no further discussion, motions passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.06 Textbook Adoptions

Mr. Siano asked for the following motions to be approved.

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the purchase of library books for the Paxon Hollow Middle School Library, as presented.

Motion to approve the following textbook adoptions for MNSD's curriculum, as presented.

Motions were made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion, motions passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.07 Discontinuation

Mr. Siano asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to discontinue and dispose of the resource Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Into Literature for English Language Arts for sixth grade.

Motion to discontinue and dispose of the resource Curriculum Associates, Ready Reading for grades kindergarten through fifth.

Motions were made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.08 Approval of Flexible Instruction Day (FID) Application

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve Marple Newtown School District's Flexible Instruction Day (FID) application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). PDE allows public school entities to develop FID programs to avoid school closure while meeting the instruction requirements mandated by the state.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.09 Mural

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School Mural Club to paint a mural on the front of the football stadium snack bar, as presented.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.10 Policies

Mr. Siano asked for the following motions to be approved.

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 234, Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students., as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 235.1 - NEW, Surveys, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 237, Electronic Devices, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 239, Foreign Exchange Students, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motions were made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Mrs. Harvey
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

13.11 Technology

Mr. Siano asked for the following motions to be approved.

Motion to approve the lease of computers using HP Financial Services at an annual rate of \$128,754.78 for a term of four years.

Motion to approve the lease of computers using HP Financial Services at an annual rate of \$84,859.42 for a term of five years.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Bilker
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

14.02 Position Creation

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the creation and advertisement of four (4) Temporary Summer Maintenance positions, May 12, 2024, through and including August 30, 2024, at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.03 Retirement(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following motions.

Motion to approve the following professional retirement(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Joanne Boulanger – Reading Specialist
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: June 18, 2024
Reason: Retirement

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified retirement(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Margaret Bristow – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: June 13, 2024
Reason: Retirement

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.04 Resignation(s)

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions to be approved.

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional resignation(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Christine Hall – Family & Consumer Science Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: June 18, 2024
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Vittoria Jagers – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: April 19, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Matthew Brown – Custodian
Operations Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: March 29, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Fajr Minnis – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 1, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Karena Sims – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 16, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Daniel Gambone – Custodian
Operations Department/Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: May 3, 2024

Reason: Resignation

- 6) Debbie Collings – Van Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 12, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 7) Donna Bryson – Food Service Worker II
Food Service Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: April 26, 2024
Reason: Reassigned to Special Education Assistant

Motions were made by Mr. Siano, seconded by Mrs. Harvey
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.05 Leave(s)

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions to be approved.

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Meredith Gerhard – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: March 5, 2024, through June 18, 2024
Reason: Medical: March 5, 2024, through June 18, 2024
FMLA: March 5, 2024, through June 18, 2024
- 2) Kathryn Mui – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: May 8, 2024, through June 18, 2024
Reason: CRL: May 8, 2024, through June 18, 2024
- 3) Brenna King – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 26, 2024, through June 19, 2025
Reason: FMLA: August 26, 2024, through October 23, 2024
CRL: October 24, 2024, through June 19, 2025

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leave(s) item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Dante Purifico – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 3, 2024, through April 30, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated: April 3, 2024, through April 30, 2024
- 2) Aaron Cylinder – Custodian

Operations Department
Effective: April 9, 2024, through April 26, 2024
Reason: Medical: April 9, 2024, through April 26, 2024
FMLA: April 9, 2024, through April 26, 2024

- 3) Steve Kroberger – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: February 27, 2024, through June 13, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated leave: February 27, 2024, through June 13, 2024
- 4) Gregory Valentine – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 18, 2024, through May 3, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated: April 18, 2024, through May 3, 2024

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.06 Return from Leave

ACT 93 CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following confidential employee(s) return from leave(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Lisa Bradley – Pupil Services Coordinator
Pupil Services Department
Return date: April 1, 2024
Reason: Medical/FMLA

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.07 Appointments

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Katerina Innaurato – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1: prorated)
Effective: April 15, 2024, through June 18, 2024
Replacing: Meredith Gerhard (Medical/FMLA)
- 2) Jaclyn Oestreich – Substitute School Nurse

Pupil Services Department
 Salary: \$35.00 per hour
 Effective: April 24, 2024
 Reason: As Needed

- 3) Luke Damiani – Speech & Language Pathologist
 Paxton Hollow Middle School
 Salary: \$68,100.00 (MA; Step-7: prorated)
 Effective: Start date contingent upon release from current employer
 Replacing: Catherine Green (Retirement)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 10.

- 1) James Ross – Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
 Salary: \$19,570.00 (prorated)
 Effective: April 10, 2024
 Replacing: Latania Outen (Resignation)
- 2) Danielle Brown – Van Driver II
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$27.32 per hour
 Effective: April 1, 2024
 Replacing: Cassidy Tucker (Reassigned to Dispatcher/Router)
- 3) Rebecca McGrenera – Transportation Aide
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$18.93 per hour
 Effective: April 15, 2024
 Replacing: Janice Snipes (Reassigned)
- 4) Daniel Gambone – Classified Substitute
 Operations Department
 Salary: TBD by Assignment
 Effective: May 6, 2024
- 5) Joseph Chandler – Custodian (part-time)
 Operations Department/Marple Newtown High School
 Salary: \$20.16 per hour
 Effective: April 14, 2024
 Replacing: Derek Strain (Reassigned to FT)
- 6) Andrew Shearn – Classified Substitute
 Operations Department
 Salary: TBD by Assignment
 Effective: April 25, 2024
- 7) Deborah Pierce – Food Service Worker II
 Food Services Department /Marple Newtown High School

Salary: \$15.18 per hour
Effective: April 25, 2024
Replacing: Audrey McDevitt (Resignation)

- 8) Donna Bryson – Special Education Assistant
Pupil Services Department/Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$19,570.00 (prorated)
Effective: April 29, 2024
Replacing: Stacey Park (Reassigned)
- 9) Dolores Seavey – Food Service Worker II
Food Services Department /Marple Newtown High School
Salary: \$15.18 per hour
Effective: April 28, 2024
Replacing: Donna Bryson (Reassignment)
- 10) Kim Scott – Secretary (12-month position)
Pupil Services Department
Salary: \$27,471.00 (prorated)
Effective: May 6, 2024
Replacing: Luanne Carlton (Resignation)

Motions were made by Mr. Siano, seconded by Mrs. Harvey
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.08 Extended School Year (ESY) 2024

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the appointment, pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, of the following professional personnel for the 2024 ESY Program as attached. The staff will be used on an as-needed basis as determined by student enrollment and program needs.

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the appointment, pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, of the following classified personnel for the 2024 ESY Program as attached. The staff will be used on an as-needed basis as determined by student enrollment and program needs.

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.09 Act 93 Confidential Employees Agreement

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown Act 93 Confidential Employees Agreement as presented, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

14.10 Marple Newtown Administrative Agreement

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown Administrative Agreement as presented, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Siano
With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0
Absent: Mr. Reynolds

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none.

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were several community members that spoke regarding the parking of students at the high school. Also, the pickup of students at the end of the day by parents that are parked on the streets. Students are parking on the streets, blocking driveways and at times speeding through the neighborhood. They stated that it is difficult to get out of their driveways and that trash and recycling collection is also a problem.

Dr. Kane explained that additional parking has been added to the parking lot, that at dismissal there is the SRO officer assisting with traffic on Media Line Road. The district will continue to work on a solution.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none.

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary