

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 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: 30 beginning ~ 1 after presentation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive session to discuss Personal and Legal matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

6 members present

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Allison Collins and Kyra Brennan gave the following report:

The Spring Musical was a complete success; shout out to all of the members of MN drama and to all those who helped set up the show; it was truly amazing!

Mini-THON, which was held on March 1st, successfully raised \$52,406!

On Friday, March 8th students who qualified for the 3rd marking period Renaissance went on a field trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

Varsity Baseball and Softball teams returned from their annual spring training yesterday. Baseball traveled to Orlando and Softball traveled to Myrtle Beach.

The Murph Basketball Tournament, celebrated in honor of one of Marple's prior teachers, Mr. Murphy, will be held this Friday, March 22nd during the school day. There will be basketball games all day, as well as a three-point contest and a faculty vs student game.

Spring Break is next week, the week of March 25th.

The Spring Concert will be held Wednesday, April 3rd at 7pm.

The 3rd Marking period for students will end on April 5th.

7. COMMENDATIONS:

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

- Merit Scholar Finalist

Merit Scholar: We are proud to announce that Sarah Koh, one of our exceptional students at Marple Newtown High School, has been named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist! This prestigious accolade reflects Sarah's outstanding academic abilities and dedication to excellence. Sarah's impact extends far beyond the classroom. She generously volunteers her time throughout our community, embodying the spirit of service and compassion. Additionally, Sarah is deeply involved in various school-related activities, contributing her talents and leadership skills to enrich our school community. Join us in applauding Sarah for her outstanding achievements, both academically and in service to others. She truly exemplifies the values of dedication, leadership, and kindness.

- Hi-Q Team

Hi-Q: Delco Hi-Q is the nation's longest continuously running academic quiz competition for high school students. Twenty-one Delaware County high schools participate in Hi-Q. Each team competes in three regular season contests where students answer questions prepared from 14 academic categories, and the teams' cumulative total points determine playoff positions. This year, the Marple Newtown Hi-Q team finished the regular season in 2nd place, just 1 point behind the winning team. We are so proud of our students, especially the seven graduating seniors who will be greatly missed, and their advisor Mrs.

Liz Landes. The remainder of the team looks forward to riding this momentum into the next season.

- Mock Trial Team

Mock Trial: Congratulations to the MNHS Mock Trial team led by their advisor Dr. Michael Karpyn, for completing its most successful season in team history! Mock Trial is a statewide competition sponsored by the Young Lawyer's Division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Beginning in November, the team members began to prepare the criminal case of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Addison Booker, developed by the attorneys from the Bar Association. This preparation required students to take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses, analyzing witness statements and evidence, writing direct and cross examinations, and readying each side of the case for courtroom trials against other local high school schools at the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas in Media. Mr. Matthew Bilker, the team's Advising Attorney, provided countless hours of expert guidance on the legal and evidentiary issues in the case and courtroom strategies as the team prepared for competition.

In February, the team won both of its regular season matches and advanced to the county playoffs for the first time in team history. The Commonwealth team defeated Upper Darby, 3-0, with Maura Pumphrey and Gia Kardon being recognized as the Best Attorney and Best Witness. The Defense team then defeated Ridley 3-0, with Kayley Brown and Emily Wechter recognized as the Best Attorney and Best Witness. The team's season ended with a tightly contested 3-2 loss to county finalist Delaware Christian Academy. Lexi Monteleone and Gracy Kaur took the honors as Best Attorney and Best Witness for MNHS.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Culbertson

In February, Culbertson Elementary School partnered with the Ronald McDonald House. Students took part in an initiative called "Read for the House," where they read to raise funds in support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Culbertson is thrilled to share that as of this publication the students have raised \$14,000.35! Congratulations to all Culbertson students and families for supporting this wonderful cause.

Loomis

Loomis hosted their Annual Fun Fair on March 16th. The event was run by the Loomis PTO. We greatly appreciate our parent and teacher volunteers but especially the MNHS student volunteers that helped at the event!

Russell

Superintendents Art Recognition Night:

Russell students had artwork hand selected by their art teacher, Mrs. Spratt, to be displayed in the board room last night. Over 20 pieces of art are currently on display. The students were so impressive in explaining their artwork.

Worrall

Worrall's annual Jump Rope for Heart event, which raises money for the American Heart Association, was a fantastic success! The Worrall community raised a record-breaking \$8721!

Paxon

The PHMS Service Squad was at it again. They most recently spent their time making birthday cards for a retired veteran who turned 103 years old. They are doing a great job giving back to our community as a whole.

MNHS

From March 7-9th MN Drama performed Mamma Mia! Under the direction of Mr. Brian Walden, Ms. Bridget Thompson, Ms. Nora McDonnell, Mr. Pete Rice, Mr. Matt Zelonka, Ms. Rachael Basescu, and Ms. Tiffany Caprice, the 56 person cast, 49 person stage crew, and 14 person pit orchestra, dazzled audiences with disco fever! Congratulations to our student actors, technicians, and musicians!

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

10. OTHER REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

There was none.

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey asked that the following motions 11.02 through 11.09 be approved.

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$1,616,888.85, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$299,022.71, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$146,926.50.

11.03 Monthly Reports

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

Informational item monthly financial report for February 2024.

11.04 2024 - 2025 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget

Motion to approve the resolution regarding the 2024-2025 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget in the amount of \$10,984,610.00

11.05 2024 - 2025 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Special Education Agreement

Motion to approve the agreement regarding the 2024-2025 Special Education Service Agreement in the amount of \$708,434.00.

11.06 2024 - 2025 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical Schools Budget

Motion to approve the resolution regarding the 2024-2025 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical School Budget in the amount of \$17,306,809.00.

11.07 Budgetary Reserve Transfer

Motion to approve a transfer from Budgetary Reserve in the amount of \$270,000.00 for legal services.

11.08 Audit Report

Motion to approve the June 30, 2023 Audit report, as presented.

11.09 2021 Tax Assessment Appeals

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-02093-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

2021 \$7,000,000 assessment/ \$7,000,000 fair market value
2022 \$7,250,000 assessment/ \$7,250,000 fair market value
2023 \$5,096,000 assessment/ \$7,000,000 fair market value
2024 \$4,589,550 assessment/ \$6,975,000 fair market value

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$978,830 below the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar decrease of approximately \$10,734 to our District for tax year 2021.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$728,830 below the 2022 assessment and yields a tax dollar decrease of approximately \$8,224 to our District for tax year 2022.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$2,882,830 below the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar decrease of approximately \$33,466 to our District for tax year 2023.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions 12.02 through 12.03 be approved.

12.02 Boiler Room Renovations Project, Russell Elementary School

Motion to approve L.J. Paoella Construction, Inc. as the general contractor for the Boiler Room Renovations Project at Russell Elementary School in the amount of \$299,000.000 to be paid from capital reserve.

Motion to approve GEM Mechanical Services, Inc. as the HVAC contractor for the Russell Boiler Room Renovations Project at Russell Elementary School in the amount of \$1,907,000.000 to be paid from capital reserve.

Motion to approve Five Star, Inc as the plumbing contractor for the Russell Boiler Room Renovations Project at Russell Elementary School in the amount of \$195,000.00 to be paid from capital reserve.

Motion to approve Goldhorn Electrical Construction, Inc. as the electrical contractor for the Russell Boiler Room Renovations Project at Russell Elementary School in the amount of \$169,000.00 to be paid from capital reserve.

12.03 Change Order, Culbertson Elementary School New Wing

Motion to approve the following change order:

Myco Mechanical, Inc., Change Order No. MC-02, for repair to the existing boiler room pump as requested by owner. Cost in accordance with Myco Mechanical, Inc. proposal dated 2/27/2024 in the amount of \$2,154.83. Change Order MC-02 Total \$2154.83.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Bilker asked Mr. Gallagher when the Boiler Room project would start. Mr. Gallagher responded that the work would start at the end of May with the turnover in the fall.

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions 13.02 through 13.08 be approved.

13.02 Marple Newtown School District Special Education Plan

Motion to approve the Special Education Plan for 2024-2027 which is currently posted on the district's website for public review.

13.03 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane and Dr. Stephanie Sturdivant, Principal, to attend the 2024 PASA Women's Caucus Annual Conference on May 19 - 21, 2024 at the Hershey Hotel in Hershey, PA. The cost to the district is \$1,963.56.

Motion to approve Barry Williams, Director of School Safety, to attend the Eastern Pennsylvania School Safety Summit in Hershey, PA on March 21, 2024. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Sara Miller, Speech Therapist, to attend the Safety Care Conference in King of Prussia, PA on April 11, 2024. The cost to the district is approximately \$700.00.

Motion to approve Kelly Dougherty, Amanda Gallagher, and Aysel Tuna, Librarians, to attend the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) Conference in Pocono Manor, PA on April 12, 2024. The cost to the district is approximately \$874.36 and will be paid using grant funds.

Motion to approve Kerri Morris, Camile Windsor, Catherine Latocha, Catalia Ottinger-Ovens, Michelle Frounjian and Victoria Carrell, School Psychologists, to attend the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-Second Edition (ADOS-2) Training in Morton, PA on April 16-17, 2024. The cost to the district is approximately \$990.00.

13.04 Student Trips

Motion to approve Christian Jaspersen, Assistant Principal and Christine Roy, Teacher, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Junior STEM Academy students to Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson Township, NJ on May 3, 2024, for Annual Physics Day. The cost of transportation is approximately \$471.93 and paid by the Ready to Learn grant. The cost of the activity is approximately \$81.00 per student and paid by the student. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Kerri Confora and Nikki Wagner, Advisors, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School World Language Honors Society students to watch a Spanish Theatre Performance at The Gala Theatre in Washington, DC on May 23, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$2,500.00 and paid by the World Language Honors Society fund. The cost of the activity is approximately \$80.00 per student and paid by the student. There is no cost to the district.

Motion to approve Christian Jaspersen, Assistant Principal and Matthew Baker, Teacher, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Freshman STEM Academy students for experiential learning at Expedition Escape in King of Prussia, PA on May 29, 2024. The cost of transportation is approximately \$171.08 and paid by the Ready to Learn grant. The cost of the activity is approximately \$46.00 per student and paid by the student. There is no cost to the district.

13.05 Donation

Motion to approve the donation of \$7,500.00 in AdoptAClassroom.org credit from Rafferty Subaru to be used to purchase classroom materials at Loomis Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year.

13.06 Disposals

Motion to approve the disposal of outdated books from the Marple Newtown High School Social Studies department, as presented.

13.07 Health and Safety Plan

Motion to approve MNSD's Health and Safety plan, including its components, as presented, which is identical in substance to the Health and Safety Plan, which was previously approved on August 2, 2023.

Dr. Kane explained that the State requires that the Health and Safety Plan must be approved every six months whether it changes or not. This is the same plan that we have had and nothing has changed.

13.08 Policies

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 200 Vol V 2023, Enrollment of Students, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 202 Vol V 2023, Eligibility of Nonresident Students, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 217 Vol V 2023, Graduation, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 254 Vol V 2023, Educational Opportunity for Military Children, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented

Motion to approve the second reading of Board Policy 810 Vol V 2023, Transportation, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented

Motion to approve the retirement of Board Policy 815, Responsible Use of The Communications and Information Systems, as that language is now addressed in the newly adopted policy 815 Vol IV 2023, Acceptable use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motion to approve the first reading of Board Policy 249, Bullying/Cyberbullying, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

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

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

Motion to approve the first reading of Board Policy 237, Electronic Devices, as recommended by

the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

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

Motion to approve the first reading of Board Policy 246, School Wellness, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

Motion to approve the first reading of Board Policy 248.1, Nondiscrimination - Transgender and Gender Expansive Students, as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions 14.02 through 14.08 to be approved.

14.02 Termination(s)

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

- 1) Jennifer Santangelo – LTS Gifted Support Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: April 3, 2024
Reason: End of Assignment (Caitlin Kohout)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified termination(s) item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Nanette DeFedericis – Classified Substitute
Food Services Department
Effective: February 1, 2024
Reason: Failed to complete necessary employment paperwork
- 2) David Bingaman – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: February 1, 2024
Reason: End of assignment
- 3) Patricia Gregory – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: February 1, 2024
Reason: End of assignment

14.03 Retirement(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional retirement(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Rhona DeRosa Elementary –Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: June 21, 2024
Reason: Retirement
- 2) Lisa Dowd – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: June 18, 2024
Reason: Retirement

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Domenick Baroni – Grounds Worker
Operations Department
Effective: June 30, 2024
Reason: Retirement

14.04 Resignation(s)

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) George Tagkalidis – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: March 6, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Archie Zoegar – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: February 9, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Anthony Scott – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: February 28, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 4) David Kurkian – Maintenance Worker
Operations Department
Effective: February 29, 2024
Reason: Resignation

14.05 Leave(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Laura Monzo – Designed Thinking Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: March 11, 2024, through May 31, 2024
Reason: Medical: March 11, 2024, through March 18, 2024
FMLA: March 11, 2024, through May 31, 2024

14.06 Return from Leave

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional return from leave(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Caitlin Kohout – Gifted Support Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Return date: April 1, 2024
Returning from: FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Kathleen Krallé – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Return Date: March 11, 2024
Returning from: Uncompensated leave
- 2) Mary Kane Weist – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Return Date: April 1, 2024
Returning from: Uncompensated leave

14.07 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Christine Eisenfelder – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Salary: \$53,000.00 (BA+24; Step-1: prorated)
Effective: March 20, 2024, through June 18, 2024
Replacing: Rachel Henriques (Medical/FMLA)
- 2) Megan MacNeal – LTS Designed Thinking Teacher
Russell Elementary School

Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1: prorated)
 Effective: March 18, 2024, through June 18, 2024
 Replacing: Laura Monzo (FMLA)

- 3) Madison Walsh – LTS Elementary Teacher
 Worrall Elementary School
 Salary: \$52,000.00 (BA; Step-1: prorated)
 Effective: March 20, 2024, through June 18, 2024
 Replacing: Jennifer Philipp (Medical/FMLA)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 4.

- 1) Michelle Beamon – Special Education Assistant
 Pupil Services Department/Culbertson Elementary School
 Salary: \$19,570.00
 Effective: March 18, 2024
 Replacing: Donna Sweeney (Resignation)
- 2) Robert Smith – Bus Driver in Training
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$18.93 per hour
 Effective: April 1, 2024
 Replacing: Selena Poiesz (Retirement)
- 3) Marcel Douglas – Bus Driver in Training
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$18.93 per hour
 Effective: April 1, 2024
 Replacing: William Clifford (Resignation)
- 4) Janice Snipes – Bus Driver in Training
 Transportation Department
 Salary: \$18.93 per hour
 Effective: April 1, 2024
 Replacing: Rikard Larma (Retirement)

14.08 Transfers

CLASSIFIED TRANSFERS

Motion to approve the classified transfers, item(s) 1:

Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1. Elena Argyros	Culbertson	Special Educ. Asst.	PHMS	Special Educ. Asst.

Motions were made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Pacell

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Reynolds

15. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker mentioned the presentation that took place at Paxon Hollow regarding the use of social media. He said that it was a great presentation, that there is a video of the presentation, it was helpful and there are things that he is going to put in place.

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was none.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none.

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary