

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 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. Kevin Fagan, Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jake Gallagher. Dr. Kerri McGinley

Press: 0

Audience: 3

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Maalouf, Mr. Siano

6 members present

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

There was an addition to 14.04, Professional Appointments # 9

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

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

Dr. Kane congratulated Aila Lam, Future Business Leaders of America, Nationally Ranked Winner. Her Faculty Advisor gave a brief explanation of the many, many, steps that it took for Alia to reach this goal.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Our Leadership Team met with our local law enforcement for our annual Safety Symposium. The purpose was to review our safety protocols and establish a shared understanding.

Our operations and grounds departments have worked diligently to prepare our schools and grounds for our students' return.

Our fall athletes and band students have returned to practice.

We welcomed our new faculty members last week for our new teacher induction program.

All of our faculty returned yesterday, and it was terrific to see everyone excited to return to another school year.

New student and Kindergarten orientations are this Thursday, August 29.

Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

10. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked for all of the below motions to be approved.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the parents of student 804655 to attend Private School for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a

new agreement.

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for student 882927 to attend Private School for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement with CCRES, Inc, a staffing agency used to fill various positions such as Personal Care Assistants for students placed out of District. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement between the school district and Maria Toglia, Ed. D., a Certified School Psychologist, to provide psychological/mental health/behavioral services to school students attending district and out of district schools. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for student 600018 to attend Approved Private School for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 882390 to attend Private School for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey asked for a motion for 11.02 and 11.03 to be approved.

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$4,111,347.06, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$439,790.10, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$35,118.19.

11.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for June 2024.

Informational item monthly financial report for July 2024.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

12.02 Audio Visual Upgrade, Marple Newtown High School Auditorium

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve Delco Solutions, LLC with the removal and installation of the audio-visual upgrade in the high school auditorium in the amount of \$191,750.00 under costars contract # 034-e22-159. This purchase will be funded through the general fund as provided for in the 2024-2025 budget.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

12.03 Transportation

Information Item – Bus Patrol

Dr. Joel DiBartolomeo to provide an update on Bus Patrol. Explained the safety factors and violations. This will start on September 3rd.

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Siano asked for the following motion be approved.

13.02 Curriculum

Motion to approve the implementation of a pilot curriculum for the Paxon Hollow Middle School Family and Consumer Science program. This pilot aligns with the new PA STEELS standards. There is no additional cost to the District.

Motion to approve the implementation of a pilot curriculum for the Paxon Hollow Middle School Technology Education program. This pilot aligns with the new PA STEELS standards. There is no additional cost to the District.

Motion to approve the implementation of a Financial Literacy pilot curriculum for the Middle School Computer program. There is no additional cost to the District.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for the following motions be approved.

13.03 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane to attend the PASA Board of Governors Meeting in Harrisburg, PA on September 12-13, 2024. The cost to the District is \$70.49, as presented.

Motion to approve four Curriculum Supervisors to attend an IXL professional development workshop in King of Prussia on October 8, 2024. The cost is \$192.60 per person and will be funded through a grant, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked that the following motions be approved.

13.04 Technology

Motion to approve the purchase of a 3D Printing contract with Fluxspace Innovations in the amount of \$9,796.00. The contract includes eight 3D printers, setup, and professional development for teachers for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented.

Motion to approve the purchase of servers from Hewlett Packard Enterprise in the amount of \$19,127.41 per year for a term of five years. This is equipment replacement and expansion for the District security camera system.

Motion to approve the implementation of a teacher pilot of Artificial Intelligence platform, Magic School for the 2025-2025 school year. The cost to the district is \$2,000.

Dr. Fagan gave a brief explanation of Magic School. It will be used to learn how to properly use Artificial Intelligence in the classroom setting.

Motions were by Mr. Siano, seconded by Mr. Dezzi

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

14.02 Correction to June 25, 2024, Agenda

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following corrections to the June 25, 2024 agenda, item(s) 1.

Previously Approved

Proposed

PROFESSIONAL

1) Laura Bennett – Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 26, 2024
Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Dezzi

Laura Bennett – Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: July 19, 2024

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.03 Correction to August 7, 2024, Agenda

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following corrections to the August 7, 2024, agenda, item(s) 1 through 5.

Previously Approved	Proposed
PROFESSIONAL	
1) Julia Barbier Elementary Teacher Salary: \$54,000, MA Step 1	Julia Barbier Elementary Teacher Salary: \$54,000, BA Step 1
2) Madelyn Gilligan Elementary Special Ed. Teacher Salary: \$70,500, MA Step 5	Madelyn Gilligan Elementary Special Ed. Teacher Salary: \$70,500, MA Step 7
3) Megan Noller Elementary Special Ed. Teacher Effective: October 7, 2024	Megan Noller Elementary Special Ed. Teacher Effective: September 13, 2024
4) Emily Yvonne Olson Elementary Teacher Effective: September 9, 2024	Emily Yvonne Olson Elementary Teacher Effective: October 1, 2024

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5) Thomas Shirley Groundskeeper Effective: June 16, 2024	Thomas Shirley Groundskeeper Effective: August 2, 2024
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Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Dezzi

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.04 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional appointment(s) item(s) 1 through 9 as amended.

- 1) Katerina Innaurato – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 29, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Salary: \$54,000, prorated
Reason: Adjusted end date for leave (Substitute for Jessica Civitello)
- 2) Chelsea Smith – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: Based upon release date from current district
Salary: \$89,500, MA +20, Step 14

Reason: Replacing Ashley Cooper (Resignation)

- 3) Sydney Torresson – LTS Elementary Education
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 26, 2024 through January 31, 2025
Salary: \$54,000, BA Step 1, Pro-Rated
Reason: Substitute for Michelle Bodnar
- 4) Allison Rollo – French Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 26, 2024
Salary: \$57,000, BA, Step 6
Reason: Replacing Amy Hornberger (Resignation)
- 5) Sophia Grigorakakis – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: August 26, 2024
Salary: \$56,000, BA Step 4
Reason: Replacing Thomas Dougherty
- 6) Kyle Broaddus – LTS Math Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 26, 2024 through June 19, 2025
Salary: \$58,500, MA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Marina Langworthy
- 7) Vittoria Jagers – LTS Elementary Special Education
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 26, 2024 through November 1, 2024
Salary: \$58,500, MA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Ashley Cooper (Resignation)
- 8) Nicole Nelson – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 13, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Salary: \$58,500, MA Step 1
Reason: Adjusted leave of absence (Substitute for Rachel Henriques)
- 9)

Matthew Cook – English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: September 12, 2024
Salary: \$58,500
Reason: Replacing Hannah Sviridovsky (Resignation)

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0 as amended
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified appointment(s) item(s) 1 through 13.

- 1) Jillian Heslip – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: August 27, 2024
Salary: \$20,157
Reason: Replacing Lindsey Britt
- 2) Erin Edwards – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 27, 2024
Salary: \$20,157
Reason: Replacing Sheila Nichols
- 3) Colleen Hough – Food Service Worker II
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 26, 2024
Rate: \$15.64
Reason: Replacing Theodora Baysmore-Brown
- 4) Liana Hakobyan – School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$13,643
Reason: Replacing Jennifer August
- 5) Susan Matthews – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$19.50/ Hr.
Reason: Replacing Marcel Douglas
- 6) Susan Geddes – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$13,643
- 7) Diane Anderson – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$13,643
Reason: Replacing Antonia Marsella
- 8) Marinela Curma – Custodian
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$20.76
- 9) Andrew Wilson – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School

Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$13,643
Reason: Replacing Brian Battista

- 10) Mariel Wright – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 27, 2024
Salary: \$20,157
Reason: Replacing Victoria Vadino
- 11) John Gallo – Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 9, 2024
Salary: \$19.50/Hr.
Reason: Replacing Kim Stone
- 12) Tahlia Manson – Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 3, 2024
Salary: \$19.50/Hr.
Reason: Replacing Gorge Tagkalidis
- 13) Andrea Vassalotti – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services Department
Effective: Based upon completion of required paperwork
Salary: \$28,295
Reason: Replacing Lisa Marcelle

Motion was made by Mr. Dezzi, seconded by Mrs. Altonbelli

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.05 Retirements

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified retirement(s), item(s) 1.

- 1) Janet Rote – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 9, 2024
Reason: Retirement

Motion was made by Mrs. Havey, seconded by Mr. Dezzi

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.06 Resignations

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional resignations, item(s) 1 through 2.

- 1) Amy Hornberger – French Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 8, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Patricia Callow – School Nurse
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 18, 2024
Reason: Resignation

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Dezzi
With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified resignations, item(s) 1 through 6.

- 1) Nicole Paul – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 14, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Rebecca Miller – Food Service Worker
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 14, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Conchetta McCloskey – Title I Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: August 15, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Jessica Grieco – Custodian
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 18, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Helane McKee – Title I Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 17, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 6) Elena Argyros – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 21, 2024
Reason: Resignation

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.07 Leave(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following professional leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Rachel Henriques – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: Extended from January 2, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Reason: Child Rearing Leave
- 2) Robert Westbrook – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: August 23, 2024
Reason: Administrative Leave
- 3) Dawn Smitheman – School Nurse
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: September 25, 2024 through November 25, 2024
Reason: FMLA

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

ACT 93 – CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following confidential employee leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1.

- 1) Dawn Ulshafer – Confidential Secretary
Teaching and Learning
Effective: August 26, 2024
Reason: Suspension Without Pay

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 2.

- 1) Joan DeSantis – Bus Aide
Transportation
Effective: September 23, 2024 through November 4, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Elizabeth Pro – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services
Effective: October 7, 2024 through November 29, 2024
Reason: FMLA

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.08 Return from Leave

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Entela Kocibelli – Custodian
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 19, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 2) Krista Callaghan – Deskside Technician
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 19, 2024
Reason: Return from Uncompensated Leave
- 3) Robert Gorman – Custodian
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 15, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA leave

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.09 Transfer(s)

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the recommended professional transfers, effective for the 2024 – 2025 School Year, item(s) 1 through 2.

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1)	Anne Jani	PHMS	Autistic Support	PHMS	Learning Support
2)	Ryan Achuff	PHMS	Learning Support	PHMS	Autistic Support

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the recommended classified transfers, effective for the 2024 – 2025 School Year, item(s) 1 through 5.

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1)	Theodoros Tsitsios	PHMS	Custodian	Russell	Custodian
2)	Martin Nelson	PHMS	Custodian	Russell	Custodian
3)	Robert Gorman	Loomis	Custodian	PHMS	Custodian
4)	Sandeep Kumar	PHMS	Custodian	Culbertson	Custodian
5)	Brendan Munley	Culbertson	Custodian	PHMS	Custodian

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.10 Termination(s)

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following classified terminations, item(s) 1.

- 1) Kevin Edmondson – Substitute Custodian
District Wide
Effective: August 16, 2024
Reason: Unavailable for employment

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.11 Professional Attainment – Tenure

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to record in the records of the Board the attainment of tenure and the awarding of a Professional Employee Contract to the following temporary professional employees who have been certified by the Superintendent of Schools as having completed three (3) years of satisfactory service in the Marple Newtown School District in accordance with Section 1108 of the School Code, item(s) 1 through 15.

	Name	Location	Date Achieved
1)	Stephanie Amen	Worrall	June 19, 2024
2)	Rachel Bronstein	Loomis	June 19, 2024
3)	Michael Christiansen	PHMS	June 19, 2024
4)	Sierra Coakley	MNHS	June 19, 2024
5)	Christel DiVincenzo	Culbertson	June 19, 2024
6)	Rylee Everhart	PHMS	June 19, 2024
7)	Shannan Grant	Culbertson	June 19, 2024

8)	Rachel Kaiser	PHMS	June 19, 2024
9)	Marina Langworthy	PHMS	June 19, 2024
10)	Nicole McCarthy	MNHS	June 19, 2024
11)	Megan McNamee	Culbertson	June 19, 2024
12)	Victoria Messina	Culbertson	June 19, 2024
13)	Nicole Morrissey	Culbertson	June 19, 2024
14)	Megan Noller	Culbertson	June 19, 2024
15)	Derek Vannicolo	PHMS	June 19, 2024

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

14.12 Supplementary Contracts

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the MNEA Supplemental Contract Unit values and positions as presented, effective July 1, 2024.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A community member asked for clarification on Magic School and how it would impact IEP's.

Dr. Fagan explained how Magic School would work, that it is a pilot program so all teachers would not be using it at this time. It would not have any impact on IEP's and we will still be using our existing procedures for them.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary