

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 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 (by phone)

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

Press: 0

Audience: 1

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bilker led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Present

Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. McKenzie, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Siano

7 members present

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

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. Siano

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Several students from the high school spoke about the clubs offered at the high school and their concerns about some of those clubs being cancelled because the teachers who act as advisor are not compensated for their time.

Mr. Bilker responded saying that the Board understands and explained that Personnel matters were not discussed at public meetings.

6. INTERVIEW CANDIDATES TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY MR. ANTHONY A. MAALOUF

Two candidates (Mr. Davis and Mr. Raymond), presented their reasons for applying to fill the vacant position on the Board. They were each asked several questions by the Board.

7. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CANDIDATE

Mr. Siano nominated Mr. Raymond and asked for a motion to approve Mr. Raymond. Mr. Bilker called for a vote to be taken.

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

Roll call vote ~
Mrs. Altobelli ~ Yes
Mr. Bilker ~ Yes
Mrs. Harvey ~ Yes
Mr. McKenzie ~ Yes
Mrs. Pacell ~ Yes
Mr. Reynolds ~ Yes
Mr. Siano ~ Yes

Motion passed 7 – 0
Absent: Mr. Dezzi
1 Vacancy

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Student representatives gave the following report:

Orientation for freshmen and new students was held on August 29th, run by our tiger guides and National Honor Society students to help ease the transition to the high school

First day of school for students was September 3rd. So far, the start to the school year has gone smooth and successful.

Health screenings took place and were completed the week of September 9th

Back to school night was held last Wednesday, September 18th and attracted many parents

MNHS Picture day is this Thursday, September 26th

Schools and offices are closed on October 3rd due to a religious holiday

Marple's annual Bandarama will take place on October 5th at the high school

Senior portrait retakes are on October 8th

Prospective student tours will be held around the school on October 10th
The popular homecoming dance for students will be held on October 19th from 6-9pm, in the MNHS gym

Tiger pride week will be the week leading up to homecoming - more information can be found on MN_STUCO on Instagram

9. COMMENDATIONS

There was none

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

It is my great honor to announce that the Marple Newtown School District has been recognized with the 2023-2024 Outstanding Visual Arts Community Award by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA).

MNSD is proud to be among the approximately 40 school districts in Pennsylvania to receive this exceptional honor.

Congratulations to our entire visual arts faculty and team for their extraordinary efforts and commitment to both the arts and the students of MNSD!

PHMS and MNHS hosted New Student Orientations in late August.

The elementary schools hosted New Students and Kindergarten Orientations.

We welcomed our students back to our schools on September 3, 2024.

Our six schools hosted Back to School nights.

11. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

12. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve the agreement with Apex Human Services, to provide nursing services for student 884480. This is a new contract.

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for student 885770 to attend approved private school for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the one-on-one services agreement for student 881429 attending approved private school for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

13. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey

Mrs. Harvey asked that motions under 13.02 and 13.03 be approved.

13.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$3,295,244.18, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$602,465.71, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$101,608.24.

13.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for July 2024, Treasurer's Report for July and August 2024 and Investment Schedule for July and August 2024.

Informational item monthly financial report for August 2024.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

14. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Reynolds asked for the motions under 14.02 be approved.

14.02 Facility Use

Motion to approve both the Marple Newtown High School baseball and softball boosters to host two fundraising events throughout the year at the high school.

Motion to approve the Marple Newtown Youth Programs to use the Marple Newtown High School athletic fields when available.

14.03 Transportation

There were no motions under Transportation.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

15. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

15.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Siano asked for motions under 15.02 through 15.09 be approved

15.02 2024 – 2025 Academic Calendar

Motion to approve proposed revisions to the 2024 - 2025 Academic Calendar, as presented.

15.03 PSAT Schedule, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve the PSAT schedule for Marple Newtown High School to include grades 9 - 11 as test takers, and grade 12 to participate in a senior project day on October 9, 2024.

15.04 Pennsylvania Student Teacher Support Program

Motion to approve participation in the Pennsylvania Student Teacher Support Program, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). There is no cost to the school district.

15.05 Disposal

Motion to approve the disposal of 11 MIDI keyboards from the Marple Newtown High School Music Department, purchased in 2014, replaced in 2023.

15.06 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Jessica Falco and Caitlyn Gallihue, Behavior Analysts, to attend Safety- Care recertification training in King of Prussia, on September 30, 2024. The cost to the District is \$1,400.00, as presented.

Motion to approve Tracy Jacobson, CCAC Counselor, to attend College Tour Workshop in Florida (multiple cities), on February 3 - 11, 2025. The cost to the District is \$375.00, as presented.

Motion to approve Dr. Kevin Fagan, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Desiré Gormley, Executive Assistant, to attend Crisis Communications Training for Public Safety on October 2 - 3, 2024 at the Marple Police Department. Total cost to the District is \$891.00, as presented.

15.07 Student Trips

Motion to approve Amy Gallagher, Advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School AP Literature students to attend an audio tour of the NYC Library and Broadway Production of Our

Town on October 16, 2024. The total cost per student for transportation and activity is \$165.00. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Mary Dalenti, Jennifer Cipollone, and Tracy Jacobson, Advisors, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Renaissance students to the Baltimore, MD Inner Harbor on October 23, 2024. The total cost per student for transportation and activity is \$85.00. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Christine Roy, Teacher, and Christian Jasperson, Assistant Principal, to accompany Marple Newtown High School STEM Academy Students grades 11 - 12, to attend the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education in Horsham, PA, On November 15, 2024. The total cost per student for the activity is \$25.00. The cost to the District is \$245.33, as presented.

Motion to approve Doug Killough, Advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School National Honor Society and Model UN students to the United Nations building in New York, NY on December 12, 2024. The total cost per student for transportation and activity is \$81.00. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Doug Killough, Advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School National Honor Society students to Washington, DC on March 27, 2025. The total cost per student for transportation and activity is \$110.00. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Jake Olimpi, Michael Massimo and Rachel Basescu, Directors, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Music students to Universal Studios, in Orlando, FL, on April 3 - 7, 2025 to participate in educational music workshops. The total cost per student for transportation and activity is \$1,765.00. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

15.08 Donations, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve the donation of an elevator decal at Marple Newtown High School to promote public service announcements for wellness, as presented.

15.09 Technology

Motion to approve the purchase of security software from Checkpoint Security. The cost to the District is \$24,800.

Motion to approve the purchase of 15 iPads and an iPad charging station cart to support the implementation of the new PA STEELS standards in the Technology Education program. The cost to the District will be approximately \$10,700.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent ~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

16. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

16.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

16.02 Position Elimination

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the elimination of the Secretary for Teaching and Learning position.

Motion to approve the elimination of the Confidential Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning position.

16.03 Position Creation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the creation of an Administrative Assistant position to the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and Teaching and Learning Supervisors.

Motion to approve the creation of a .5 Long Term Substitute Counseling position at Culbertson Elementary School

16.04 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Angelina Velazquez – LTS Special Education Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 3, 2024, through December 20, 2024
Salary: \$54,000, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Robert Westbrook, Jr.
- 2) Kasey Kelly – Librarian
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: Based upon release from current district
Salary: \$68,500, MA Step 6
Reason: Replacing Deb Ryan (Jacqueline Pino's assignment)
- 3) Lisa Marargal – School Nurse
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 9, 2024
Salary: \$63,000, BA +24 Step 7
Replacing: Patricia Callow (Retirement)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointments, item(s) 1 through 1

- 1) Arqile Gjeka – Custodian
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 3, 2024
Rate: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Replacing Jessica Grieco
- 2) Rhianna Briddes – Special Education Assistant

Worrall Elementary School
 Effective: August 28, 2024
 Salary: \$20,157.00
 Reason: Replacing Kayla Amoroso

- 3) Fjolla Shala – School Assistant
 Russell Elementary School
 Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
 Salary: \$13,643.00 prorated
 Reason: Replacing Emarie Smith
- 4) Susan Matthews – Bus Driver in Training
 Transportation
 Effective: September 15, 2024
 Salary: \$19.50/hr.
 Reason: Replacing George Tagkalidis
- 5) Thomas Salamone – Custodian Substitute
 Operations Department
 Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
 Salary: Determined by Assignment
 Reason: Substitute
- 6) Patricia Gargale – Food Service Substitute
 Food Services, District-wide
 Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
 Salary: \$15.64
 Reason: Substitute
- 7) Michael DeJesse – Custodian, Part Time
 Marple Newtown High School
 Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
 Salary: \$20.76/hr.
 Reason: Replacing Joseph Chaney
- 8) James Hazelton- Grounds Worker
 Operations Department
 Effective: September 30, 2024
 Salary: \$21.31/hr.
 Reason: Replacing Domenick Baroni
- 9) Maria Newell – Food Worker I
 Culbertson Elementary School
 Effective: September 12, 2024
 Salary: \$16.95/hr.
 Reason: Replacing Rebecca Miller
- 10) Derek Strain – Maintenance Worker
 Operations Department
 Effective: September 30, 2024
 Salary: \$33.55/hr.

Reason: Replacing Michael Kneafsey

- 11) Eric Cantwell – Custodian Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
Salary: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Substitute
- 12) Kayla Amoroso – Administrative Assistant for Teaching and Learning
Office of Teaching and Learning
Effective: September 30, 2024
Salary: \$50,000.00
Reason: Replacing Dawn Ulshafer
- 13) Lynne Hayes – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Replacing Tom McGilley
- 14) Eric Cantwell – Custodian Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
Salary: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Substitute
- 15) Leland Yackobovitz – Custodian
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: Upon Completion of Required Paperwork
Salary: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Replaces Jim Hazelton
- 16) Brittany Dougherty – Office Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 30, 2024
Salary: \$14,322.00
Reason: Replacing April Massi

16.05 Retirements
CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Dawn Pratt – Bus Driver
Transportation
Effective: September 12, 2024
Reason: Retirement

16.06 Resignations
PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Siobhan McDonough – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: October 4, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Emily Mineo – Counselor
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 2, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Karin McCurdy-Melfi – Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: September 23, 2024
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Lisa Connelly – Office Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 29, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Dawn Ulshafer – Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning
Teaching and Learning Department
Effective: September 18, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Michael Kneafsey – Maintenance Worker
Operations Department
Effective: October 1, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 4) Thomas McGilley – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: September 13, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Daniel Winters – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 9, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 6) Susan Geddes – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 13, 2024
Reason: Resignation

- 7) Drew McCone – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: September 30, 2024
Reason: Resignation

16.07 Leave(s)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the following administrative leave of absence, item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Jim Wigo – Principal
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: Begins October 23, 2024 through November 13, 2024
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Jennifer Canavan – Compliance Officer/Employee Programs
Human Resources Department
Effective: Begins November 15, 2024 through February 21, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 3) Janeen Partridge – Assistant Director of Human Resources
Human Resources Department
Effective: Begins October 15, 2024 through October 31, 2024
Reason: FMLA

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Noelle Meehan – Counselor
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 2, 2025, through May 5, 2025
Reason: FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 2.

- 1) Patricia Mary McKeown – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: September 3, 2024 through October 16, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated leave
- 2) Kathleen Buccieri – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 25, 2024 through November 11, 2024
Reason: FMLA

16.08 Return from Leave

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Theresa Cogliano – Health Room Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: September 30, 2024
Reason: Return from leave

16.09 Transfer(s)

Motion to approve the recommended professional transfers, effective for the 2024 – 2025 School Year, item(s) 1.

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1)	Jody Farkas	Russell Elementary	Special Education Teacher	Russell Elementary	Fifth Grade Teacher

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the recommended classified transfers, effective for the 2024 – 2025 School Year, item(s) 1 and 2.

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1)	Nicholas Bruni	Culbertson Elementary	Custodian	Russell Elementary	Custodian
2)	April Massi	Loomis Elementary	Office Assistant	Culbertson Elementary	Office Assistant

16.10 Termination(s)

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Tahlia Manson – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 3, 2024
Reason: Unavailable for employment.

16.11 Contract Renewal

Moton to approve the renewal of a three-year agreement, October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027, with Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 for software services that facilitate customer compliance with the employment history review process required by Act 168 of 2014 (24 P.S. 1-111.1) in the amount of \$5.00 per applicant processed by MNPD.

16.12 Professional Attainment – Tenure

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, items 1.

	Name	Location	Date Achieved
1)	Betsy Calhoun	Culbertson Elementary	June 19, 2024

16.13 Supplementary Contracts

Motion to approve the MNEA Supplemental Contract Unit values and positions as presented, effective July 1, 2024.

16.14 Tuition Reimbursement

Motion to approve the attached tuition reimbursement, in accordance with the MNEA, MNAA and MNESPA negotiated agreements.

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

With no further discussion motions passed 7 – 0

Absent~ Mr. Dezzi

1 Vacancy

17. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

18. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was none

19. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

20. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary