

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Regular Board Meeting
 Tuesday, November 26, 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: 0

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:37 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. McKenzie, Mr. Raymond

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Mr. McKenzie asked for motion 14.04 to read as amended

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only) ~ there was none

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Student representatives gave the following report:

- The exciting Powderpuff matchup happened last week, with two flag football games played Thursday night and the championship game held during advisory on Friday. The

senior class and junior class played on Friday and the junior class won it all. This is always a fun spirit event that gets a lot of students involved.

- Kan Jam bracket play is happening during the school day on Wednesday, and there is a pep rally during advisory for the final games. To play on a team, each student has to bring in 15 cans, and we have over 50 teams signed up. Also, if classes donate double the amount of cans as people in the class they can come down to watch. All of the cans will be donated to a local charity.
- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week are half days for students
- Parent-teacher conferences are being held in the afternoon Monday and Tuesday and evening on Tuesday. Parents are being guided by the high school Tiger Guides.
- Schools and Offices are closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday!
- Prospective student tours at the high school are on December 5th during the school day. Senior Group Picture Day is December 6th.
- SAT Testing is Saturday December 7th

That's all we have for today, hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

7. COMMENDATIONS

Bell Presentation - Anthony A. Maalouf ~ this was postponed to a later date.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Very special thanks to our Culbertson PTO and the school librarian Mrs. Dougherty for organizing another successful Book Fair.

Loomis students had a great time participating in the annual Tiger Trot. Their version of a Turkey Trot is to raise money for Loomis! They took on the 50-State Challenge and managed to collect donations from 28 states—what an accomplishment!

Russell School's 2nd grade veterans' assembly was an amazing concert honoring the men and women who serve or served our country.

Worrall recently had their Book Fair, and it was a great success! Worrall also had a Book Fair Family Night that was very well attended.

The Paxon Hollow Middle School Music Department demonstrated the true spirit of community by finding meaningful ways to give back to our local school and greater community. Our talented Tiger Marching Band delivered an outstanding performance at the annual Veteran's Day Parade, showcasing their hard work and dedication while honoring those who have served our country.

On Tuesday, November 12, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially open the newly renovated MNHS Library. The students and staff are now enjoying the use of the new space.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

10. OTHER REPORTS

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

Motion to approve the placement agreement for student 600025 to attend Approved Private School for the 2024-2025 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the confidential settlement agreement and release between the District and the parents of student 884527 to attend private school for the 2024-2025 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the confidential settlement agreement and release between the District and the parents of student 884652. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the confidential settlement agreement and release between the District and the parents of student 884644. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement with Immaculata University for the District to provide clinical intern opportunities for their students when appropriate and internship opportunities are available. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the educational agreement between the District and Foundations Behavioral Health for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement between the District and PHSPartners LLC to provide consulting services to assist the District Administration of the School Based Access Programs (SBAP). This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement between the District and Commonwealth University to provide clinical intern opportunities for their students during the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 884404 to attend Private School for the 2024-2025 school year. This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey

Mrs. Harvey asked for a motion to approve 11.02 through 11.05

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$4,107,120.96, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$468,143.98 and Food Service bills in the amount of \$175,591.94.

Motion to authorize the Business Administrator to release checks for payment during the months of December and January, as needed.

11.03 Monthly Reports

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

11.04 Request for Abatement of Penalty

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30000136500 in the amount of \$1,002.58.

11.05 Preliminary Budget 2025-2026

Motion to adopt the resolution, pursuant to Section 311 of Act 1, limiting the increase in the rate of tax for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to no more than the index of 4.0%, as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the School District.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve 12.02 through 12.06

12.02 Bus Garage Renovation and Parking Lot Expansion Project, Administration Building

Motion to approve the Bus Garage and Parking Lot Expansion Project to advertise to solicit bids.

12.03 Change Order, Marple Newtown High School Library Renovation Project

Motion to approve a change order for Periera Construction LLC., for additional work of reinstalling upper cabinets in the back of the library, frame steel post at front of the library, drywall, spackle, and prep post for paint, and to remove orange ceiling sound waves throughout the library and haul away in the amount of \$1202.00

12.04 WGL Energy Contract

Motion to approve the energy contract with WGL Energy for a two (2) year term at \$0.05622/KW.

12.05 Premier Concrete INC. Contract, Administration Building

Motion to approve Premier Concrete INC. to perform the removal and installation of concrete blocks and steps around the perimeter of the Administration Building under COSTARS contract # 04-E122 022 in the amount of \$143,750.00. This will be paid out of capital reserve fund.

12.06 Bus Leasing Proposal

Motion to approve a three-year bus financing agreement with KS State Bank and to approve the related agreement with Rohrer Bus Sales. This three-year agreement provides 20 buses at an annual cost of \$344,878.83. Both agreements are subject to final review by the Solicitor.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve 13.02 through 13.11.

13.02 Policy

Motion to approve the first reading of School Board Policy 317, Employee Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

Motion to approve the first reading of School Board Policy 317.1, Employee Educator Misconduct, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

Motion to approve the first reading of School Board Policy 326, Employee Complaint Process, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

Motion to approve the first reading of School Board Policy 340, Employee Responsibility for Student Welfare, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

Motion to approve the first reading of School Board Policy 824, Employee Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries, as recommended by Pennsylvania School Boards Association. District Counsel has reviewed, as presented.

13.03 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Shelia Amodei and Jessica Mattei, Supervisors of Teaching and Learning, to attend the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference in Hershey, PA on February 10 - 12, 2025. The cost to the district is \$913.61, as presented.

Motion to approve Lisa Kelly and Brooke Tocci, Supervisors of Teaching and Learning, to attend the Keystone State Literacy Association Conference in Hershey, PA on December 2, 2024. The total cost to the district is \$773.74, as presented.

Motion to approve Brett Thomas, Russell Elementary Principal, to attend the SAS Institute Conference in Hershey, PA on December 8-10, 2024. The cost to the district is \$475, as presented.

Motion to approve Sara Miller, speech pathologist, to attend a Safety Cares workshop in King of Prussia, on February 28, 2025. The cost to the district is \$799.00, as presented.

13.04 Student Teacher Program

Motion to approve the renewal of Letter of Agreement with Eastern University student teacher program. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

13.05 Mapping Safety Services

Motion to approve the proposal from Critical Response Group for District mapping safety services. The one-time cost to the district is \$26,155.00 with an annual cost of \$3,920.00 thereafter, as presented.

13.06 Book Disposal

Motion to approve the disposal of books from Marple Newtown High School Library, as presented.

13.07 Curriculum Implementation

Motion to approve the implementation of a pilot curriculum for Paxton Hollow Middle School Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, and Financial Literacy program, which aligns with the new PA STEELS standards.

13.08 Student Trips

Motion to approve Andrew Butler, coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School girls indoor track team to Staten Island, NY on February 5, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$1,036.55, paid by the district. The cost of the activity is \$360.00, paid by the district. Total cost to the district is \$1,396.55, as presented.

13.09 Science Standards Subscription

Motion to approve the purchase of American Modeling Teachers Association Subscription. The cost to the district is \$780.00, as presented.

13.10 Guest Speaker

Motion to approve guest speaker AJ Guliani, Artificial Intelligence in Schools, December 9, 2024. The cost to the district is \$4,500.00, as presented.

Motion to approve guest speaker Amanda Bickerstaff, Artificial Intelligence consultant, June 14, 2025. The cost to be paid by Title I Federal Funds.

13.11 Professional Development

Motion to approve 504 Plans professional development training to Pupil Services personnel by CRY Ed Media Consultants, LLC, January 2025. The cost to the district not to exceed \$4,000.00, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

Mr. McKenzie asked for a motion to approve 14.02 through 14.12, 14.04 as amended.

14.02 Position Abolishment

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the abolishment of a part time Accounting Clerk for the Food Services' Department.

14.03 Position Creation

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the creation of one (1) Teacher of Special Programs in accordance with the MNEA agreement due to the growing enrollment and responsibilities, and an increase in special education programming needs and services in the District's online cyber school program and digital instruction programming needs.

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the creation of a full-time Accounting Clerk for the Food Services' Department, in accordance with the MNESPA bargaining unit agreement.

Motion to approve the creation of a Bus Transportation Aide for the Transportation Department, in accordance with the MNIEA bargaining unit agreement.

14.04 Contracts

PROFESSIONAL

Supplementary Contracts

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2024-2025 school year, as attached. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement. In the event of any related school closure or cessation of the activities which are the subject of each contract, these activities and contracts are subject to suspension or cancellation, with payments due thereunder prorated for services provided.

14.05 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s) upon their successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 2.

- 1) Kimberly Dobbins – LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$58,000.00
Effective: November 28, 2024 through January 3, 2025
Reason: Substitute for Brittany Milia

Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 6, 2025 through January 31, 2025
Reason: Substitute for Courtney Cary
- 2) Brooke Bender – LTS Physical Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$54,000.00
Effective: December 2, 2024 through January 28, 2025
Reason: Substitute for Rylee Everhart

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s) upon their successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 13.

- 1) Francesca Williams – Title I Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: Upon successful completion of paperwork
Salary: \$18.15/hr.
Reason: Fills vacancy
- 2) Janice Snipe – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 7, 2024
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Replacing Dante Purifico
- 3) Kevin Parsons – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: November 24, 2024
Salary: \$19.50/hr.
Reason: Replacing Darrell Guy

- 4) Melissa Crocker – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: November 4, 2024
Salary: \$20,157.00
Reason: Replacing Anna Marie McCann
- 5) Kelli Whitaker – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: November 4, 2024
Salary: \$20,157.00
Reason: Replacing Janet Rote
- 6) Dennis Kraus – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: December 2, 2024
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Replacing Brendan McGee
- 7) Anthony Buccella – Custodian Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: November 7, 2024
Salary: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Substitute as needed
- 8) Michele Panichelli – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 11, 2024
Salary: \$20,157.00
Reason: Replacing Joseph Verna
- 9) Thomas Salamone – Custodian
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: November 11, 2024
Salary: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Replacing Marlon Weathers
- 10) Michael Hagerty – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: December 8, 2024
Salary: \$19.50/hr.
Reason: Replacing Janel Williams
- 11) James Burton – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: December 8, 2024
Salary: \$19.50/hr.
Reason: Replacing Dawn Pratt
- 12) Charles Stickland – Bus Driver
Transportation Department

Effective: December 8, 2024
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Replacing Kenneth Branche

- 13) Joseph Testa – Classified Substitute
Operations Department
Effective: Upon successful completion of paperwork
Salary: Determined by assignment
Reason: Substitute

14.06 Retirements

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Darrell Guy – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 28, 2024
Reason: Retirement

14.07 Resignations

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Ashley Scott – Behavioral Health Worker
Worrall and Culbertson Elementary Schools
Effective: November 15, 2024
Reason: Resignation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s), item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Joseph Verna – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 25, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Donna Miles – Part Time Accounting Clerk
Food Services Department
Effective: November 21, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 3) Kenneth Branche – Bus Driver
Transportation Department

Effective: November 22, 2024
Reason: Resignation

- 4) Janell Williams – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 8, 2024
Reason: Resignation
- 5) Michele Panichelli – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 13, 2024
Reason: Resignation

14.08 Termination(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Sydney Torresson – LTS Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 24, 2025
Reason: End of assignment (Michelle Bodnar)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified termination(s), item(s) 1 through 2.

- 1) Brendan Magee – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: November 4, 2024
Reason: Withdrew candidacy
- 2) Michael Dotter – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 6, 2024
Reason: Failure to complete required paperwork

14.09 Leave(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 8.

- 1) Brittany Milia – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: November 25, 2024 through January 2, 2025
Reason: Child Rearing Leave
- 2) Rylee Everhart – Physical Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School

Effective: December 2, 2024 through January 24, 2025
Reason: Child Rearing Leave

- 3) Nicole McCullough – Speech and Language Pathologist
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: May 8, 2025 through October 3, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 4) Sara Miller – Speech and Language Pathologist
Russell Elementary School
Effective: March 7, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 5) Melissa Ebersole – Math Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 17, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 6) Courtney Cary – English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: December 11, 2024 through January 23, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 7) Noelle Meehan – Counselor
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: December 2, 2024 through May 5, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 8) Jillian Heslip – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: January 2, 2025 through February 3, 2025
Reason: FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 7.

- 1) Sarah Megonigal – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 4, 2024 through October 25, 2024
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Norina Lelii – Custodian
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 4, 2024 through January 3, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 3) Debra Bradshaw – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 14, 2024 through January 21, 2025
Reason: Uncompensated leave

- 4) Desiree Brockington – Custodian
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: October 10, 2024 through November 1, 2024
Reason: FMLA
- 5) Richard Celeste – Maintenance Leader
Operations Department
Effective: October 10, 2024 through November 5, 2024
Reason: FMLA
- 6) Steven Kroberger – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 25, 2024 through December 2, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated leave
- 7) Patricia McKeown – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 11, 2024 through December 2, 2024
Reason: Uncompensated leave

14.10 Return from Leave(s)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the following administrative return from leave(s), item(s) 1 through 2.

- 1) James Wigo – Elementary Principal
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: December 2, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 2) Janeen Partridge – Assistant Director of Human Resources
Human Resources Department
Effective: October 28, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Christine Miehle – Speech and Language Pathologist
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 24, 2025
Reason: Return from Sabbatical
- 2) Michelle Bodnar – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: January 24, 2025
Reason: Return from Sabbatical

- 3) Dawn Smitheman – School Nurse
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 6, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s), item(s) 1 through 9.

- 1) Donna Spera – Food Services Worker I
Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 14, 2024
Reason: Return from uncompensated leave
- 2) Kathleen Buccieri – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 31, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 3) Sarah Megonigal – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 28, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 4) Desiree Brockington – Custodian
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: November 4, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 5) Richard Celeste – Maintenance Leader
Operations Department
Effective: November 6, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 6) Joan DiSantis – Bus Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: November 4, 2024
Reason: Return from uncompensated leave
- 7) Linda Moore – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 25, 2024
Reason: Return from uncompensated leave
- 8) Elizabeth Pro – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services Department
Effective: November 29, 2024
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 9) Brian Rawlings – Bus Driver

Transportation Department
 Effective: October 25, 2024
 Reason: Return from uncompensated leave

14.11 Transfer(s)

CLASSIFIED

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

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1.	Deborah Fitzsimmons	Russell Elementary School	Special Education Assistant	Culbertson Elementary School	Special Education Assistant

14.12 Annual Evaluation

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the Superintendent's annual performance evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year. The Marple Newtown School District Board of School Directors determined that Dr. Tina Kane satisfied the mutually agreed performance standards. In accordance with PA School Code, the Marple Newtown School District is required to conduct an annual evaluation of the Superintendent based on a set of objective performance standards. All nine members contributed to the evaluation.

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker advised everyone that the Reorganization meeting will be held on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 PM. Also, MN Drama has invited the Board to their play on December 12, 13, and 14. Happy Thanksgiving.

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ~there was none

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Happy Thanksgiving

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM

Respectfully submitted



Joseph Driscoll
 Board Secretary