

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
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. Thomas Raymond, 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 6:31 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, Mrs. Pacell, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Reynolds, (by phone), Mr. Siano

8 members present

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Dr. Kane explained that there were two motions added to 13.10 which were corrected.

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0 as amended

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT**

- Starting off with our final update from Mini-THON. We had about 250 students at our event on February 28th and raised over \$57,000, and counting. As many of you who attended saw, kids had a great time and it was a huge success all around.
- Elementary schools are busy hosting their pizza bingos, fun fairs, evening of the arts, and more with NHS and other honor society members volunteering to help run these fun events for the community.
- On March 14th the student council ran a new event, powderbuff, a spinoff of powderpuff, where boys played volleyball and the girls coached them. This was held during advisory, and the players, coaches, and spectators all had a lot of fun.
- The high school's spring musical "Legally Blonde" was held this past weekend and was a huge success, thank you to all the board members that came, MN Drama appreciates all the support!
- Spring sports are back in action and are having great starts to their seasons. Softball and baseball just returned from their spring training in Florida
- The annual Jazz Fest will be held at the high school from 6-10pm on March 28th.
- The spring concert will be held on April 1st at 7pm in the auditorium.
- The 3rd marking period for students ends on April 2nd.
- Prospective student tours at the high school are happening on April 3rd.
- On Friday, April 11th, the student council will be hosting the annual Murf tournament, honoring former teacher Mr. Murphy and raising money for an engineering scholarship fund. Students look forward to this event as their class can choose to enter into a basketball game and challenge another class during the day, or classes can come down to watch.
- Schools will be closed for Spring Break April 14th-18th

Mr. Raymond and the entire Board congratulated the students on a job well done with Mini-Thon.

7. **COMMENDATIONS**

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association organizes district, region, and state festivals for various musical groups throughout Pennsylvania. District 12 consists of public and private schools in Delaware, Chester, and Philadelphia counties. These ensembles are open to any instrumental and vocal students in grades 10, 11, and 12. On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, PMEA member teachers assessed 750 positions after a rigorous audition process. This all-day process involves multiple steps and criteria for each student to perform for assessment. The following students achieved placement in district 12 ensembles:

Kayden Braegger, grade 10, ranked 15th in district choir on the bass voice part
 Sabrina Devenney, grade 10, ranked 15th in district choir on the alto voice part
 Emily Dobbins, grade 10, ranked 11th in district choir on the alto voice part
 Carlo Nicolis, grade 10, ranked 11th in district band on trumpet
 Lianna Noll, grade 12, ranked 11th in district band on French horn

Jack Rutledge, grade 12, ranked 6th in district band and district orchestra on French horn
 Robert Schaub, grade 11, ranked 2nd in district band on euphonium
 Noah Saal, grade 11, ranked 4th in district band on euphonium

Additionally, students are reauditioned at the district festival to determine placement at the region level. District 11, comprising Bucks and Montgomery counties, combines with district 12 to make region 6. The following students achieved placement in a region 6 ensemble:

Emily Dobbins, grade 10, ranked 9th in region choir on the bass voice part
 Jack Rutledge, grade 12, ranked 8th in region band on French horn
 Robert Schaub, grade 11, ranked 6th in region orchestra on euphonium

Finally, the state ensembles will be held on April 9th through April 12th (any students that make states will be determined by March 15th) information forthcoming.

Band director Mike Massimo, orchestra director Jake Olimpi, and choir director Rachael Basescu would like to thank the school district administrators and school board of directors for being such staunch supporters of music education in our schools for our community. It is due to this support that we are able to celebrate the success of our students as they achieve at their highest level.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Culbertson

The teachers, staff, and students at Culbertson Elementary School would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations to our annual *Read for the House* fundraiser. I am thrilled to announce that we have surpassed last year's total! This year, Culbertson raised an incredible \$14,510.70.

Loomis

Loomis hosted their annual Fun Fair on Saturday (March 22)! This year's theme Let's Glow, Loomis! It was black light and neon FUN for the whole family! We appreciate all the volunteers that helped create and work this event.

Russell

Russell students were celebrated this month as young artists for the Superintendent's Art Recognition. Congratulations to the students and their art teacher, Mrs. Spratt on their beautiful art work. Russell hosted a 1st grade family music night. Families were invited to school to see and play different instruments and listen to songs performed by the 1st grade students.

Each year, Worrall raises money for The American Heart Association, with the annual Jump Rope event. Worrall students had fun learning about how to keep their hearts healthy and raised over \$12,400!

PHMS

The students at Paxon Hollow Middle School recently transported audiences "somewhere over the rainbow" with their spectacular production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Our talented students, under the guidance of a dedicated team of teachers and staff, delivered an unforgettable performance filled with music, magic, and heart. A special thank you to the parents who volunteered their time and talents to assist with everything from costumes and sets to backstage coordination—your

contributions did not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly grateful! And of course, a huge thank you to Ms. LaRue, who once again outdid herself as our director.

MNHS

Congratulations to the MNHS Hi-Q Team for their 2nd place win overall this season.
Congratulations to the MNHS Mock Trial team for winning the first ever District 7 championship and regional championship. Best of luck to the team as they compete in the state competition this weekend.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2025, Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

10. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and Abington Speech, a staffing agency used to fill Speech Therapist positions for students. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for student 883954 to attend private school for extended school year (ESY) 2025. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for student 885358 to attend private school for extended school year (ESY) 2025. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the Parents of student 882393 to attend Private School for the 2025-2026 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the Parents of student 884293. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey asked for a motion to approve 11.02 through 11.06

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,998,429.81, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$56,028.28, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$271,976.61.

11.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly financial reports for January 2025, Treasurer's Report for January 2025, Investment Schedule for January 2025 and Budget Transfers.

11.04 Delaware County Intermediate Unit 2025 - 2026 General Budget

Motion to approve the resolution regarding the 2025-2026 Delaware County Intermediate Unit General Budget in the amount of \$11,912,078.

11.05 Delaware County Intermediate Unit 2025 - 2026 Special Education Agreement

Motion to approve the agreement regarding the 2025-2026 Special Education Service Agreement in the amount of \$614,295.

11.06 Delaware County Intermediate Unit 2025 - 2026 Technical Schools Budget

Motion to approve the resolution regarding the 2025-2026 Delaware County Intermediate Unit Technical School Budget in the amount of \$18,076,609.

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

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

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

12.02 Boiler Room, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Mr. Dezzi asked for a motion to approve Bonnett Medica Associates Inc., for mechanical and architectural design of the Paxon Hollow Middle School boiler room.

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

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

12.03 Purchase of Shed, Russell Elementary School

Mr. Dezzi asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a shed for Russell Elementary School not to exceed \$13,000.00.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

12.04 Camera Replacement, District Wide

Mr. Dezzi asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve the purchase of 132 cameras from Applying Technology Solutions in the amount of \$26,170.32 under Costars contract 040-E23-209.

Motion to approve Delco Solutions, LLC., with the security camera license purchase for the wave server in the amount of \$8,820.00 under Costars contract 034-E22-159.

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

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

12.05 Purchase of Gym Mats, Elementary Schools

Mr. Dezzi asked for a motion to approve the purchase of gym mats for the elementary schools from Aluminum Athletic Equipment Co. in the amount of \$23,098.00 under Costars contract 014-E22-241.

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

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

12.06 Facility Use, Marple Newtown High School

Mr. Dezzi asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a charitable organization, for the rental of the high school stadium for a track meet on Saturday, May 3, 2025, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. The rental agreement under policy 707, class IV, is \$450.00/hr.

Motion to approve Mini Model UN for use of high school classrooms on Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

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

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

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

13.02 Administrative Trips

Mrs. Altobelli asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane to attend the 2025 PASA Women's Caucus Annual Conference, May 18-20, 2025, in Hershey, PA. The cost to the district is \$1,003.98.

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane to attend the PASA Board of Governors Meeting in Harrisburg, PA on April 10-11, 2025. The cost to the District is \$70.49.

Motion to approve seven K-12 Marple Newtown School District science teachers and two administrators to attend the annual NSTA (National Science Teaching Association) conference in Philadelphia on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The cost to the district is \$1,095 as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

13.03 Student Trips

Mrs. Altobelli asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve Kevin Merchant, coach, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School boys lacrosse team to Holy Spirit High School from April 15-16, 2025. The cost to the district is \$675.90, as presented.

Motion to approve Christian Jasperson, assistant principal, Christine Roy, advisor, and Riley McSorley, teacher, to accompany Marple Newtown High School STEM academy to Hershey Park on May 22, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$620.11 and paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$55.00 per student and paid by the student. There is no cost to the district, as presented.

Motion to approve Michael Karpyn, advisor, to accompany the Marple Newtown High School Mock Trial to Harrisburg, PA from March 28-29, 2025. The cost to the district is \$856.64, as presented.

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

With no further discussion first two (2) motions passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

With no further discussion the third motion passed 7 – 0 – 1 Abstention

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Abstain: Mr. Bilker

13.04 Curriculum Implementation

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the implementation of the AI platform, Magic School for the 2025-2026 school year. The cost to the district is \$15,656, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

13.05 School Clubs

Mrs. Altobelli asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve PHMS Garden Club at Paxon Hollow Middle School, as presented.

Motion to approve Hearts and Hands Club at Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

Motion to approve Fashion Club at Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

Motion to approve MN Fishing Club at Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

13.06 Non-School Clubs

Mrs. Altobelli asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve Non-School Organization Club, The Lunar New Year Club, at Loomis Elementary School, as presented.

Motion to approve Non-School Organization Club, The Loomis Running Club, at Loomis Elementary School, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

13.07 Book Disposal

Mrs. Altobelli asked that the following motions be approved

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

Motion to approve the removal of books from Culbertson Elementary School, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

13.08 Book Title Adoption

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the addition of one book title to Paxon Hollow Middle School, as presented.

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

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

13.09 Comprehensive Plan

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the 2025-2028 MNSD Comprehensive Plan, as presented.

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

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

13.10 Technology

Mrs. Altobelli asked that the following motions be approved

Motion to approve the purchase of iPads through Apple finance at an annual cost of \$91,133.85 a year for a term of 4 years.

Motion to approve the contract with BCM One for telephone services at a cost of \$831.48 per month for a term of 36 months. This is a reduction in cost of approximately \$1,100.00 per month or \$13,200.00 per year.

Motion to approve the purchase of Chromebooks through Hewlett Packard Financial Service at an annual cost of \$159,635.87 a year for a term of 4 years. (CORRECTED)

Motion to approve the purchase of Windows computers through Hewlett Packard Financial Services at an annual cost of \$83,720.06 a year for a term of 5 years. (CORRECTED)

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0 as amended
Absent: Mr. McKenzie

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

14.02 Supplementary Contracts

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2024-2025 school year in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement, as presented.

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

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

14.03 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve motions under 14.03

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Phyllis Williams – LTS Math Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 13, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Salary: \$64,000.00, MA +40, Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Melissa Ebersole
- 2) Ciara Cook – LTS Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: April 1, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Salary: \$54,000.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Maria Asteris
- 3) Vittoria Jaggars – LTS Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: April 1, 2025 through June 19, 2025
Salary: \$58,500.00, MA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Beth Lake

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 5.

- 1) Dave Glielmi – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: March 2, 2025
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Fills vacancy
- 2) Kevin Parsons – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: March 10, 2025
Salary: \$19.50/hr.
Reason: Fills vacancy
- 3) Dana Lorentson – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: March 31, 2025
Salary: \$13,643.00
Reason: Replacing Susan Geddes

- 4) Nicole Chisnall – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: April 14, 2025
Salary: \$19.50/hr.
Reason: Replacing Zachary Lessig
- 5) Maria Newell – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: March 26, 2025
Salary: \$13,643.00
Reason: Replacing Nicole Paul

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

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

14.04 Retirements

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve motions under 14.04
PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Meredith Gerhard – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 17, 2025

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Pradip Desai – Van Driver II
Transportation Department
Effective: June 13, 2025
- 2) Maureen Alf – Special Education Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: June 13, 2025

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

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

14.05 Resignations

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the following classified resignation(s), item(s) 1 through 3.

- 1) Deborah Fitzsimmons – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: March 7, 2025
- 2) Brittany Connor – Cook
Food Services Department
Effective: March 11, 2025
- 3) Leland Yackobovitz – Custodian
Russell Elementary School
Effective: March 21, 2025

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

14.06 Termination(s)

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve motions under 14.06

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Kassiani Kotsidou – LTS Computer Science Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: April 1, 2025
Reason: End of assignment (Shannon Blessington)
- 2) Brooke Bender – LTS Physical Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 28, 2025
Reason: End of assignment (Catherine Long)

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Kevin Parsons – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: March 7, 2025
Reason: Accepted new position with MNSD

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

14.07 Leave(s) of Absence

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve motions under 14.07

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Sara Miller – Speech and Language Pathologist
Russell Elementary School
Effective: March 5, 2025 to June 19, 2025
Reason: FMLA

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Celeste King – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: March 3, 2025 to May 2, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Sheila Reynolds – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: April 21, 2025 to June 2, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 3) Steven Kroberger – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: January 29, 2025 through April 21, 2025
Reason: Uncompensated leave
- 4) Donna Fleming – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective March 17, 2025 to May 5, 2025
Reason: FMLA

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

14.08 Return from Leave(s) of Absence

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve motions under 14.08

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Dawn Smitheman – School Nurse
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: February 27, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 2) Catherine Long – PE Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: March 17, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 3) Shannon Blessington – High School Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: March 31, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Paula Ciavarelli – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective March 17, 2025
Reason: Return from uncompensated leave

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

14.09 Transfer(s)

CLASSIFIED

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve the recommended classified transfer(s), effective for the 2024 – 2025 School Year, item(s) 1.

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1.	Diane Cellini	DCIU, Marple Campus	Food Services Worker I	Culbertson Elementary School	Food Services Worker I

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

With no further discussion motion passed 8 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Member of the American Hellenic Association wanted to thank the Board for the approval of the use of the track. They would like to make a donation to the track team.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary