

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 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: 51

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. Dezzi led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

7 members present

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli

Mr. Reynolds

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. Dezzi

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli

Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

Great PA School Designation

Dr. Kane introduced Megan Orehek, Chief Membership Officer, Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), who presented the Marple Newtown School District with the Great PA School designation.

MNEA Teacher of the Year

Dr. Kane introduced Mrs. Peggy Johanson as Marple Newtown Teacher of the Year. Dr. Gretchen spoke about Peggy and her accomplishments.

FMCU Teacher of Excellence Nominees

Dr. Kane introduced each Principal who spoke about those teachers that were nominated for this award.

Marple Newtown High School Hi-Q Team

Dr. Kane introduced the Hi-Q team and spoke of their accomplishments this year. Each student was presented with a certificate.

Marple Newtown High School Mock Trial

Dr. Kane introduced the Mock Trial members and spoke of their accomplishments this year. Each student was presented with a certificate.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report

PSSA testing has begun in our elementary schools. Testing begins next week for the middle school.

The MN Elementary Select Choir performed last Friday at PMEA state conference and did an incredible job. They were the only elementary group invited to perform at the 3-day conference and made all of us proud with their hard work and beautiful voices. Congratulations to the students and music teachers.

Culbertson participated in the annual Autism Acceptance Week. During the week, students participated in various activities, culminating in a school wide "Bubble Walk". The Bubble Walk is

a nationwide celebration of autism and a way to demonstrate our support for those with unique needs. The bubbles are a symbol of joy, hope and laughter.

Russell hosted their annual Evening of the Arts and it was a great success. Congratulations to the art and music teacher for creating such an outstanding display of talented Russell artists.

Worrall has begun their annual Cradles to Crayon collection, which goes until May 9th.

Loomis PTO hosted a Special Person Breakfast.

Paxon Hollow celebrated their Spring Concert. The talented band students performed for a packed house, followed by a beautiful evening of choral and orchestral music.

PHMS also be hosting its annual Curriculum Night tomorrow at 6:30 pm in the PHMS Auditorium. MNHS is hosting a career fair tomorrow during lunches.

We appreciate our bus drivers and transportation department for bus driver appreciation week.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli
Mr. Reynolds

10. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

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

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the parents of student 881577 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 881014 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 882927 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 883440 to attend private school for the 2025-2026 school year. This is not a

new agreement.

Motion to approve the One-to-One service agreement for student 880070 attending approved private school for the remainder of 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 880425 to attend private school for the 2025-2026 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and GAMUT Behavioral Services for behavioral support services. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement Addendum between the District and GHR Healthcare, a staffing agency used to fill various positions such as personal care assistants, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech and language pathologists for students. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and Soliant Health, a staffing agency used to fill various positions such as personal care assistants and registered behavior technicians for students. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement between the District and Aspire Educational Services, a staffing agency used to fill various positions such as personal care assistants for students, subject to review and approval of final language by the Solicitor. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Independent Provider Contract with Criticare, to provide nursing services for students as needed per student's IEP's, subject to review and approval of final language by the Solicitor. This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli
Mr. Reynolds

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve 11.02 through 11.10 be approved, exception 11.04 to be approved separately.

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$5,087,745.55, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$189,374.26, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$132,003.48.

11.03 Monthly Reports

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

11.04 2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget

Motion to adopt the 2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget, as presented on PDE 2028, in the amount of \$115,700,000, and to give notice that it is available for public inspection. The 2025-2026 Proposed Final Budget may change prior to the adoption of the Final Budget.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli
Mr. Reynolds

11.05 2023 Tax Assessment Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 25-00-03072-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2023, an assessment of \$4,899,440 and a fair market value of \$6,730,000.

For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$4,428,340 and a fair market value of \$6,730,000.

For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$4,138,950 and a fair market value of \$6,730,000.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$2,815,600 below the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$32,686.02 to our District for tax year 2023.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$3,286,700 below the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$39,631.36 to our District for tax year 2024.

11.06 2024 Tax Assessment Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-01192-75 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$799,470 and a fair market value of \$1,215,000.

For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$747,225 and a fair market value of \$1,215,000.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$43,830 below the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$528.51 to our District for tax year 2024.

11.07 2023 Tax Assessment Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 25-00-04531-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2023, an assessment of \$151,424 and a fair market value of \$208,000.
For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$136,864 and a fair market value of \$208,000.
For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$127,920 and a fair market value of \$208,000.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$84,126 below the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$976.61 to our District for tax year 2023.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$98,686 below the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$1,189.97 to our District for tax year 2024.

11.08 Request to Close Student Activity Accounts

Motion to authorize the Administration to close student activity fund accounts as presented at Marple Newtown High School for student clubs that have been inactive for at least one year, and to deposit the funds into the Marple Newtown High School Student Council account.

11.09 Budgetary Reserve Transfer

Motion to approve a transfer from Budgetary Reserve up to \$225,000 for utility costs.

11.10 Audit Engagement

Motion to approve the audit engagement of Maillie LLP for the five-year period ending June 30, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029 for an annual fee of \$38,000, \$39,250, \$40,500, \$41,750, and \$43,000, respectively.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli
Mr. Reynolds

12. **FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

12.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

Mr. Dezzi asked that 12.02 through 12.06 be approved

12.02 Agreement, Transportation Department

Motion to approve the proposed lease agreement between Marple Newtown School District and Delaware County Community College for temporary parking location of transportation vehicles during underground tank renovations, at a rate of \$4,000 per month, as presented.

12.03 Roof Coating, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion to approve Bonnett Medica Associates Inc., with the architectural design and professional

services of the Paxon Hollow Middle School roof coating, in the amount of \$26,700, funded by capital reserve, as presented.

Motion to approve O'Donnell Roofing Company, with the installation of a silicone roof coating system at Paxon Hollow Middle School with a 10-year warranty under Costars contract #207751 in the amount of \$890,000. The Public School Facility Grant will fund \$374,587 of this project, the remainder will be funded through capital reserve, as presented.

12.04 Lacrosse Wall, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve Premiere Concrete, Inc., with the installation of a 12' x 24' lacrosse wall at Marple Newtown High School under Costars contract #041-E22-022 in the amount of \$19,000, as presented.

12.05 Donation, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to accept the donation from the Marple Newtown High School PTO for three (3) bottle filling water fountain stations.

12.06 Facilities Use, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve the rental of the Marple Newtown High School Auditorium by From the Top Dance Studio for a dance recital rehearsal Friday, May 30, 2025, 4:00-8:00pm, and a dance recital Sunday, June 1, 2025, 12:00-6:00pm.

Motion to approve the rental of the Marple Newtown High School Auditorium by Art in Motion Dance Studio for a dance recital Sunday, June 8, 2025, 2:00-5:00pm, and a dance recital rehearsal earlier that week, date to be determined.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli
Mr. Reynolds

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker asked that 13.02 through 13.04 be approved.

13.02 Student Trips, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve Helene White, teacher, to accompany Marple Newtown High School 11th Grade English classes, to the Walt Whitman House on May 22, 2025. The total cost of transportation is \$261.75, paid by the students. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

13.03 Student Clubs, Marple Newtown High School

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

Motion to approve STEM Academy at Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

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

13.04 Book Disposal, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion to approve the removal of books from Paxon Hollow Middle School, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli

Mr. Reynolds

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Siano asked for 14.02 through 14.08 be approved

14.02 Supplementary Contracts

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement, as presented.

14.03 Position Creation

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the creation of one (1) part-time Transportation Aide position in accordance with the MNNIEA agreement due to the growing programming needs in special education.

14.04 Extended School Year (ESY) 2025

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the appointment of professional personnel for the 2025 ESY Program pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, as presented.

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the appointment of classified personnel for the 2025 ESY Program pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, as presented.

14.05 Appointment(s)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Motion to approve the following administrative appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1:

- 1) Michael Nardo – Assistant Business Administrator
Business Office
Effective: July 1, 2025
Salary: \$130,000.00
Reason: Replacing Dominick DuVernois

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 4:

- 1) Rhonda Williams – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: April 10, 2025
Salary: \$19.50/hr.
Reason: Fills vacancy
- 2) Montgomery Brown – Custodian
Russell Elementary School
Effective: April 7, 2025
Salary: \$20.76/hr.
Reason: Replacing Leland Yackobovitz
- 3) Jaesung Byun – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 27, 2025
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Replacing Charles Stickland
- 4) Mary Wellock – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 27, 2025
Salary: \$30.15/hr.
Reason: Replacing Kevin Parsons

14.06 Retirement(s)

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) John Schmidt – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: June 13, 2025
- 2) Caterina Salvino – Office Assistant
Marple Newtown High School

Effective: June 13, 2025

14.07 Resignation(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Susan Harvey-Dubrunfaut – Art Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: June 19, 2025

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Madison Blankenship – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: March 21, 2025

14.08 Termination(s)

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Angela Vollmer – LTS Counselor
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: May 6, 2025
Reason: End of assignment (Meredith Meehan)

14.09 Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Beth Lake – Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: April 24, 2025 to June 19, 2025
Reason: Sabbatical Leave
- 2) Allison Hostutler – Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: April 1, 2025 to TBD
Reason: FMLA

14.10 Return from Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Meredith Meehan – Counselor
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: May 5, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Altobelli
Mr. Reynolds

15. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

A representative of the bus drivers spoke about their raffle.

Several parents from Worrall spoke about the recent incident at Worrall. Their concern is about the safety of their children and the act of bullying. They know that the teachers and the principal are wonderful and will keep their children safe, their major concern was that they felt there was the lack of communication by district,

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary