

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – Immediately following Budget and Finance
Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meeting – Immediately following Facilities and
Transportation

Administration Building – Board Room

MINUTES

Present:

Board: Mr. Dezzi, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Siano (by phone)

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

Press: 0

Audience: 1

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:31 and advised that the Board met in Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Legal issues.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dezzi led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

3.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

3.02 Additions to the Agenda ~ there was none

Mr. Driscoll explained the following motions to take to the full Board for approval

3.03 Bills for Payment

MOTION: To approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,049,200.77.

3.04 Financial Reports

MOTION: To approve the monthly Financial Reports for March 2025, Treasurer's Report for March 2025, Investment Schedule for March 2025, and Budget Transfers.

3.05 School Board Secretary

MOTION: To elect Dominick DuVernois to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Driscoll, as School Board Secretary from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.

3.06 School Board Treasurer

MOTION: To elect Michael Nardo as School Board Treasurer and Custodian of Student Funds from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

3.07 Right to Know Officer

MOTION: To appoint Dominick DuVernois as the Right to Know Officer effective June 1, 2025.

3.08 2021 Tax Assessment Appeal

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 25-00-00851-02 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2021, an assessment of \$12,600,000 and a fair market value of \$12,600,000.

For tax year 2022, an assessment of \$14,100,000 and a fair market value of \$14,100,000.

For tax year 2023, an assessment of \$11,284,000 and a fair market value of \$15,500,000.

For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$10,857,500 and a fair market value of \$16,500,000.

For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$10,147,500 and a fair market value of \$16,500,000.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$5,516,520 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$60,500 to our District for tax year 2021.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$7,016,520 above the 2022 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$79,173 to our District for tax year 2022.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$4,200,520 above the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$48,763 to our District for tax year 2023.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$23,773,520 above the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$45,501 to our District for tax year 2024.

3.09 2024 Tax Assessment Appeal

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-01277-27 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$1,513,400 and a fair market value of \$2,300,000.

For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$1,476,000 and a fair market value of \$2,400,000.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$986,600 below the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar loss of approximately \$11,896.52 to our District for tax year 2024.

3.10 2021 Tax Assessment Appeal

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-02906-00 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2021, an assessment of \$2,200,000 and a fair market value of \$2,200,000.

For tax year 2022, an assessment of \$2,200,000 and a fair market value of \$2,200,000.

For tax year 2023, an assessment of \$1,601,600 and a fair market value of \$2,200,000.

For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$1,447,600 and a fair market value of \$2,200,000.

For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$1,353,000 and a fair market value of \$2,200,000.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$929,640 above the 2021 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$10,195 to our District for tax year 2021.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$929,640 above the 2022 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$10,490 to our District for tax year 2022.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$331,240 above the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$3,845 to our District for tax year 2023.

This proposed resolution is an increase of \$177,240 above the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar increase of approximately \$2,137 to our District for tax year 2024.

3.11 Request to Close Scholarship Accounts

MOTION: Authorize the Administration to close student scholarship fund accounts at Marple Newtown High School for student scholarships that are inactive, and to deposit the remaining funds into active scholarship accounts, as presented.

3.12 Request to Close Student Activity Accounts

MOTION: Authorize the Administration to close student activity fund accounts 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 club accounts, as presented.

3.13 2025-2026 Final Budget Adoption

Mr. DuVernois gave a brief presentation on the updated budget.

Explained the district timeline
Revenue Summary and updates
Expenditure Summary and updates
Final Summary

MOTION: To adopt the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget for the Marple Newtown School District in the amount of \$115,700,000.

MOTION: To adopt the 2025 Annual Tax Levy Resolution, as presented.

MOTION: To adopt the 2025 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution, as presented.

3.14 Other Business ~ There was none

3.15 Public Comment ~ There was none

3.16 Adjournment

4. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

4.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

4.02 Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Gallagher explained the lighting at Russell and the back fields at Paxon. The lights belong to the Soccer Association. They are responsible for the bills. The district has the right to use the lighting,

Mr. Gallagher explained the following motions to take to the full Board for approval.

4.03 Change Order, Marple Newtown High School Auditorium

MOTION: To approve a change order for Delco Solutions LLC, in the amount of \$19,429, as presented.

4.04 Change Order No. EC-01, Russell Elementary School Boiler Room Renovation

MOTION: To approve Goldhorn Electrical Construction, Inc., Change Order No. EC-01, for electrical vault remediation. The owner requested a change to remove and remediate existing electrical vault contaminants, in accordance with Goldhorn Electrical Construction, Inc., proposal dated 12/12/2024 (Rev 2), in the amount of \$21,363.40. COR EC-01 Total: \$21,363.40.

4.05 Library Abatement Project, Paxon Hollow Middle School

MOTION: To approve Environmental Control Systems, Inc., for the air monitoring and sampling of the Paxon Hollow Middle School library renovation project, in the amount not to exceed \$22,975, funded by capital reserve, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Bristol Environmental, for the asbestos abatement removal and disposal of the Paxon Hollow Middle School library floor tile and carpet, in the amount of \$12,700, funded by capital reserve, as presented.

4.06 Boiler Room Project, Paxon Hollow Middle School

MOTION: To approve Bonnett Medica Associates, Inc., to solicit bids for the Boiler Room Project at Paxon Hollow Middle School.

4.07 Information Item: Classroom Renovation Project, Russell Elementary School

Mr. Gallagher explained that some of the classrooms will be moved. Example, break room and life skills

4.08 Information Item: Library Renovation Project, Paxon Hollow Middle School

4.09 Other Business ~ There was none.

4.10 Public Comment ~ There was none.

4.11 Adjournment

5. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

5.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

5.02 Additions to the Agenda ~ There was none.

Mrs. Altobelli asked that 5.03 through 5.09 be taken to the full Board for approval.

5.03 Educator Conference

MOTION: To approve an additional cost for Jonathan Ruths, teacher, to attend the PMEA Conference at Kalahari from April 10 - 12, 2025. The additional cost to the District is \$360.80, bringing the total cost to \$870.80, as presented.

5.04 Student Trips

MOTION: To approve Daniel Keehn, Assistant Principal, to accompany Paxon Hollow Middle School 8th grade students to Hershey Park on June 5, 2025. The total cost to the District is \$623.08, as presented.

MOTION: To approve Anita Stum, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Future Business Leaders of America club members to Anaheim, CA from June 29, 2025, to July 2, 2025. The approximate cost of transportation is \$3,000 to be paid by the District. The cost of the activity is \$4,200, \$3,100 to be paid by the District and

\$1,100 to be paid by the club account. The approximate cost to the District is \$6,100, as presented.

5.05 Curriculum Purchases

MOTION: To approve the purchase of Amplify Desmos for Algebra 1, as a resource to support Algebra 1 instruction, to begin in the 2025-2026 school year. The cost to the District is \$6,676, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of Business U, a suite of resources to support multiple high school business courses, to begin in the 2025-2026 school year. The cost to the District is \$3,680, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of BSCS Biology to support the implementation of the new STEELS standards in 2025-2026. The cost to the District is \$26,308.80, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of sewing machines for Paxon Hollow Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year. The cost to the District is \$1,219.31, as presented.

MOTION: To approve TWIG Science as the new STEELS-aligned main instructional resource for K-8 Science beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The cost to the District not to exceed \$400,000, as presented.

5.06 Book Title Adoption, Marple Newtown High School

MOTION: To approve the adoption of three new book titles to Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

5.07 Disposals

MOTION: To approve the disposal of books at Worrall Elementary School, as presented.

MOTION: To approve the disposal of outdated science kit materials at all elementary buildings, as presented.

5.08 District Wellness Assessment

MOTION: To approve the annual District Wellness Assessment, as presented.

5.09 Technology

MOTION: To approve the copier lease and service agreement with Fraser Advanced Information Systems in the amount of \$177,038 per year for a term of 4 years.

5.10 Presentations

MOTION: Presentation of the proposal to implement a Device-Free procedure at Marple Newtown High School beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, presented by Mr. John Beltrante, Principal.

Mr. Beltrante gave the following presentation.

The Anxious Generation ~ "The phone-based life makes it difficult for people to be fully present with others when they are with others, and to sit silently with themselves when they are alone".

Explained Board Policy 237 and Current Practices

Why is this change important ~ for students to focus on their academics, to connect with one another fact to face in a positive healthy way, detach from their devices and give themselves a break.

Proposal ~ no change to Board policy, student device access during non-instructional time, during instructional time, phones will remain in a location determined by the teacher.

Challenges ~ some students may struggle, managing student non-compliance, addressing parental concerns, ensuring staff unity and consistent implementation.

Benefits outweigh the challenges ~ more focused on learning, peer to peer connections, diminished student disputes, healthier personal connections, improved student mental health, less conflict (cyber bullying and distractions, and more time for staff to focus on what matters.

Next steps ~ Board consideration and support, communication with staff, families, and students. Prepare for implementation in all of 2025.

MOTION: Presentation of the proposal for a new Elementary School Report Card beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, presented by Dr. Kevin Fagan, Assistant Superintendent.

Dr. Fagan gave the following presentation

Motivation for updating our report card

The process began in 2024, teacher feedback and focus groups, reviewing report cards of other districts, curriculum supervisor, principal, and parent input.

Areas of assessment ~ academics and characteristics of learner.

Benefits ~ driving standards alignment, easier for families to navigate and understand, more comprehensive of student learning, and improving teacher efficiency.

Explained the parent feedback

Next steps ~ share with K-5 Principals and Staff, families, and seek Board approval. Prepare to implement in fall of 2025

5.11 Other Business ~ There was none.

5.12 Public Comment ~ There was none.

5.13 Adjournment

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.