

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 26, 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. Dominick DuVernois, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Kerri McGinley,

Press: 0

Audience: 1

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, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Siano

7 members present.

Absent Mrs. Pacell

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. Siano

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 - 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

There was none.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none.

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Our Leadership Team met with our local law enforcement for our annual Safety Symposium. The purpose was to review our safety protocols and establish a shared understanding.

Our operations and grounds departments have worked diligently to prepare our schools and grounds for our students' return.

All of our faculty returned to school last week, and it was terrific to see everyone excited to return to another school year.

New student and Kindergarten orientations are this Thursday, August 28.

Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 - 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

10. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked that the following motions be approved.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 883954 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 for student 882697 to attend private school for the 2025-2026 school year. This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 - 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey asked that motions under 11.02 through 11.04 be approved.

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$4,316,702.72, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$1,102,650.05, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$12,582.68.

11.03 Policies

Motion to approve the second reading of School Board Policy 626, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

To approve the second reading of School Board Policy 626.1, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

11.04 2021 Tax Appeal

Motion to authorize and direct the Solicitor to finalize resolution on Folio 30-00-02848-04 real estate tax assessment appeal as follows:

For tax year 2021, an assessment of \$2,868,650 and a fair market value of \$2,868,650.

For tax year 2022, an assessment of \$2,868,650 and a fair market value of \$2,868,650.

For tax year 2023, an assessment of \$2,088,377 and a fair market value of \$2,868,650.

For tax year 2024, an assessment of \$1,887,571 and a fair market value of \$2,868,650.

For tax year 2025, an assessment of \$1,764,219 and a fair market value of \$2,868,650.

This proposed resolution keeps the current assessment the same for tax years 2021 and 2022.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$780,273 below the 2023 assessment and yields a tax dollar decrease of approximately \$9,058 to our District for tax year 2023.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$981,079 below the 2024 assessment and yields a tax dollar decrease of approximately \$11,829 to our District for tax year 2024.

This proposed resolution is a decrease of \$1,104,431 below the 2025 assessment and yields a tax dollar decrease of approximately \$13,776 to our District for tax year 2025.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 - 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

There were no motions for this meeting.

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

There were no motions for this meeting.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Siano asked that motions under 14.02 through 14.07 to 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 Resignations

ACT 93

Motion to approve the following ACT 93 resignation(s), item(s) 1:

- 1) Patrick Eisenfelder – Deskside Technician
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 25, 2025

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Maria Asteris – Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 13, 2025

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s), item(s) 1 through 4:

- 1) Elizabeth Pro – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services Department
Effective: August 28, 2025

- 2) Jessica Hendry – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 21, 2025
- 3) Paula Ciavarelli – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: August 15, 2025
- 4) Telasha Williams-Smith – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: August 20, 2025

14.04 Appointments

ACT 93

Motion to approve the following ACT 93 appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 2:

- 1) Edward Canavan – Deskside Technician
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 27, 2025
Salary: \$54,000.00
Reason: Replacing Ian Baker
- 2) Roseann Pirillo – Deskside Technician
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 18, 2025
Salary: \$52,000.00
Reason: Replacing Patrick Eisenfelder

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 7:

- 1) Tatiana Elliott – LTS Substitute Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 19, 2025 through June 16, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Trisha Adami
- 2) Eve Francisco – LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: August 19, 2025 through October 31, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Andrea Watkins being held in current district
- 3) Kathy Wittig-Valtos – Certified School Nurse
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 25, 2025
Salary: \$58,000.00, BA Step 5
Reason: Kathleen Miller

- 4) Jamie Brigham – English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: Upon release from current district
Salary: \$74,200.00, MA +20, Step 7
Reason: Replacing Solange Pierlott
- 5) Isabella Dahms – LTS English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 20, 2025 to October 31, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Jamie Brigham being held in current district
- 6) Victoria Zielke – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 25, 2025 through November 26, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Lauren Tumelty
- 7) Nicole Paul – LTS Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 19, 2025 through January 28, 2025
Salary: \$60,500.00, MA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Ashley Smart

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Elizabeth Jones – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: September 15, 2025
Salary: \$20.09/hr.
Reason: Replacing Rhonda Williams
- 2) Logan Zeiger – Special Education Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 27, 2025
Salary: \$20,762.00
Reason: Replacing Margaret Bristow
- 3) Alyssa Tino – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 27, 2025
Salary: \$20,762.00
Reason: Replacing Mary Ross
- 4) Robert Fisher – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 8, 2025
Salary: \$20.09/hr.

Reason: April Bubak

- 5) Ankica Topalidis – Food Service Worker II
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 26, 2025
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Reason: Fills vacancy

14.05 Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Caitlin Kohout – Gifted Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: November 25, 2025 through April 6, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Stephanie Borowski – Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: December 12, 2025 through February 9, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 3) Ashley Smart – Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: September 15, 2025 through January 26, 2026
Reason: Child Rearing Leave
- 4) Robin McCarthy – Physical Education Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 19, 2025 through September 8, 2025
Reason: FMLA

14.06 Professional Attainment – Tenure

Motion to record in the records of the School Board minutes the attainment of tenure and the awarding of a Professional Employee Contract to the 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(s) 1 through 23.

	Name	Location	Date Achieved
1)	Alexa Logothetis	Worrall Elementary	6/19/2025
2)	Kerri McCormick	Culbertson Elementary	6/19/2025
3)	Kristen Fuller	Russell Elementary	6/19/2025
4)	Christel DiVencenzo	Culbertson Elementary	6/19/2025
5)	Morganne Piestrak	Russell Elementary	6/19/2025
6)	Jessica Shearman	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
7)	Kelsey Garraty	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
8)	Rachael Basescu	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
9)	Sara Berl	Culbertson Elementary	6/19/2025

10)	Stephanie Borowski	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
11)	Courtney Cary	Paxon Hollow Middle Sch	6/19/2025
12)	Natalie Connor	Worrall Elementary	6/19/2025
13)	Sarah Crowley	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
14)	Zachary Ewald	Paxon Hollow Middle Sch	6/19/2025
15)	Mary Kirby	Worrall Elementary	6/19/2025
16)	Caitlin Kohout	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
17)	Chelsie Maiers	Russell Elementary	6/19/2025
18)	Megan Marley	Russell Elementary	6/19/2025
19)	Nicole McCullough	Culbertson Elementary	6/19/2025
20)	Sara Miller	Russell Elementary	6/19/2025
21)	Dalia Stephenson	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
22)	Marie Yeoh	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/19/2025
23)	Chasse Guerrero	Loomis Elementary	6/19/2025

14.07 Contract Renewal(s)

Motion to approve the annual agreement, September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026, between Marple Newtown School District and Institutional Compliance Solutions, LLC for Title IX compliance support and training in the amount of \$5,700.00.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 7 - 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none.

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was none.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none.

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dominick DuVernois
Board Secretary