

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Regular Board Meeting
 Tuesday, October 28, 2025
 Marple Newtown School District Board Room
 Minutes

Board: Mrs. Dana Altobelli, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, 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. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Dominick DuVernois, Mr. Jake Gallagher. Dr. Kerri McGinley,

Press: 0

Audience: 2

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM and advised that the Board met briefly in Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dezzi led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

Mrs. Altobelli, Mr. Bilker, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Raymond, Mr. Siano

6 members present

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

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 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Members of the Drama Club invited the Board to attend the fall play, The Crucible.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Nick D'Ambrosio and Marleigh Lauletta gave the following report:

Students had off on October 2nd for a religious holiday

Marple hosted the 55th Bandaroma and the SAT on October 4th

Senior Portraits Retakes were October 6th

Paxon Hollow visited the high school on October 10th

The fall L.I.N.K retreat was held October 11-13th

The PSAT was held on October 15th with seniors having an asynchronous day to start senior project

On Oct. 23, we held the 30th Junior Initiative Speakers Conference where individuals from the community spoke with juniors. Juniors were excited about the future after hearing from presenters in different fields.

Russell, Worrall, and Loomis had their trunk or treat event on October 24th. Culbertson's will be this Thursday on the 30th

The Speech team earned impressive overall finishes at their competition, taking 1st and 4th place among all competing schools. Additionally, Varsity Debate celebrated its first victory of the season, marking an exciting milestone for the team.

Culbertson had their pumpkin festival on October 25th with NHS members volunteering

4th Term renaissance qualifiers are going on a trip to the zoo on October 30th. ~ trip was postponed due to weather.

Student council is hosting a spooky Halloween themed spirit week this week to excite students

Marple Newtown has their joint honors society induction for Rho Kappa (History), English, and Science on October 30th

Students have a half day for Halloween.

Bocce is gearing up for the Polar Plunge! They are accepting donations, and the support of the community can make a big difference. The Polar Plunge benefits the Special Olympics, supporting individuals with special needs.

Coming up next week the MNHS fall concert in on Nov. 5th at Paxon Hollow

7. COMMENDATIONS

FBLA National Champion:

Congratulations to Diljit Singh for his first-place victory in the Networking Infrastructures event at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference this summer!

Diljit qualified for the national event after winning first place at the state-level FBLA competition in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in April. The FBLA National Leadership Conference took place from June 29th to July 2nd, 2025, in Anaheim, California.

National Merit:

On September 10, 2025, officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of more than 16,000 Semifinalists in the 71st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. Marple Newtown High School is proud to announce that we have 2 semifinalists this year. Congratulations to Aila Lam and Tristan Lowe for being National Merit Semifinalists and the best of luck on attaining a Finalist standing.

We are also proud to announce that we have 4 Commended Students this year. About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2026 competition for National Merit Scholarship Awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2026 competition by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This year our 4 Commended Students are: Emily Kwon, Hailey Kwon, Paige Robinson and Diljit Singh. Congratulations to all our Commended Students.

Techrise Student challenge:

In 2021, a group of girls in Mrs. Gardner's 7th grade gifted homeroom at Paxon Hollow Middle School submitted a project proposal to a NASA Techrise competition. Out of thousands of applicants, their proposal was accepted. They spent countless hours before and after school and over the summer between 7th and 8th grade preparing a project to run an experiment in space. They sent their project back to NASA in 2022 and expected it to be sent to space shortly, but there were a series of delays. They received notice in mid-September that their experiment was one of 24 student projects that would be included in the payload of the Blue Origin New Shepard launch on Thursday September 18th. The girls involved with this are now in 11th grade at Marple Newtown High School and they are: Carrie Hodkinson, Denali Devonport, Britney Huynh, Cassidy Smith, Kohar Baronian, and Riley Carmichael.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Culbertson

Culbertson Elementary will host its annual Trunk-N-Treat and fall festival parade later this week.

Loomis

Loomis Elementary held their Fall Festival and Truck or Treat earlier this month.

Russell

At Russell Elementary, students enjoyed two engaging Fire Prevention Month assemblies with the Broomall Fire Company, and celebrated Red Ribbon Week with daily activities that promoted healthy choices and positive decision-making.

Worrall

Worrall Elementary is thrilled to celebrate their first-ever PTO Boosterthon Fun Run fundraiser! Thanks to the tremendous support of our families and community, they surpassed their original goal of \$10,000 and raised \$21,577.

Paxon Hollow

The 8th grade students had the opportunity to visit Marple Newtown High School, where they explored the programs and opportunities that await them next year. Fall sports season will conclude this week.

Marple Newtown High School

The 55th Annual Bandarama was held at the high school this past month. The 30 Anniversary of Junior Initiative was held last week. The high school hosted several local speakers to speak with the junior class about career opportunities.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

10. OTHER REPORTS

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

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for student 881643 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 884507 for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the district and the parents of student 886558. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release between the district and the parents of student 884600. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey asked for 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 \$3,550,434.46, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$853,921.16, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$169,796.13.

11.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the Monthly Financial Reports for August 2025, Treasurer's Report for August 2025, Investment Schedule for August 2025, and Budget Transfers.

11.04 Professional Development Training

Motion to approve the proposal for Professional Development Training through PASBO for Joel DiBartolomeo, Director of Human Resources and Dominick DuVernois, Business Administrator, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

Mr. Dezzi asked for a motions under 12.02 through 12.05 to be approve.

12.02 Boiler Room and Rooftop Unit Replacement Project, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion to approve Bonnett Medica Associates Inc., to solicit bids for the boiler room and rooftop unit replacement project at Paxon Hollow Middle School.

12.03 Purchase of Furniture, Administration Building

Motion to approve the purchase of furniture for the Administration Building in the amount of \$26,504.54 under Costars contract 035-E22-174, funded through capital projects.

12.04 Policy Update

Motion to approve the second reading of PSBA updated School Board Policy 810.1, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the second reading of PSBA updated School Board Policy 810.2, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

12.05 Contract Approval

Motion to approve the agreement between Marple Newtown School District and Transfinder Corporation in the amount of \$7,600, for the purpose of a Transportation audit, District Solicitor has reviewed.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

13.02 Agreement

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve an agreement with St. Joseph's University student teacher program. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

13.03 Disposal

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the disposal of books from Paxon Hollow Middle School Library. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

13.04 Professional Development

Mrs. Altobelli asked for motions under 13.04 be approved.

Motion to approve Moira DiTrollo and Nicole Pica, teachers, to attend three Biological Sciences Curriculum Study training courses. The cost to the District is \$1,350, as presented

Motion to approve eight (8) Marple Newtown School District music teachers to attend the annual

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association In-Service Day workshop on November 4, 2025, at Upper Merion High School. The cost to the District not to exceed \$300, as presented

Motion to approve Michele O'Kane, Paxton Hollow Middle School Librarian, to attend Countywide 2025 Future-Ready Libraries: Design, Dialogue and Discovery on November 4, 2025, at Kennett Library. The cost to the District not to exceed \$125, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

13.05 Student Trips

Mrs. Altobelli asked for motions under 13.05 be approved.

Motion to approve Doug Killough, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School National Honor Society students to Washington D.C. on March 26, 2026. The total cost for transportation and activity is \$80 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Doug Killough, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School National Honor Society and Model UN students to New York City on December 4, 2025. The total cost for transportation is \$52 per student to be paid by the student. The total cost for the activity is \$95 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Andrew Butler, coach, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Boys and Girls Cross Country team to Hershey Park from October 31, 2025, to November 1, 2025. The cost of transportation is \$901.96, to be paid by the District. The cost of the activity is \$2,464.20, to be paid by the District. The total cost to the District is \$3,366.16, as presented.

Motion to approve Mike Snow, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School and Paxton Hollow Middle School Ski and Outdoor club to Bear Creek Resort on January 7, 2026. The total cost of transportation is \$20 per student to be paid by the student. The total cost of the activity is approximately \$55-\$110 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Mike Snow, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School and Paxton Hollow Middle School Ski and Outdoor club to Elk Mountain Ski Resort on January 10, 2026. The total cost of transportation is \$45 per student to be paid by the student. The total cost of the activity is approximately \$80-\$120 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Mike Snow, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School and Paxton Hollow Middle School Ski and Outdoor club to Bear Creek Resort on January 28, 2026. The total cost of transportation is \$20 per student to be paid by the student. The total cost of the activity is approximately \$55-\$110 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Georgia LaRue, advisor, to accompany Paxton Hollow Middle School Tiger Tones

to Harrisburg on March 11, 2026. The cost of transportation is \$543 to be paid by the District. The total cost to the District is \$543, as presented.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Siano asked for motions under 14.02 and 14.03 be approved.

14.02 Resignations

ADMINISTRATION

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

- 1) Jessica Mattei – Supervisor of Teaching and Learning
Teaching and Learning Department
Effective: October 17, 2025

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional resignation(s), item(s) 1 through 3:

- 1) Paula Schneider – Behavioral Health Worker
Culbertson and Worrall Elementary Schools
Effective: October 1, 2025
- 2) Vittoria Jagers – LTS Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 10, 2025
- 3) Robert Westbrook – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 28, 2025

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s), item(s) 1 through 8:

- 1) Nicole Taylor – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: September 22, 2025
- 2) Alex Edwards –Transportation Aide

Transportation Department
Effective: October 1, 2025

- 2) Susan Geddes – Title I Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: October 6, 2025
- 4) Arthur Ume – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 24, 2025
- 5) Daniel Gilronan – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 15, 2025
- 6) Ivory Shelton – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 31, 2025
- 7) Robert Fisher – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: October 24, 2025
- 8) Diane Rowley – Title I Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 22, 2025

14.03 Termination(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional termination(s), item(s) 1 through 3:

- 1) Isabella Dahms – LTS English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 31, 2025
Reason: End of substitute assignment for teachers on assignment
- 2) Marne DiCamillo – Home Bound Instructor
Pupil Services Department
Effective: October 29, 2025
Reason: Unavailable for work
- 3) Madelyn Gilligan – Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 19, 2025
Reason: Deceased

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked for motions under 14.04 through 14.06 be approved

14.04 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 8:

- 1) Samantha Beale – LTS Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: November 13, 2025 through February 20, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Brianna Graziola
- 2) Eve Francisco – LTS Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: November 3, 2025 through January 27, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Beth Lake
- 3) Angelina Velazquez – LTS Elementary Special Education Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: Extended through November 26, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Robert Westbrook
- 4) Isabella Dahms – LTS English Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: December 15, 2025 through April 6, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Sierra Coakley
- 5) Victoria Zielke – LTS Design Thinking Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: December 1, 2025 through June 16, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Fills Grace DeRosa vacancy
- 6) Kayleigh Moran – LTS Learning Support Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 20, 2025 through April 7, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Jessica Chickadel
- 7) Nicoletta DiNardo – Autistic Support Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School

Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Replacing Maria Asteris

- 8) Christopher Santiago – LTS Gifted Support Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: November 17, 2025 through April 7, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Caitlin Kohout

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s) upon successful completion of required paperwork, item(s) 1 through 9:

- 1) Rose Fasciocco – Special Education Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: October 29, 2025
Salary: \$20,762.00
Reason: Replacing Karen Galiffa
- 2) Morgan Wienckowski – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services Department
Effective: October 29, 2025
Salary: \$29,144.00
Reason: Replacing Elizabeth Pro
- 3) Emily Fisher – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 29, 2025
Salary: \$20,762.00
Reason: Replacing Donna Bryson
- 4) Andrew DeMarcantonio – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$20.09/hr.
Reason: Replacing Nicole Taylor
- 5) Corey Woolner – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$20.09/hr.
Reason: Replacing Robert Naimoli
- 6) Jennifer Fenlason – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$20.09/hr.
Reason: Replacing Paula Ciavarelli

- 7) Brian Lansberry – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$31.05/hr.
Reason: Replacing Daniel Gilronan
- 8) Nikole Malone – Food Service Worker II
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$16.11/hr.
Reason: Replacing Tara Carty
- 9) Jenna Fulton – Title I Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: November 3, 2025
Salary: \$18.70/hr.
Reason: Replacing Christina Tallon

14.05 Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) of absence, item(s) 1 through 3:

- 1) Sierra Coakley – English Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: January 5, 2026 through April 5, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Sarah Kraus – Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: October 6, 2025 through October 31, 2025
Reason: FMLA
- 3) Caitlin Gallihue – Behavioral Health Worker
Russell and Worrall Elementary Schools
Effective: November 10, 2025 through June 16, 2026
Reason: Child Rearing Leave

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Christina Pickering – School Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: October 16, 2025 through January 23, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Dave Glielmi – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: October 29, 2025 through November 12, 2025

Reason: FMLA

- 3) Mary Kane-Weist – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: September 29, 2025 through TBD
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 4) Danielle Brown – Van Driver II
Transportation Department
Effective: September 23, 2025
Reason: Administrative Leave (Without Pay)

14.06 Return from Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Elise Miranda-Martin – Spanish Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: December 8, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 2) Lauren Tumelty – Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 24, 2025
Reason: Return from Child Rearing Leave

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano asked that motions under 14.07 and 14.08 be approved.

14.07 Transfer(s)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the recommended classified transfer(s), effective for the 2025 – 2026 School Year, item(s) 1:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1)	Robert Naimoli	Transportation	Bus Driver in Training	Transportation Aide

14.08 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.

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

With no further discussion, motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

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 6:57 PM

Respectfully submitted

Dominick DuVernois
Board Secretary