

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 6:30pm
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: 4

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. Dezzi led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

6 members present

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Raymond

Mr. Reynolds

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Raymond

Mr. Reynolds

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Two community members spoke about the approval of the calendar for the school year 2026-2027. They would appreciate a new survey having been sent out as in years past to see what the parents thought of changing the start of before Labor Day.

Mr. Bilker responded, saying that there would be a discussion prior to the vote. That this is not something that will be a change that will be for every year.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Orientation for freshmen and new students was held on August 28th, run by our tiger guides and with students representing their clubs to help ease the transition to the high school

The first day of school for students was September 2nd. So far, the start to the school year has gone smooth and successful.

Health screenings took place and were completed in the week of September 8th

Student Council hosted spirit week from 9/8-9/12 with themes including, Monochromatic Monday, Adam Sandler, Country vs Country Club, Dress Your Age, and Class Colors/Senior Jeans

Student Council hosted a Pep Rally with games building excitement in the gymnasium for homecoming hyping up our school spirit. The kids seemed to have a lot of fun.

The homecoming dance was held in the gym on 9/13 from 6:30-9:00. Students seemed to love the dance, as they had access to the gym with the DJ, hallways for hanging out with their friends, and the cafeteria for snacks. Thank you to the PTO for providing snack donations and parent volunteers.

MNHS held back to school night on September 17th with tiger guides and NHS volunteers there to help navigate parents.

Schools and offices were closed on September 23 due to a religious holiday

MNHS Picture day is this Thursday, September 25th

This Friday Russell is hosting a movie night, and Worrall is having a Family Phillies themed picnic

7. COMMENDATIONS

There were none

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report

PHMS and MNHS hosted New Student Orientations in late August.

The elementary schools hosted New Students and Kindergarten Orientations.

We welcomed our students back to our schools on September 2, 2025.

Our six schools hosted Back to School nights.

PHMS Renaissance Committee hosted the 6th Grade Social on September 12.

MNHS hosted the homecoming game and dance last weekend.

PHMS had a power outage today. As a result, the students were dismissed early from school. Thank you to the students and staff for their patience and understanding.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Raymond

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 885377 to attend a private school for the 2025-2026 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Confidential Settlement Agreement and Release for student 884515 for reimbursement for educational services privately obtained for Student by parents through August 31, 2025, amount not to exceed \$3,500.

Motion to approve the agreement with Elwyn Davidson School for 2025-2026 for support for student 886901 in accordance with the IEP.

Motion to approve tuition for student 887090 and student 887228 at Cades for the 2025-2026 school year. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Raymond

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 \$6,873,107.89, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$676,963.08, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$58,981.32.

11.03 Monthly Reports

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

11.04 Request for Refund of Discount

Motion to request a refund of the discount on Folio 25-00-00286-00 in the amount of \$111.43, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Raymond

Mr. Reynolds

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

Mr. Dezzi asked for motions under 12.02 through 12.09 to be approved.

12.02 Change Order, Library, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion to approve John Benner Company, for additional painting for the Paxon Hollow Middle School library renovation, in the amount of \$1,200, funded through capital reserve.

12.03 Seal Coating and Line Striping, Parking Lot, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion to approve All Out Parking Lots, with the sealcoating and line striping of the parking lot, at Paxon Hollow Middle School, under Costars contract #029-E25-160 in the amount of \$31,530, funded through capital reserve, as presented.

12.04 Line Striping, Parking Lot, Culbertson Elementary School, Loomis Elementary School, and Russell Elementary School

Motion to approve All Out Parking Lots, with the line striping of the parking lot at Culbertson Elementary School, under Costars contract #029-E25-160 in the amount of \$2,070, funded through capital reserve, as presented.

Motion to approve All Out Parking Lots, with the line striping of the parking lot at Loomis Elementary School, under Costars contract #029-E25-160 in the amount of \$1,050, funded through capital reserve, as presented.

Motion to approve All Out Parking Lots, with the line striping of the parking lot at Russell Elementary

School, under Costars contract #029-E25-160 in the amount of \$1,270, funded through capital reserve, as presented.

12.05 Installation of Metal Panels and Framing, Worrall Elementary School

Motion to approve Periera Construction LLC., with the installation of metal panels and framing to emergency exit ramps and steps, at Worrall Elementary School, under Costars contract #536618 in the amount of \$15,800, funded through capital reserve, as presented.

12.06 Mural Painting

Motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School Art Club to paint a mural on the high school senior wall, as presented.

12.07 Donation, Loomis Elementary

Moton to accept a donation from Loomis Elementary PTO for a new podium valued at \$1,710.

Motion to accept a donation from Loomis Elementary PTO for hallway, classroom and office signs.

12.08 Bid Rejection, Boiler Room, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Motion to reject all bids from August 12, 2025, bid opening, for the boiler room, at Paxon Hollow Middle School.

12.09 Transportation, Policy

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

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

After a brief discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

13.02 Administrative or Teacher Trips

Mrs. Altobelli asked that motions under 13.02 be approved.

Motion to approve Dr. Tina Kane to attend the AASA Superintendent of the Year Gala and Forum in Washington, D.C. on November 5-7, 2025. There is no cost to the District.

Motion to approve Michele O'Kane, librarian, to attend Power Library training on October 15, 2025,

at Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 and October 16, 2025, at Upper Merion Township Library. The cost to the District is approximately \$123.20, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

13.03 Professional Development

Mrs. Altobelli asked that motions under 13.03 be approved.

Motion to approve Dr. Kevin Fagan, Assistant Superintendent, to attend the PASA Superintendent Academy. The cost to the district not to exceed \$1,500, as presented.

Motion to approve Dr. Kevin Fagan, Assistant Superintendent, to attend the Aspiring Superintendent Series with the CCIU. The cost to the District not to exceed \$700, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

13.04 Academic Calendar

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Marple Newtown School District Academic Calendar, as presented.

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

After a brief discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

13.05 PSAT Schedule, Marple Newtown High School

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the PSAT schedule for Marple Newtown High School to include grades 9-11 as test takers and grade 12 to participate in a senior project day on October 15, 2025.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

13.06 Student Trips, Marple Newtown High School

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve Doug Killough, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Model UN students to Hershey Lodge from January 9-11, 2026. The cost of the activity is \$400 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

13.07 Curriculum Purchase

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve Math Medic Statistics Assessments for the AP Statistics course at Marple Newtown High School. The cost to the district is \$225, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

14.02 Resignations

Mr. Siano asked that motions under 14.02 through 14.06 be approved.

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Grace DeRosa – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: October 17, 2025

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Elise Marino – School Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 19, 2025
- 2) Cynthia Vadino – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School

Effective: September 19, 2025

- 3) Tiffany Ballard – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 12, 2025
- 4) Walter Ritter – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: September 12, 2025

14.03 Retirements

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Eileen Fox – Special Education Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: October 3, 2025
- 2) Celeste King – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: October 1, 2025

14.04 Appointments

ACT 93

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

- 1) Danielle Nunan – Coordinator of Pupil Services
Pupil Services Department
Effective: September 29, 2025
Salary: \$65,000.00
Reason: Replacing Lisa Bradley

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Emma Katch – LTS Computer Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: September 8, 2025 through June 16, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Carmela Curatola
- 2) Caitlyn Basquill – Substitute Registered Nurse, District Wide
Effective: September 25, 2025
Salary: \$32.00/hr.

Reason: Substitute

- 3) Melissa Sietsma – Autistic Support Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: November 10, 2025
Salary: \$74,200.00, MA Step 8
Reason: Replacing Monica DiStefano

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Nicole Iacovelli – School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: September 2, 2025
Salary: \$14,052.00
Reason: Replacing Jessica Poon
- 2) Price Carter – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: September 15, 2025
Salary: \$20.09/hr.
Reason: Replacing Ronald Burling
- 3) William McCullough – Special Education Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 25, 2025
Salary: \$20,762.00
Reason: Replacing Telasha Williams-Smith
- 4) Cynthia Vadino – Substitute Custodian
Operations Department – District Wide
Effective: September 25, 2025
Salary: \$21.38/hr.
Reason: Substitute
- 5) Tahmina Alam – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 15, 2025
Salary: \$14,052.00
Reason: Replacing Fjolla Shala
- 6) Mackenzie Ginter – Office Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: September 15, 2025
Salary: \$14,752.00
Reason: Replacing Caterina Salvino
- 7) Robert Naimoli – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department

Effective: September 28, 2025

Salary: \$20.09

Reason: Replacing John Vella

- 8) Elizabeth Seravello – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services Department
Effective: Upon completion of required paperwork
Salary: \$29,144.00
Reason: Replacing Andrea Vassalotti

14.05 Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Briana Graziola – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: November 17, 2025 through February 20, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Susan Benner – School Nurse
District Wide
Effective: September 2, 2025 through TBD
Reason: FMLA

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) Kathryn Disharoon – Science Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 2026 through June 2026
Reason: Rescind previously approved Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development
- 2) Robin McCarthy – Physical Education Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 8, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Bryan McKeon – Maintenance Worker
Operations Department
Effective: September 29, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA

- 2) Daniel Gilronan – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: December 12, 2025
Reason: Return from FMLA

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

14.07 Transfer(s)

Mr. Siano asked for a motion to approve 14.07 through 14.09

CLASSIFIED

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

	Name	From	To	Assignment
1)	Carrieann Meehan	Culbertson	Russell	Special Education Assistant

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.

14.09 Tuition Reimbursement

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the attached tuition reimbursement, in accordance with Act 93, MNEA, MNAA, and MNESPA negotiated agreements.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0
Absent: Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Raymond
Mr. Reynolds

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

16. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Community member would like in the future that a survey be sent to parents regarding the school calendar. She also asked if the first 3 days would be full days.

Response: The first 3 days are full and there will be another vote next year.

17. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dominick DuVernois
Board Secretary