

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Marple Newtown School District Board Room
Minutes

Board: Mrs. Dana Altobelli, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Ms. Kathleen Byrne,
Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. John McKenzie, Mrs. Lisa Pacell,
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: 3

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, Ms. Byrne, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey

5 Board members present

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

A community member spoke with regards to students with Mental Health issues. They would like to see the school district have a plan to help the students as well as the family. To have the support room where students are sent to get back on track be staffed with professionally trained teachers to help the student and maybe contact the parent first to talk with the student to get them back on track.

Students from MN Drama spoke and invited the Board to come to see the presentation of Chicago, which will be held in the MN performing arts Center.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Nick D'Ambrosio gave the following report:

- Due to severe winter weather, school was closed on January 26 and 27.
- Student Council successfully hosted its first Snowball for ninth and tenth grade students. The event welcomed over 200 students and featured winter themed decorations and strong student participation.
- On February 9, students were dismissed early due to a burst pipe that caused a building wide flood. School was also closed on February 10 to allow for necessary repairs and renovations.
- Students had half day on February 13, and later that day Jazz Fest was held at the high school performing arts center.
- Schools and district offices were closed on February 16 for Presidents Day.
- Parent teacher conferences took place on February 19.
- On February 20, we held our annual blood drive with the American Red Cross. We had over 75 students and staff signups, making it a very successful event.
- Marple also held its first Flexible Instruction Day (FID) yesterday due to a snowstorm. Students completed asynchronous assignments for attendance purposes.
- Today, February 24, second term Renaissance qualifiers attended a reward trip to Penn's Landing for ice skating.
- On February 25, the Apprenticeship and Trades Fair will be held, giving interested students the opportunity to explore career pathways, connect with local employers, trade schools, apprenticeship programs, military representatives, and training organizations, and learn about hands-on opportunities available after graduation
- Finally, Marple's Mini THON will be held this Friday, February 27. This major fundraiser and dance represent months of student planning and preparation. So far, approximately 275 people have been registered to attend and nearly \$30,000 has been raised. We look forward to seeing many of you there and truly appreciate your continued support.

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Thank you to our Operations Department for their great work and efforts to clear all the snow across the district. The storm was significant and the snow was heavy to remove. We appreciate our operations staff.

I would also like to thank our Transportation Department for their hard work cleaning and preparing our buses, as well as driving routes throughout the community to prepare for tomorrow's bus runs. We really appreciate their efforts to prepare our vehicles to transport students.

Kindergarten registration for the 2026-2027 school year opened on February 1, 2026. The registration process begins online by accessing our student registration tab on the district website.

Culbertson is wrapping up Booster Thon this week. Currently they have raised over \$15,000. The students and staff are looking forward to their "Fun Run" that will take place this coming Friday. Thank you to our PTO, and community members for making this Booster-Thon such a great success.

Loomis recently hosted Pizza Bingo and the Scholastic Book Fair and is now preparing for its annual Spring Fun Fair.

At Russell, Spring Clubs, Science Explorers and DelcoPit start this week. Also, First grade Family Music night is this Thursday at 6:00PM.

Worrall recently held its Coin Olympics pop-up fundraiser, with each grade level representing a country for raising funds. Congratulations to the first grade for winning the competition.

Paxon Hollow Middle School held its Winter Pep Rally, celebrating their winter athletes and their commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season. Everyone enjoyed a choir performance of "Eye of the Tiger".

This Friday MNHS is hosting mini-thon. Wishing the students great success.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Ms. Byrne

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

10. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions be approved

Motion to approve the contract for speech services with Lalis Speech Therapy Services, concluding June 12, 2026. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the contract with HMS school for the 2025-2026 school year for student 885770.

This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the revised agreement with the district and Advocacy Alliance for student 884600.
This is not a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

Mrs. Harvey asked for motions under 11.02 through 11.05 be approved

11.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,889,632.55, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$73,898.39, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$26,504.54, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$48,299.27.

11.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve the monthly Financial Report for December 2025, Treasurer's Report for December 2025, Investment Schedule for December 2025, and Budget Transfers.

11.04 Budgetary Reserve Transfer

Motion to approve a transfer from Budgetary Reserve in the amount of \$33,421.58 for heating oil at Paxon Hollow Middle School and Marple Newtown High School.

11.05 Baseball Turtle Purchase, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve the purchase of a baseball turtle from Baseball Tips, Inc. in the amount of \$6,900 as presented, and to authorize the necessary transfer of funds from the budgetary reserve.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Ms. Byrne

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Siano

11.06 Donation, Paxon Hollow Middle School

Mrs. Harvey asked for a motion to accept a donation to Paxon Hollow Middle School in the amount of \$1,673.99 for a water bottle filling station from the Paxon Hollow Middle School PTO.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

Mrs. Harvey asked that motions under 11.07 through 11.14 be approved

11.07 GASB 75 Valuation Service Agreement

Motion to approve the agreement with Conrad M. Siegel, Inc. and Pennsylvania Trust to provide actuarial services for GASB 75, as presented.

11.08 Resolution for Candidate for DCIU Board

Motion to approve the resolution to re-appointment of Mrs. Barbara S. Harvey as the Intermediate Unit Board member representing Marple Newtown School District for the term commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2029.

11.09 PA State Grant

Motion to approve the application to apply for the Public School Facility Improvement Program PA State Grant. Any matching funds required will be funded through capital reserve.

11.10 Grant Advisory Services

Motion to approve Government Consulting LLC with consulting and grant advisory services, as presented subject to review and approval of the final language by the Solicitor.

11.11 Resolution for Declaration of Intent to Reimburse

Motion to approve the Resolution for Declaration of Intent to Reimburse, which declares the School District's intent to reimburse itself for capital expenditures for the Worrall Elementary School expansion and renovation project with the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or obligations pursuant to the requirements of U.S. Treasury Regulation §1.150-2.

11.12 Bond Underwriter

Motion to approve Huntington Securities, Inc. to serve as underwriter for the issuance and/or refunding of the School District's General Obligation Bonds, in place of the previously authorized underwriter.

11.13 Request for Abatement of Penalty

Motion to request to abate and refund the penalty on Folio 30-00-02581-00 in the amount of \$409.06.

11.14 Request for Refund of Discount

Motion to request a refund of the discount on Folio 30-00-02617-11 in the amount of \$299.51.

Motion was made by Mr. Bilker, seconded by Ms. Byrne
With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

12. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – David Dezzi, Chairperson

12.02 Renovation Project, Worrall Elementary School

Mr. Dezzi asked for a motion approve Bonnett Medica Associates Inc., to solicit bids for the renovation project at Worrall Elementary School.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

13. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – Dana Altobelli, Chairperson

Mrs. Altobelli asked for motions under 13.02 through 13.03 be approved

13.02 Administrative Trips

Motion to approve Stephanie Sturdivant, principal, to attend Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Leadership Forum in State College, PA from March 18-20, 2026. The cost to the District is \$887.18, as presented.

13.03 Student Trips

Motion to approve Anita Stum, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Future Business Leaders of America club to Hershey, PA from April 12-15, 2026. The cost of transportation

is \$791.32 to be paid by the District. The cost of the activity is \$15,174 to be paid by both the student and the District. The total cost to the District is \$12,825.32, as presented.

Motion to approve Jake Olimpi, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown Tiger Marching Band to Camp Canadensis from August 21-24, 2026. The cost of transportation is \$5,153 to be paid by the District. The cost of the activity is \$188 per student to be paid by the student. The total cost to the district is \$5,153, as presented.

Motion to approve Doug Killough, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School Youth and Government club to Harrisburg, PA from April 16-19, 2026. The cost of transportation is \$20 per student to be paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$500 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Christine Roy, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School STEM Academy students to Hershey, PA on May 22, 2026. The cost of transportation is \$27 per student to be paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$75 per student to be paid by the students. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Dan Keehn, assistant principal, and Jennifer Strimel, teacher, to accompany Paxton Hollow eighth grade students to Hershey Park, PA on June 4, 2026. The cost of transportation is \$50 per student to be paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$63 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

Motion to approve Jordan Marmelstein, advisor, to accompany Paxton Hollow Middle School band, orchestra, and choir to Dorney Park on May 15, 2026. The cost of transportation is \$44 per student to be paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$28 per student to be paid by the student and \$639.50 to be paid by the District. The total cost to the District is \$693.50, as presented.

Motion was made by Ms. Byrne, seconded by Mrs. Harvey

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

Mrs. Altobelli asked for motions under 13.04 through 13.08 be approved

13.04 Elementary School Growth Assessment Pilot

Motion to approve the implementation of a pilot using Northwest Evaluation Association MAP Growth Assessments for Grade 3 students at Culbertson and Worrall. The cost to the district is \$1,810, as presented.

13.05 Book Title Adoptions, Culbertson Elementary

Motion to approve new book titles to Culbertson Elementary School, as presented.

13.06 Book Disposal, Marple Newtown High School

Motion to approve the disposal of books at Marple Newtown High School, as presented.

13.07 Curriculum Purchase

Motion to approve the purchase of supplemental teaching materials for elementary social studies. The cost is \$3,053.04 to be paid by Ready to Learn Grant, as presented.

13.08 Professional Development

Motion to approve a Multi-tiered System of Support professional development session by Branching Minds on February 13, 2026. The cost to the district is \$1,600, as presented.

Motion to approve three Health and Physical Education teachers to a virtual professional development session with Delaware County Intermediate Unit on February 13, 2026. The cost to the District is \$294, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Bilker asked for motions under 14.02 be approved

14.02 Policy

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 320, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 321, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 322, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 323 Vol II 2024, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 324, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 325, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 328, as presented. District

Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 330, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 331, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 333, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 334, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 335, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 336 Vol I 2025, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 337, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 338, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 338.1, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 339 Vol I 2025, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 341, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 342, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 343, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the First Reading of updated School Board Policy 351 Vol II 2024, as presented. District Solicitor has reviewed.

Motion to approve the Retirement of School Board Policy 248, as presented.

Motion to approve the Retirement of School Board Policy 313.1, as presented.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Ms. Byrne

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell
Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

14.03 Resignations

Mr. Bilker asked for motions under 14.03 through 14.22 be approved

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s), item(s) 1 through 6:

- 1) Jennifer Warner – Special Education Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: February 27, 2026
- 2) Antionette Frese – Principal Secretary
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: March 6, 2026
- 3) Delourdes Etienne – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: March 13, 2026
- 4) Grace Gardler – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: February 18, 2026
- 5) Corey Alexander – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: March 6, 2026
- 6) Katherine Fusaro – Special Education Assistant
Special Education Assistant
Effective: February 27, 2026

14.04 Retirements

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Teresa Appleby – Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: June 16, 2026

14.05 Termination(s)

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional termination(s), item(s) 1 through 2:

- 1) Sara Schoen – Substitute Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: February 10, 2026
Reason: End of substitute assignment for Stephanie Borowski
- 2) Tatianna Elliott – Substitute Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: January 29, 2026
Reason: Job Abandonment

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified termination(s), item(s) 1 through 5:

- 1) Maria Siegert – Classified Substitute
District Wide
Effective: February 24, 2026
Reason: Unavailable for work
- 2) Daniel Flaherty – Substitute Custodian
District Wide
Effective: February 24, 2026
Reason: Unavailable for work
- 3) Jeremy Kilpatrick – Substitute Custodian
District Wide
Effective: February 24, 2026
Reason: Unavailable for work
- 4) Erik Molinaro – Substitute Custodian
District Wide
Effective: February 24, 2026
Reason: Unavailable for work
- 5) Chief Sheriff – Substitute Custodian
District Wide
Effective: February 24, 2026
Reason: Unavailable for work

14.06 Appointments

ADMINISTRATION

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

- 1) David Uglow – Assistant Director of Technology
Technology Department
Salary: \$115,360.00
Effective: March 16, 2026

Reason: Replacing Brett Snell

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Alyssa Clair Lerner – LTS Art Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: March 10, 2026 through June 2, 2026
Salary: \$56,800.00, BA +24 Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Liza Spratt
- 2) Samantha Beale – LTS Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: February 23, 2026 through April 7, 2026
Salary: \$55,500.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Briana Graziola

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Erin Sheldon – Title I Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: February 25, 2026
Salary: \$18.70/hr.
Reason: Replacing Thomas Mann
- 2) Charles Carpenter – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: February 23, 2026
Salary: \$20.09/hr.
Reason: Replacing Adam Decker
- 3) Katherine Fusaro – Principal Secretary
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: March 2, 2026
Salary: \$31,325.00
Reason: Replacing Antionette Frese

14.07 Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Molly Macias – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: May 18, 2026 through June 16, 2026

Reason: Uncompensated Leave

- 2) Alexa Coyne – Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: May 11, 2026 through October 5, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 3) Karen Pantle – Family Consumer Science Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 18, 2026 through January 26, 2027
Reason: Sabbatical Leave – Professional Development
- 4) Briana Graziola – Elementary Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Effective: February 17, 2026 through April 6, 2026
Reason: Uncompensated Leave

CLASSIFIED

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

- 1) Laralee Britt – Food Service Worker II
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: February 4, 2026 through March 4, 2026
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Mary Kane-Weist – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: January 5, 2026 through March 27, 2026
Reason: Uncompensated Leave
- 3) Avril Ponting – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: April 8, 2026 through TBD
Reason: Adjusted Uncompensated Leave dates

14.08 Return from Leave(s) of Absence

PROFESSIONAL

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

- 1) Stephanie Borowski – Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: February 9, 2026
Reason: Return from FMLA
- 2) Susan Benner – Health Room Nurse
District Wide
Effective: February 2, 2026
Reason: Return from FMLA

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified return from leave(s), item(s) 1 through 3:

- 1) Christina Pickering – School Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: February 23, 2026
Reason: Return from Uncompensated Leave
- 2) Viola Zisis – Food Service Worker II
Russell Elementary School
Effective: February 2, 2026
Reason: Return from Uncompensated Leave
- 3) Jeannette Weyhmiller – Special Education Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: February 9, 2026
Reason: Return from FMLA

14.09 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>Current Assignment</u>	<u>After Transfer</u>
1) Susan Carey	Transportation Department	Bus Driver	Van Driver II

14.10 School Psychologist Summer Hours

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve summer hours for six (6) school psychologists at the current contracted rate per hour for a maximum of 40 hours per psychologist for the period of June 2026 through August 2026.

14.11 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 Ms. Byrne

With no further discussion motion passed 5 – 0

Absent: Mr. McKenzie
Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds
Mr. Siano

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 6:48 PM

Respectfully submitted

Dominck DuVernois
Board Secretary