

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 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 27

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM and advised that the Board met in Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. McKenzie led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. PRESENT

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

6 members present

Absent: Ms. Byrne

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 Mr. McKenzie, seconded by Mr. Siano

With no further discussion motion passed 6 – 0

Absent: Ms. Byrne

Mrs. Pacell

Mr. Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds arrived at the meeting at the beginning of the public comment. Seven members present with Ms. Byrne and Mrs. Pacell being absent.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Several members of the community came to speak about their support for Mr. Snow having the supplemental position, coach of the high school softball team. They want him to come back and support him, having no improvement plan. There were also community members that spoke and advised that they did not think that Mr. Snow should come back. That they did not have the same experience as the others in the audience.

Mr. Bilker again asked Mr. Sereni to explain the supplemental contracts. Mr. Sereni advised that the supplemental contracts are year to year. That the administration acts on the recommendation of the athletic director and administration at the high school. He also advised that there was no recommendation for a vote tonight.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kane gave the following report:

Thursday, August 27, the District will host orientations for new students, Kindergarteners, 6th and 9th grade orientation.

Our elementary schools will also be hosting an Open House for Grades 1-5 on Thursday, August 27. This schoolwide event gives families an opportunity to visit the school, meet their child's teacher, see the classroom, and drop off school supplies before the first day of school.

Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

9. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Ms. Byrne
Mrs. Pacell

10. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the following:

Motion to approve the Legal Agreement and Contract with Julie Migatz for the 2026-2027 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school year Agreement with the Pathway School for student 884721. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school year Agreement with the Pathway School for student 884074. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school year Agreement with the Pathway School for student 885567. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Agreement with Collaborative Therapy Solutions from August 31st, 2026 October 26th, 2026. This is a new agreement.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Ms. Byrne
Mrs. Pacell

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

11.01 Committee Report – Barbara Harvey, Chairperson

11.02 Bills for Payment

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$2,646,817.74, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$355,465.84, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$1,614,286.91, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$8,825.68.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Ms. Byrne
Mrs. Pacell

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

13.02 Student Trips

Mrs. Altobelli asked for a motion to approve Doug Killough, advisor, to accompany Marple Newtown High School National Honor Society to St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, NY on December 10,

2026. The cost of transportation is \$2,645 to be paid by the student. The cost of the activity is \$25 per student to be paid by the student. There is no cost to the District, as presented.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Ms. Byrne
Mrs. Pacell

14. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

Mr. Siano asked for motions under 14.02 through 14.13 be approved.

14.02 Resignations

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignations, items 1 through 3:

- 1) Robert Ruppert – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: August 11, 2026
- 2) Patricia Gargale – Food Service Substitute
Food Services Department, District-wide
Effective: August 19, 2026
- 3) Colleen Hough – Food Service Worker II
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: August 19, 2026

14.03 Retirements

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified retirements, items 1 through 2:

- 1) Kimberly Ward – Special Education Assistant
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: November 2, 2026
- 2) Kathleen Lisacchi – School Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 10, 2026

14.04 Terminations

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified terminations, items 1 through 3:

- 1) Owen Raymond – Summer Custodian
Effective: August 16, 2026
Reason: End of Summer Help
- 2) Donald Vogelgesang – Summer Custodian
Effective: August 16, 2026
Reason: End of Summer Help
- 3) Marco D'Alicandro – Summer Custodian
Effective: August 16, 2026
Reason: End of Summer Help

14.05 Appointments

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

- 1) Christina Rainville – Supervisor of Teaching and Learning
Teaching and Learning Department
Effective: Based upon hiring of replacement
Salary: \$115,000.00
Reason: Replacing Lisa Kelly

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional appointments upon successful completion of required paperwork, items 1 through 5:

- 1) Eve Francisco – LTS Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: August 18, 2026 through November 3, 2026
Salary: \$56,750.00, BA Step 1
Reason: Substitute for Kellylynn Nicholson
- 2) Susan Crouse – Speech and Language Pathologist
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: Based upon release from current district
Salary: \$85,750.00, MA Step 12
Reason: Replacing Chasse Guerrera
- 3) Panagiotis Tsiakiris – English Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Effective: Based upon completion of required paperwork
Salary: \$74,700.00, MA Step 8
Reason: Replacing Jamie Brigham

- 4) Jennifer Crilly – Mathematics Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: Based upon completion of required paperwork
Salary: \$69,200.00, MA Step 5
Reason: Replacing Elizabeth Knowlton
- 5) Daryl Freedman – Music Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: Based upon completion of required paperwork
Salary: \$63,000.00, MA Step 2
Reason: Replacing Larysa Dragonetti

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointments upon successful completion of required paperwork, items 1 through 11:

- 1) Martin Roach – Bus Driver in Training
Transportation Department
Effective: August 26, 2026
Salary: \$20.69/hr.
Reason: Replacing Tashiya Harris
- 2) Ali Boulakhdart – Custodian
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 26, 2026
Salary: \$22.45/hr.
Reason: Replacing Robert Gorman
- 3) Anthony Buccella – Custodian
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 26, 2026
Salary: \$22.45/hr.
Reason: Replacing Teeara Sheaff
- 4) Ashlee Rodriguez – School Assistant
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: September 1, 2026
Salary: \$15,036.00
Reason: Replacing Jessica Misner
- 5) Dorothy Meehan – School Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: September 1, 2026
Salary: \$15,036.00
Reason: Replacing Andrew Wilson
- 6) Kristine Maguire – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 24, 2026
Salary: \$22,216.00

Reason: Replacing Grace Gardler

- 7) William Lessig – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: August 26, 2026
Salary: \$32.06/hr.
Reason: Replacing Dennis Kraus
- 8) Melissa Cain-Walther – Transportation Aide
Transportation Department
Effective: August 26, 2026
Salary: \$20.69/hr.
Reason: Replacing Julie Tamaccio
- 9) Jeannette Issa – School Assistant
Russell Elementary School
Effective: September 1, 2026
Salary: \$15,036.00
Reason: Replacing Dana Lorenston
- 10) Ariana Taylor – School Assistant
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: September 1, 2026
Salary: \$15,036.00
Reason: Replacing Elise Marino
- 11) Christina Salladino – Food Service Worker II
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 26, 2026
Salary: \$16.67/hr.
Reason: Replacing Margaret Nilan

14.06 Leaves of Absence

ACT 93

Motion to approve the following Act 93 leave of absence, item 1:

- 1) Krista Callaghan – Deskside Technician
IT Department
Effective: June 4, 2026
Reason: Intermittent FMLA

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leaves of absence, items 1 through 2:

- 1) Sara Berl – Design Thinking Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: January 4, 2027 through April 2, 2027
Reason: FMLA

- 2) Kellylynn Nicholson – Elementary Teacher
Worrall Elementary School
Effective: October 5, 2026 through October 30, 2026
Reason: Child Rearing Leave

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leaves of absence, items 1 through 3:

- 1) LeeAnn Kelly – 12-Month Secretary
Pupil Services Department
Effective: July 6, 2026 through September 25, 2026
Reason: FMLA
- 2) Laura Barnett – Special Education Assistant
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 24, 2026
Reason: Intermittent FMLA
- 3) Linda Moore – Bus Driver
Transportation Department
Effective: September 1, 2026 through TBD
Reason: Uncompensated Leave

14.07 Return from Leaves of Absence

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified return from leave of absence, item 1:

- 1) Laralee Britt – Food Service Worker
Culbertson Elementary School
Effective: August 25, 2026
Reason: Return from Uncompensated Leave

14.08 Transfers

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the recommended classified transfer(s), effective for the 2026 – 2027 School Year, item(s) 1:

	Name	From	Assignment	To	Assignment
1)	Brian Pierce	MNHS	Custodian	PHMS	Custodian

14.09 Contract Renewals

Motion to reapprove the contract between Institutional Compliance Solutions (ICS) and Marple Newtown School District to provide the district with a full range of consulting services with a specialization in Title IX compliance as mandated by the Federal Government. The total cost is

\$6,000.00, as presented.

14.10 Supplementary Contracts

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2026-2027 school year, in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement, as attached.

14.11 Education Attainment – Column Movement

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to recognize the educational attainment of professional personnel, items 1 through 2, for the 2026-2027 School year.

14.12 Professional Attainment – Tenure

Motion to record in the records of the Board the attainment of tenure and the awarding of a Professional Employee Contract to the following 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 1 through 15.

	Name	Location	Date Achieved
1)	Laine Iacovella	Culbertson Elementary	6/16/2026
2)	Alexandra Labutis	Worrall Elementary	6/16/2026
3)	Alison Young Brunke	Culbertson Elementary	6/16/2026
4)	Catherine Smith	Loomis Elementary	6/16/2026
5)	Agavni Degirmenci	Culbertson Elementary	6/16/2026
6)	Taylor Patterson	Special Ed Pupil Services	6/16/2026
7)	Rachel Black	Worrall Elementary	6/16/2026
8)	Jessica Falco	Culbertson Elementary	6/16/2026
9)	Ariana Galante	Loomis Elementary	6/16/2026
10)	Angelina Giordano	Paxon Hollow Middle Sch	6/16/2026
11)	Alison Mezzanotte	Loomis Elementary	6/16/2026
12)	Michael O'Shea	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/16/2026
13)	Nicole Pica	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/16/2026
14)	Robert Smythe	Marple Newtown Sr High	6/16/2026
15)	Madelyn Zielinski	Russell Elementary	6/16/2026

14.13 Memorandum of Understanding

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Marple Newtown School District and the Marple Newtown Education Support Professionals (MNESPA) regarding duties that are guaranteed for bargaining unit members.

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

With no further discussion motion passed 7 – 0

Absent: Ms. Byrne
Mrs. Pacell

15. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Mr. Bilker asked for an update on the Worrall renovation project and how did the first week of school go.

Mr. Gallagher advised that phase 1 is completed and working on phase 2.

Dr. Fagan advised that the first week was very positive.

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 7:36 PM

Respectfully submitted

Dominck DuVernois
Board Secretary