

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER
Board Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting
September 17, 2026

Convened: 5:01 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President, Bonnie Lovejoy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Vice President, Bonnie Lovejoy, and followed by a moment of silence.

Roll call: Roger Boltz and Heather Hakin were absent.

Featured Program: Superintendent, Mr. Randy Griffith, reviewed Mr. Greg Foster's history, qualifications, and comments. Mr. Griffith escorted the Board down to the Auto Collision Technology lab where he introduced Mr. Foster. Mr. Foster, along with students Marshal Froehlich and Mercedes Conner, gave a presentation highlighting the Auto Collision Technology program.

The meeting recessed at 5:03 p.m. and reconvened at 5:29 p.m.

Accepted and approved the Board meeting agenda for September 17, 2026, as presented on CivicPlus.

Accepted and approved the minutes for the August 20, 2026, regular meeting, as presented.

The following visitor's were received: Miss Genevieve Wisniewski and Miss Lily Wisniewski.

Present: Mr. Randy Griffith, Superintendent; Mrs. Michelle Seckman, Treasurer

Board Vice President, Bonnie Lovejoy, had nothing to report.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposal to potentially terminate or significantly limit the E-Rate program was published in the Federal Register in August. This formally started the clock on the public's chance to respond. E-Rate is the fifth largest stream of federal funding in the nation's schools. It is the only federal education technology program and has been in place for nearly thirty years. It has supported affordable broadband connectivity to more than 100,000 schools and 11,000 libraries across the country each year. The proposal asks whether E-Rate should be terminated or limited to rural areas only. The commission cited the need to address issues related to students' online safety, excessive screen time, use of social media sites, and exposure to harmful content. The publication opens a 60-day comment period. Comments are due on or before October 13, 2026. Comments filed become part of the official record and the FCC must consider before it can act. School leaders are encouraged to comment on the impact the reductions or elimination of E-Rate would have on their districts and students.
- Both chambers of the U.S. Congress returned from recess in early September. Before they broke for that recess, the U.S. House and Senate took multiple conflicting votes, laying the groundwork for a busy Fall. Both chambers adopted their own versions of a continuing resolution (CR) to continue funding the federal government and avoid a shutdown. The House CR would fund the government at current levels through December 4, 2026. The Senate CR would fund the government through December 11, 2026, and include language that blocks the implementation of proposed Office of Budget Management rules that would dramatically overhaul the federal grantmaking process and inject incredible uncertainty into a long-settled process. September will begin with two fiscal challenges, reconciling the House and Senate CRs before September 30, 2026, and restarting the stalled FY2027 appropriations process. The House has passed three of the twelve appropriations bills and the Senate has passed none. The planned Senate committee markups were previously postponed amid disagreements over spending and priorities. Before the recess, the House Education and Workforce Committee passed ten bills with only Republican votes that would permanently reassign significant functions and funds out of the U.S. Department of Education and into other federal agencies. The bills are structured identically, and each tracks one of the interagency agreements the administration has been using to further its stated goal of dismantling the U.S. Department of Education and

Workforce by moving implementation of its major programs to other agencies. However, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee approved, with bipartisan support, Senate Bill (SB) 5046 to prohibit the administration from transferring any of the functions or funds of the U.S. Department of Education and Workforce offices to other federal agencies, whether via interagency agreements or other means. The four offices covered by Senate Bill (SB) 5046 include the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Office of Postsecondary Education, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and the Office of Indian Education. The bills passed by the House and Senate committees now move to their respective chamber floors for a vote, but how the chambers reconcile their seemingly opposing stances remains to be seen.

- Senate Bill (SB) 464 was recently introduced. It would authorize a refundable tax credit for compensation paid to skilled trades instructors.
- House Bill (HB) 990 was recently introduced. It would abate some property taxes on township property.

Student Achievement Liaison, Joan Seman, had nothing to report.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Griffith thanked Auto Collision Technology instructor, Mr. Greg Foster, and the students for coming in tonight and giving a great presentation.
- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Day School Report: Auto Collision Technology Roster; Enrollment numbers; and Junior Orientation attendance (81.77%). Mr. Griffith believes a reason enrollment is down may be due to students being able to list three program options. Students who end up in their third program may not be interested in that program and decide to go back to their home schools.
- Construction seems to be going pretty well. There are some areas of the soil that need remediation, mostly in the existing parking areas. Construction is currently stalled while the contractors wait on the delivery of underground structures. Gas and power shutdowns will be necessary and will occur during non-school hours, most likely on NEOEA day and over Thanksgiving.
- The Hospitality Service Careers program will be discontinued next year. It will be replaced with a Pastry Arts program.
- The Mechanical, Groundskeeping and Construction program will also be discontinued next year. It will be replaced with a Groundskeeping, Construction and Heavy Equipment program.
- Mr. Griffith has received six applicants for the Fire and EMT Program instructor. He will interview two applicants tomorrow and is confident an instructor will be in place for the 2027-2028 school year.

The following recommendations were made by the Treasurer and motions were acted on by the Board:

- The District Financial Reports were approved and filed for the month of August, 2026.
- The checks/expenditures were approved for the month of August, 2026.
- The investments were ratified for the month of August, 2026.
- The bank reconciliation was ratified for the month of August, 2026.
- Approved the "Set-A-sides" for FY2027: Set-Aside for FY2027 for Capital Outlay and Maintenance.
- **Informational Items:** Fiscal Year 2026 GAAP Conversion; Fiscal Year 2026 Compliance Audit; Pepple and Waggoner, School Law Update Seminar, Holiday Inn Cleveland South, Cleveland, Ohio, Thursday, September 24, 2026; OSBA Northeast Region Fall Conference DiLucia's Banquet and Catering Facility, Warren, Wednesday, September 30, 2026; OSBA Capital Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, November 15-17, 2026.

The following recommendations were made by the Superintendent and motions were acted on by the Board:

- Approved employment of one part-time Adult Education instructor.
- Approved a move on the current teachers' salary schedule for, Renee Bell, Guidance Counselor; Dexter Dorris, Power Equipment Mechanics Instructor; Greg Foster, Auto Collision Technology Instructor; Joe Svonavec, Electricity Instructor and Ben Vecchio, Criminal Justice Instructor, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Other Recommendations:

- Commended the cafeteria, secretarial, maintenance, custodial, Adult Education, and technology staff for their preparations and hard work leading to a smooth start of the new school year.
- Commended the instructional staff and day school administrators for an excellent start to the new school year.
- Commended the staff who manned Maplewood's Portage County Randolph Fair booth from August 25-30, 2026.
- Approved an overnight field trip for the students and advisors in the Mechanical, Groundskeeping and Construction and Hospitality Service Careers programs. The event will be held in Carrollton, Ohio, October 5-7, 2026.

New Business:

- Approved the USDA Foods Member Agreement for the 2027-2028 school year.
- Approved joining the HPS Committed Purchasing Program, during the 2026-2027 school year.

Executive Session: Employment or appointment of public employees, and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law. **(5:48 p.m. – 6:03 p.m.)**

Adjourned: 6:03 p.m.