

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel, litigation matters, collective bargaining and labor issues. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Carla Buxton  
Daniel Caton  
Victoria Gill  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Daniel Santia  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent  
Matthew Erickson  
Lori McKittrick

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Edward Katkich and Rob Kartychak, Principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

At this time, Dr. Beltz reviewed items that would be voted on later in the meeting.

**Finance and Budget:** Ms. McKittrick, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resolution #1-2023, a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District, certifying that the District will not raise the rate of any tax for the

support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, which for the 2023-2024 school year is 5.4%.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resignation of Dominic Treemarchi, bus driver, effective December 5, 2022.
2. Resignation of Vanessa Schreiber, teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, effective January 3, 2023.
3. Resignation of Mark Selzer, varsity tennis coach, effective January 11, 2023.

Mrs. Miller said that Mr. Selzer was an excellent coach and would be missed by the team.

4. Resignation of Nancy Hessler, bus driver, effective January 3, 2023.
5. Appointment of Stanley Magusiak, volunteer assistant bowling coach, effective January 11, 2023.
6. Employment of Taylor Carnot, elementary Title 1 long-term substitute teacher effective December 9, 2022 through December 23, 2022.
7. Resignation for retirement of Ivona Krigar, cook and custodian at Hopewell Elementary School, effective January 1, 2023.
8. Employment of Arlene King, substitute custodian, effective January 12, 2023.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the January 24, 2023 Business meeting.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction:** Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2023-2024 School Year.  
  
Dr. Beltz reported that the only change to the guide for 2023-2024 was the addition of pre-algebra to the course list.
2. Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2023-2024 School Year.

3. Madison Martin, a student at Geneva College, to complete her student teaching at the Senior High School during the spring semester under the guidance of Nick Mohrbacher.
4. Discussion Item: Status of approval of the proposed new Articles of Agreement for the Beaver County Career & Technology Center.

Mr. Salopek stated that the Articles of Agreement by and between the Beaver County Career and Technology Center (“CTC”) and the school districts in Beaver County had expired in 1997. Since that time, both entities continued to follow the Agreement. Approximately two years ago the CTC updated the Agreement for approval by each district. At this time, three districts have voted no, Aliquippa, Blackhawk and Western Beaver. Mr. Salopek advised the Board to wait to approve the Agreement until all districts agree on its contents.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Daniel Caton, Chair; Vicki Gill, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Five year contract with Aramark to provide mop service to all District buildings.

**Finance and Budget:** Ms. McKittrick, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Audit Report of the Hopewell Area School District for the year ended June 30, 2022 issued by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.
2. Request of Jared Rogers to purchase parcels 65-004-1411 and 65-004-1409 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated, provided that the purchasers shall pay the school real estate tax for the 2021-2022 tax year through the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau, including any fees, costs, penalties and interest on the 2021-2022 tax year school real estate tax.

**Nutrition and Food Services:** Mrs. Pistorius, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Proposal from Singer Equipment Company in the amount of \$21,995.89 to purchase a gas convection steamer for the Senior High School kitchen. Amount to be taken from the Capital Reserve Fund. Costars Contract No. 036-005.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Debbie McMahon, head cook at the Senior High School, for an unpaid leave of absence from March 27, 2023 through March 31, 2023.
2. Resignation for retirement of Debbie McMahon, head cook at the Senior High School, effective April 2, 2023.

### VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Effective October 12, 2021, a maximum of thirty minutes total will be reserved during the Board meeting for community members who request to speak. At any time the Board may allow additional time for the visitors portion of the Board meeting.

Whether the community member is participating virtually, or in-person, the community member will:

- State their name
- Have up to three minutes to make a statement and/or ask a question to the Board
- Only be able to speak once during the visitors portion of the board meeting
- Have their time begin when the individual begins to speak

It is recommended that community members wishing to speak during the visitors portion email the Board Secretary prior to the board meeting, however the online chat will be monitored during the visitors portion of the meeting for anyone wishing to speak.

A response may be given during the meeting, however, it is also possible that no response be provided during the Board meeting. The Board will instruct the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and/or the Solicitor to either respond to the inquiry or do further research and report back to the Board and/or the resident. For any question that requires a response, the District will contact the individual directly to respond or will share responses at the following Board meeting.

### **Amy Sutton**

Mrs. Sutton explained that she has three children at Hopewell Elementary School and stated that while she appreciates all efforts that have been made to identify the odor in the building, she is still concerned that the exact cause has not be found. She asked if the District had a plan of action so that students do not have to transition to remote learning again. She expressed that it is very important for in-person learning. She asked if the District was planning to have the feasibility study, which was completed in 2019 by VEBH, updated. Mrs. Sutton also had questions about classrooms, such as, how many classrooms are empty, which classrooms have air purifiers and dehumidifiers, and were shrews found in the walls. She also asked the status of teacher negotiations, since the teachers are currently without a contract.

Dr. Beltz said that some of her questions would be answered at the end of the meeting when he, Mr. King and Mr. Kopar give an update of the environmental issues at Hopewell Elementary School. He also stated that he has contacted VEBH for a feasibility study update and will be meeting with them on Friday.

### **Stacy Richart**

Mrs. Richart stated that the Girls Basketball Boosters are sponsoring a t-shirt design contest, "Fight Like A Viking," with the proceeds to support a District family that has a child battling childhood leukemia. The team will pick the winner on January 11. She stated that on February 9, 2023, they will be hosting a "Fight Cancer" game against Ambridge, with those proceeds going to the family as well. That evening players will wear the winner of the Fight Like A Viking t-shirt contest and shirts will be available for sale. Mrs. Richart, on behalf of the Pavlisko family, thanked the District for their support.

### **Jessica Olson**

Mrs. Olson stated that she has a second grader at Hopewell Elementary and a fifth grader. She thanked Dr. Beltz and the District for all that they have done regarding environmental issues at Hopewell Elementary and acknowledged that progress had been made. However, she is concerned that the odor is still present and asked how it will continue to be investigated to locate the source.

### **Megan Perri**

Mrs. Perry stated that her son was in the kindergarten class that was moved. She asked if the classroom is safe, why haven't the students moved back to their original classroom.

Dr. Beltz stated that he talked with the teacher that morning and explained that the classroom was safe for their return.

### **Nathan Carver**

Mr. Carver expressed his frustration with the short notice for students going to virtual learning in December. He also asked what the water situation was at Hopewell Elementary, as he had heard that the District was providing bottled water. He asked what the odor was in the classroom and why children were sick.

Dr. Beltz stated that the District provided water as a cautionary measure since he had not received the final water tests back. He stated that additional information would be provided during his presentation.

At this time, Mr. Santia returned to Finance and Budget.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair**

**MOTION #2**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve Resolution #1-2023, a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District, certifying that the District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, which for the 2023-2024 school year is 5.4%. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**

**MOTION #3**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to accept the resignation of Dominic Treemarchi, bus driver, effective December 5, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, to accept the resignation of Vanessa Schreiber, teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, effective January 3, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, to accept the resignation of Mark Selzer, varsity tennis coach, effective January 11, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to accept the resignation of Nancy Hessler, bus driver, effective January 3, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the appointment of Stanley Magusiak, volunteer assistant bowling coach, effective January 11, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of Taylor Carnot, elementary Title 1 long-term substitute teacher effective December 9, 2022 through December 23, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to accept the resignation for retirement of Ivona Krigar, cook and custodian at Hopewell Elementary School, effective January 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of Arlene King, substitute custodian, effective January 12, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Environmental Update of Hopewell Elementary School

Dr. Beltz, Bill King from Facilities Management Systems and Mike Kopar, Project Manager for Environmental Services for Intertek presented all information that has been discovered during the investigation of environmental issues at Hopewell Elementary School. To date, all reports for air quality and water tests have confirmed that there are no issues at the school. Fogging and ozone treatments were completed by ServPro and Bactronix was used throughout the building. Renick Brothers was used to service every HVAC unit in the Building, which includes 30 cabinet-height classroom units and 15 ceiling units. With that being said, individuals continue to report a slight odor in the areas previously identified. Dr. Beltz confirmed that the District will continue to do everything possible to locate and remediate the issue.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

January 24, 2023, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

MOTION by Jeanette Miller, seconded by Dan Caton, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary