

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Dan Santia, Board President.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia.

Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Anitre' Bell (participated via Zoom)
Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton (participated via Zoom)
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller (participated via Zoom)
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Board Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Principal; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

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

MOTION #1

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the agenda as written.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on later in this meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Ms. Bell and Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chairs

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Free school privileges for student #7268 to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Free school privileges for student #2875 to attend Hopewell Senior High School.

3. Outreach Services Agreement with the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resolution #1-2025, 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 Pennsylvania's approved annual Act 1 index limit, which for the 2025-2026 school year is 5.2%. **(Roll Call)**

Personnel: Mrs. Buxton, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resignation of Mike Lopata, substitute custodian, effective December 6, 2024.
2. Employment of Erica Herrington, long-term special education teacher at the Junior High School, effective January 6, 2025.
3. Resignation of Kimberly Yaria, substitute bus driver, effective December 4, 2024.
4. Resignation of Christopher Keiper, band director at the Senior High School, effective May 30, 2025.
5. Resignation for retirement of Cheryl Jones, Senior High School cafeteria, effective February 7, 2025.
6. Junior High School Volleyball coaches and stipends:

a.	Terry Borkovic, Head Coach	\$1,428.50
b.	Lexi Thompson, Assistant Coach	\$1,428.50
7. Employment of Nicholas Emery, lifeguard, effective January 15, 2025. pending satisfactory completion of all necessary clearances and employment requirements, as needed.
8. Memorandum of Understanding between the Hopewell Area SD and Hopewell Education Association regarding Grievance No. 2024-3. **(Roll Call)**
9. Employment of a Varsity Head Football Coach at Hopewell High School, effective immediately for the 2025-26 school year, pending satisfactory completion of all necessary clearances and employment requirements, as needed. **(Roll Call)**
10. Employment of David Parish, Bus Driver, effective January 15, 2025.

Policy and Planning: Mrs. Klessner, Chair; Ms. Bell, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Revision to the 2024-25 Hopewell Area School Calendar to include Friday, March 21, 2025 as a scheduled school day for students and staff.
2. Policy Review and Adoption (First Reading)
 - 113.2 Behavior Support
 - 113.3 Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
 - 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
 - 114 Gifted Education
 - 115 Career and Technical Education
 - 116 Tutoring
 - 117 Homebound Instruction
 - 118 Independent Study
 - 119 Current Events
 - 121 Field Trips

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the January 28, 2025 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Ms. Bell and Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chairs

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Senior High School Course Curriculum Guide for the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for the 2025-2026 school year.

Policy and Planning: Mrs. Klessner, Chair; Ms. Bell, Co-Chair

Discussion Item: Hopewell Area School Calendar 2025-26.

Dr. Beltz provided an overview of several proposed scenarios for the 2025-2026 school year calendar. Among the options presented was a scenario in which the school year would begin after the conclusion of the Hookstown Fair, reflecting community interest and accommodating a significant local tradition.

Dr. Beltz explained that the development of the calendar requires careful consideration of various factors, including the need to align with the schedules of students attending the Career and Technology Center (CTC) and New Horizon. He emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency between the District calendar and those institutions to ensure a seamless educational experience for students participating in those programs.

Board members discussed the potential implications of each proposed scenario, weighing the benefits of starting school after the fair against potential challenges. The Board acknowledged the complexity of balancing these considerations, but in the end, the Board agreed to adopt the scenario where the school year would begin after the conclusion of the Fair. Mr. Santia expressed his appreciation for the students who spoke on behalf of this initiative, commending their thoughtful and articulate advocacy for the change. The Board also acknowledged that this decision would be made on a yearly basis, allowing flexibility to adapt to future needs and circumstances.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Hopewell Viking Musicals to use the Senior High School Auditorium on February 1, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for a musical performance.
2. Request of Hopewell Baseball Boosters to use the main and auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on March 1, 2025 from 7:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for a youth baseball camp.
3. Request of Hopewell Youth Baseball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on March 15, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for baseball tryouts.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of the Technology Department to decommission the following equipment:
 - a. Desktop Computers (55) at the Senior High;
 - b. Monitors (8) at the Senior High;
 - c. Laptops (58) at the Senior High;
 - d. Desktop Computers (77) at the Junior High; and
 - e. Miscellaneous Unrepairable Computer, Printer, and Keyboard Parts at the Junior High.

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 and township of residence
- 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.

No visitors wished to address the Board.

At this time, Mr. Santia returned to Education/Curriculum/Instruction

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #2

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved free school privileges for student #7268 to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance

MOTION #3

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved free school privileges for student #2875 to attend Hopewell Senior High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance

MOTION #4

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the Outreach Services Agreement with the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #5

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve Resolution #1-2025, 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 Pennsylvania's approved annual Act 1 index limit, which for the 2025-2026 school year is 5.2%. . MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Carla Buxton, Chair**MOTION #6**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation of Mike Lopata, substitute custodian, effective December 6, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Erica Herrington, long-term special education teacher at the Junior High School, effective January 6, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation of Kimberly Yaria, substitute bus driver, effective December 4, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation of Christopher Keiper, band director at the Senior High School, effective May 30, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, accepted the resignation for retirement of Cheryl Jones, Senior High School cafeteria, effective February 7, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Junior High School Volleyball coaches and stipends. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

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| a. | Terry Borkovic, Head Coach | \$1,428.50 |
| b. | Lexi Thompson, Assistant Coach | \$1,428.50 |

MOTION #12

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Nicholas Emery, lifeguard, effective January 15, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hopewell Area SD and Hopewell Education Association regarding Grievance No. 2024-3. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Matt Mottes, Varsity Head Football Coach at Hopewell High School, effective immediately for the 2025-26 school year, pending satisfactory completion of all necessary clearances and employment requirements, as needed. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of David Parish, Bus Driver, effective January 15, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Anissa Klessner, Chair

MOTION #16

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the revision to the 2024-25 Hopewell Area School Calendar to include Friday, March 21, 2025 as a scheduled school day for students and staff. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the first reading of the following policies. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

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| 113.2 | Behavior Support |
| 113.3 | Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities |
| 113.4 | Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information |
| 114 | Gifted Education |
| 115 | Career and Technical Education |
| 116 | Tutoring |
| 117 | Homebound Instruction |
| 118 | Independent Study |
| 119 | Current Events |
| 121 | Field Trips |

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 28, 2025, Regular Business Meeting, Central Administration Board Room and virtual.

MOTION by Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Board Secretary