

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in-person Board meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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:

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

Members Absent  
Anitre' Bell  
Daniel Caton

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Christina Lane, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, James Cassell, and Donna Steff, Principals; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and visitors.

Good News in our School was presented by Dr. Kartychak from the Senior High School, Mr. Ceccarelli from the Junior High School and Mrs. Steff from the elementary schools. Copies of each report are attached to these minutes.

An Executive Session was held on January 22, 2025 and prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and real estate issues. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, to approve the agenda as written.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

### MOTION #2

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the December 3, 2024 Reorganization meeting and the January 14, 2025, Board Work Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

### MOTION #3

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Financial Reports consisting of the Tax Collection, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements, for November and December. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

### 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.

## Committee Discussion and Recommendations

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair****MOTION #4**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Senior High School Course Curriculum Guide for the 2025-2026 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for the 2025-2026 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved Lawrence Musante, a student at Point Park University, to complete his teaching placement at Hopewell High School during the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year under the supervision of Ms. Milena Barr. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Gracie-Ann Miller, a student at Millersville University, to complete her school nursing student practicum in the fall of 2025 under the supervision of Mrs. Kross and Mrs. Ambrose. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Jeanette Miller, Co-Chair****MOTION #8**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #9**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Waterways Association of Pittsburgh to use the Junior High School pool on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from approximately 12:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. for a survival rescue swim class. Rental fee is \$300.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved items (1) and (2) and to ratify items (3) through (6) as presented, in accordance with the School Board's agreement for grouping items in a single motion. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

1. General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$1,185,782.18
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$37,286.73
3. Payments to be ratified for November in the amount of \$750,992.58
4. Payment to be ratified for December in the amount of \$1,414,288.18
5. Cafeteria payments to be ratified for November in the amount of \$11,706.77
6. Cafeteria payment to be ratified for December in the amount of \$62,178.81

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of the Technology Department to decommission and discard the following antiquated, obsolete, and non-operational equipment. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- 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.

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the recommendation to approve the Release and Settlement Agreement in the action Pelino v. Hopewell Area School District et al. filed with the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania at Civil Action Docket Number No. 2:23-cv-00033. The School District's insurance carrier will make payment by check in the total amount of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00). Said payments are made in full and final satisfaction of any and all claims relating to the claims raised. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Nutrition and Food Services by Bethany Pistorius, Chair****MOTION #14**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement No. 52098A### between Mathematica Inc. and Hopewell Area School District (2024–2025 *National School Foods Study*). MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Carla Buxton, Chair****MOTION #15**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the change of employment status for Ray Karlheim from full-time bus driver to part-time driver, effective January 13, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #16**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation of Rori Elder, lifeguard, effective January 14, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #17**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation of Katrina Elder, lifeguard, effective January 14, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #18**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Samantha Lash, Senior High School music teacher at step 2 of the bachelor's scale, pending satisfactory review of clearances. The employment start date is dependent upon release from current employer, but no later than March 31, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #19**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the change of employment status for Anita Dempsey from full-time driver to substitute driver, effective February 1, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Policy and Planning by Anissa Klessner, Chair****MOTION #20**

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the adoption of the following Board policies. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- 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

**MOTION #21**

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the revision to the 2024-25 Hopewell Area School Calendar to include Thursday, April 17, 2025 as a scheduled school day for students and staff. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Other Business**

Mrs. Pistorius elaborated on Mrs. Steff's explanation of the new Little Viking Book Vending Machine. She shared that students were eager to earn their "tokens" and thrilled to use them in the vending machine. She described their excitement as wonderful to witness and expressed appreciation for the enthusiasm the initiative had generated. Mrs. Pistorius extended her gratitude to Mrs. Kane and the PTA for their dedication and hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

Mrs. Buxton requested a clearer understanding of the timeline for the building project as outlined in the feasibility study.

Dr. Beltz explained that the timeline provided by Draw Collective was only an estimation. He emphasized that the initial steps of the project involve assessing the district's financial situation. With the new county assessment, revenue remains uncertain. He noted that discussions are ongoing and assured that updates will be provided as new information becomes available.

**Solicitor's Report**

Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz, echoing Dr. Kartychak's sentiments, also expressed his gratitude to the Board for their continued support and dedication to the District. He acknowledged their hard work and commitment, especially in honor of School Board Director Month.

Upcoming Board Meetings

February 11, 2025, Regular Work Meeting

February 25, 2025, Regular Business Meeting

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 7:35 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary