

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approved 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 this meeting to discuss personnel, litigation, an assessment appeal and the superintendent search. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Oblak. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Lesia Dobo
Darren Newberry

Also present were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, Korri Kane and Edward Katkich, Principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

Stephany Richards, Director of Transportation, gave an update on the Transportation Department. She reported that the new buses should be delivered by the middle of November. She described the recruitment and hiring process for new bus drivers and stated that the shortage of drivers has caused the Department to condense and adjust bus runs. She thought that moving forward, to make the Department more efficient, Transfinder Pro should move to a web-based model and a second license for Transfinder should be added. She also stated that to have the most up-to-date data, Transfinder should receive nightly updates from CSIU, the student information software.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Free school privileges for Julian Baldwin to attend Hopewell Junior High School for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Revision to the Class Academy Agreement which was approved on September 28, 2021 to reflect an increase in cost of \$600.00.
3. Access Authorization Agreement with Dr. Stephen Hagberg at a cost of \$10.00 per document.

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

1. Change Order from Renick Brothers for the Junior High boiler project in the amount of \$1,885.00 to add three barometric dampers.

Ms. McKittrick asked if ESSER funds could be used for the purchase. Mrs. Baker believed that they could.

Personnel: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Employment of Christie Davis, 6th grade teacher at the Junior High School at step 2 of the bachelors scale, effective October 13, 2021. **(Roll Call)**
2. Employment of Mallory Floyd, physical education teacher at the Junior High School at step 1 of the bachelors scale, effective October 13, 2021. **(Roll Call)**
3. Change part-time French teaching position at Hopewell High School to a full-time teaching position. **(Roll Call)**
4. Rescind the resignation of Robin Ewing, French Teacher at Hopewell High School that was effective on or about October 29, 2021 and employ Robin Ewing as the full time French teacher in the High School at Step 4 of the Masters Salary scale, effective October 13, 2021. **(Roll Call)**

Dr. Kartychak said that Mrs. Ewing had decided to move forward with her resignation and that items 3 and 4 would be tabled.

5. Employment of Amy Crismon, individual paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective October 19, 2021.
6. Employment of Mark Cropper, substitute custodian, effective October 5, 2021.

7. Employment of Nicolas Bible, substitute custodian, effective October 11, 2021.
8. Request for a 90 day leave of absence for Michael White, bus driver, effective October 22, 2021 through January 22, 2022.
9. Resignation of Tina Gibson, 500 hour substitute custodian, effective October 1, 2021.
10. Resignation of David Kost, transportation aide, effective October 5, 2021.

At this time, Dr. Kartychak began his review of those items that would be voted on at the October 26, 2021 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide Title 1 services to students at Our Lady of Fatima School for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$876.82 per student.
2. Agreement with Merakey Behavioral Health to provide services on an as needed basis for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Kartychak reported that Merakey would provide mental health support to students at no cost to the District.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Newberry, Chair; Mr. Santia, Co-Chair

1. Request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November 4, 2021 through March 31, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
2. Request of David Bufalini to use the Senior High School Auditorium November 30, 2021 through December 4, 2021 for practice and the Holly Jolly Christmas concert.

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

1. Transfer of \$_____ from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund as of June 30, 2021.

2. Fund balance assignments, restrictions and commitments as of June 30, 2021 as follows (forthcoming as soon as audit is complete):

Restricted for Stadium
 Committed for Budget
 Committed for Health Care
 Committed for Future Retirement Contribution
 Committed for Technology
 Unassigned
 Total Fund Balance

3. 12 month continuation of Agreement with Questeq in the amount of \$1,085.50 for SherpaDesk access.

Dr. Kartychak explained that SherpaDesk was the District's work order system. He also said that there was no increase in cost for this school year.

Personnel: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. 2021-2022 winter coaches and salaries. (**Attachment**)

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 address
- 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.

Barbara Reda, 1780 Clark Boulevard, Aliquippa

Mrs. Reda asked if book purchases made for school libraries are reviewed for content. She reported that another local District had purchased books with inappropriate content. She wanted to make sure that wasn't happening in Hopewell. Mr. Winkle stated that Dr. Kartychak would review the process and report back to her.

Jennifer Parrish, 750 Davis Road, Aliquippa

Mrs. Parrish had mask mandate questions and asked if the District planned on having parents sign a Waiver of Liability. She believes that the District, denying a religious exemption to the mask mandate, is unconstitutional. She would like for the District to hold a special Board meeting to discuss the Waiver of Liability.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive, Aliquippa

Mrs. Pistorius asked if an additional phone line could be added at the bus garage. She again asked Administration to implement a District-wide policy regarding masks and the steps that will be taken if students do not follow directives. She believes that clear requirements and consequences will support both students and staff.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Matt Erickson, Chair

MOTION #2

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve free school privileges for Julian Baldwin to attend Hopewell Junior High School for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the revision to the Class Academy Agreement which was approved on September 28, 2021 to reflect an increase in cost of \$600.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Access Authorization Agreement with Dr. Stephen Hagberg at a cost of \$10.00 per document. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance by Lori McKittrick**MOTION #5**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Change Order from Renick Brothers for the Junior High boiler project in the amount of \$1,885.00 to add three barometric dampers. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Matt Erickson, Chair**MOTION #6**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the employment of Christie Davis, 6th grade teacher at the Junior High School at step 2 of the bachelors scale, effective October 13, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, approve the employment of Mallory Floyd, physical education teacher at the Junior High School at step 1 of the bachelors scale, effective October 13, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the employment of Amy Crismon, individual paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective October 19, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Mark Cropper, substitute custodian, effective October 5, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Nicolas Bible, substitute custodian, effective October 11, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the request for a 90 day leave of absence for Michael White, bus driver, effective October 22, 2021 through January 22, 2022. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to accept the resignation of Tina Gibson, 500 hour substitute custodian, effective October 1, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept the resignation of David Kost, transportation aide, effective October 5, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 26, 2021, Regular Business Meeting will be in person and held virtually.

MOTION by Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeffrey Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary