

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mrs. Pistorius asked for a moment of silence in honor of Lily Westbrook, a student at the Senior High School who passed away last week. Lily was a dedicated member of our school community, known for her passion for both soccer and music. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia.

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

Anitre' Bell
Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Christina Lane, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Joe Lamenza, Lou Ceccarelli, and Donna Steff, Principals; and visitors.

Good News in our School was presented by Mr. Lamenza 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 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 Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the agenda as written.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the September 24, 2024 Business meeting and the October 8, 2024, Board Work Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

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

Dr. Beltz announced that the District has been awarded a grant of \$1,150,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the partial replacement of the Senior High School roof. He expressed gratitude to Representatives Matzie and Vogel for their continued support of local school districts, acknowledging their efforts in securing funding that enhances the quality of education and facilities for students, staff, and the community

Dr. Beltz provided an overview of the various school building and consolidation options under consideration. He detailed the proposed plans, which aim to optimize the use of district facilities and resources. These options, carefully reviewed for their potential impact on students, staff, and the community, will be subject to a vote later in the meeting. Dr. Beltz also noted that the next steps, including costs, financing, and implementation, will be developed over the coming months. Throughout this process, all information will be communicated transparently to stakeholders to ensure ongoing engagement and awareness.

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.

Jody Hample addressed the board to express her concerns regarding the performance of the girls' soccer coach. She highlighted issues including the coach's lack of familiarity with the players, which she believes affects team cohesion and development. Additionally, Ms. Hample pointed out the team's continued losing seasons as a sign of the need for a review of the coach's strategies and approach to training.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair

Dan Caton recommended the selection of a school consolidation and facility option.

MOTION #4

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve Option A3, build an addition and make alterations to Hopewell Senior High School to include Grades 7-8 and create one 7-12 school facility. Construct a completely new Grade K-6 school facility. Total estimated cost is \$112.6 million. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Cheerleaders to use the Senior High School student parking lot for a food truck event on October 28, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved items (1) and (2) and to ratify item (3) as presented, in accordance with 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 \$1,182,993.99
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$3,249.65
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$2,439,114.99

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of Anthony Rossi to purchase parcel 65-174-0217.000-01-1 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County

Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2021-2022 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair

MOTION #8

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Hopewell Board of School Directors Reorganization meeting on December 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Administration Board Room. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, Chair

MOTION #9

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the 2024-2025 winter coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Timothy McGovern, substitute custodian, effective September 9, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the request of employee 257 for an emergency medical sabbatical, effective October 28, 2024 through March 20, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the employment of Lauren Hale, substitute in the cafeteria, effective October 21, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Mikaela Malobabich, long-term substitute teacher at the Junior High School, effective October 25, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the employment of Barry MacDonald, bus driver, effective October 15, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Sharon Mercer, grill-prep at the Junior High School, effective October 23, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 12, 2024, Regular Work Meeting, Central Administration Board Room and Virtual

November 26, 2024, Regular Business Meeting, Central Administration Board Room and Virtual

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

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary