

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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
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; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak and Edward Katkich, Principals; Dr. 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 Victoria Gill, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the agenda as written.

Dan Engen from Draw Collective reviewed final school facility options, which included the following:

- Option A2: Build an addition and make alterations to Hopewell Senior High School to include Grades 7-8 and create one 7-12 school facility. Renovate and construct a new addition onto Margaret Ross Elementary School to convert the current building to a K-6 school facility. Total estimated cost is \$105.6 million.
- 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.

- Option E1: 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 2-6 school facility. Grades K-1 remain at Margaret Ross Elementary School and Independence Elementary School until the final phase occurs. Total estimated cost is \$99.5 million.

*For clarification: Option E1 also has an additional phase not included in the \$99.5 million estimated cost, which consists of constructing a new Grade K-1 addition to the proposed new 2-6 school facility to eventually make this new 2-6 school a K-6 school facility at some point in the future.

- Option E2: 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 3-6 school facility. Grades K-2 remain at Margaret Ross Elementary School and Independence Elementary School until the final phase occurs. Total estimated cost is \$89.8 million.

*For clarification: Option E2 also has an additional phase not included in the \$89.8 million estimated cost, which consists of constructing a new Grade K-2 addition to the proposed new 3-6 school facility to eventually make this new 3-6 school a K-6 school facility at some point in the future.

A decision on which building option will be chosen is set to be made at the Board meeting on October 22, 2024. Mrs. Gill sought clarification on what this decision involves and inquired about when more specific building design questions will be addressed. Dr. Beltz explained that after the Board selects which building option to pursue, more intricate details will be discussed over the following months. Mrs. Buxton emphasized that the community will again play a significant role in those discussions. Mr. Engen added that input from teachers and administrators will be essential to the design team's work.

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; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Approve the use of a maximum of five Flexible Instructional Days (“FID”) for the 2024-2025 school year, per PDE approval and guidelines. **(Roll Call)**

Dr. Beltz explained that the district has two snow days built into the calendar, which will be used first when needed, and after they are exhausted, Flexible Instructional Days (FID) can be utilized. FID days offer flexibility, allowing the district to either close all schools district-wide or just one building if necessary, ensuring instructional time is maintained without extending the school year.

2. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Flexible Instruction Days for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Appointment of Richelle Montgomery, Hopewell High School Best Buddies Club sponsor.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Employment of Valerie Kuebel, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, pending receipt of all clearances.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the October 22, 2024 Business meeting.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Selection of school consolidation and facility option.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. 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. **(Roll Call)**

Legislative: Jeanette Miller, Chair; Carla Buxton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Hopewell Board of School Directors Reorganization meeting on December 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Administration Board Room.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. 2024-2025 winter coaches and salaries.

At this time Dan Caton made a motion to add to the Board agenda for approval this evening Quote 24-5005 from Renick Brothers to replace the compressor in the Hopewell Junior High School PoolPak unit at a cost of \$54,180.00. The motion was seconded by Lindsey Zupsic.

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.

The following people spoke in favor of the Board taking whatever steps are necessary to fix the pool: Peggy McCowin, Dave McCowin, Ava McCowin, Ava Yoder, and Dan Yoder. They emphasized not only the importance of maintaining the pool as a valuable resource for students and the community but also highlighted the hassle it would cause to find alternative options for swim team practice.

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

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsey Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #2

By Lindsey Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the use of a maximum of five Flexible Instructional Days for the 2024-2025 school year, per PDE approval and guidelines. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance

MOTION #3

By Lindsey Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Flexible Instruction Days for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Lindsey Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the appointment of Richelle Montgomery Hopewell High School Best Buddies Club sponsor. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan CatonMOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to approve Quote 24-5005 from Renick Brothers to replace the compressor in the Hopewell Junior High School PoolPak unit at a cost of \$54,180.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, ChairMOTION #6

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Valerie Kuebel, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Mrs. Gill expressed appreciation to swim team members Hazel McCowin and Ava Yoder for addressing the board regarding their experiences on the team and advocating for repairs to the school pool. She also reported attending the CTC open house, where she was impressed with the program and the pride students demonstrated in their schoolwork.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz reminded the audience that the next Board meeting on October 22, 2024 would again be held in the Senior High School Auditorium and that the Board would be making a decision on the school consolidation and building project. He stated that all information regarding this project is on the District website.

Upcoming Board Meetings

October 22, 2024, Regular Business Meeting, Senior High School Auditorium and virtual.

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

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary