

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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  
Victoria Gill  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Daniel Santia

Members Absent  
Daniel Caton  
Anissa Klessner  
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Rob Kartychak and Korri Kane, Principals; 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 Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, 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; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of the FCCLA class to use the Senior High School Auditorium on December 14, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for a princess tea.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Saturday, January 18, 2025 and Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for a softball clinic.
2. Request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use the auxiliary gym at the Senior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 5, 2024 through December 20, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
3. Request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning January 7, 2025 through the end of March 2025 from 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.
4. Request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Saturdays beginning January 11, 2025 through the end of May from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Note: beginning in April, the gym will only be used in case of inclement weather.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resignation of Chad Toporski, music teacher at the Junior High School, effective November 5, 2024. Departure from the District will be no later than January 4, 2025.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Policy Review and Adoption (First Reading)
  - a. Policy 006.1 – Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications
  - b. Policy 100 – Comprehensive Planning
  - c. Policy 101 – Mission Statement/Vision Statement/Shared Values
  - d. Policy 102 – Academic Standards
  - e. Policy 105 – Curriculum
  - f. Policy 105.1 – Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students
  - g. Policy 105.2 - Exemption From Instruction
  - h. Policy 106 - Guides for Planned Instruction
  - i. Policy 107 - Adoption of Planned Instruction
  - j. Policy 108 - Adoption of Textbooks
  - k. Policy 109 - Resource Materials

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| l. | Policy 110 -   | Instructional Supplies                   |
| m. | Policy 111 -   | Lessons Plans                            |
| n. | Policy 112 -   | Guidance Counseling                      |
| o. | Policy 113 -   | Special Education                        |
| p. | Policy 113.1 - | Discipline of Students with Disabilities |
| q. | Policy 150 -   | Title I – Comparability of Services      |
| r. | Policy 620 -   | Fund Balance                             |
| s. | Policy 622 -   | GASB Statement 34                        |
| t. | Policy 625 -   | Procurement Cards                        |
2. Retirement of Policy 105.3 – Title I Comparability. This policy is being replaced with Policy 150 (Title I – Comparability of Services).

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the November 26, 2024 Business meeting.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Mr. Katkich for the Junior High School Student Council to attend Education Days at Cedar Point on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.
2. Request of Dr. Kartychak for the Senior High School to host Beaver County Poetry Slam on Friday, April 4, 2025.
3. Amara Stewart, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University, to complete her field experience at Hopewell High School from January 13, 2025 through January 17, 2025.
4. Request from Dr. Kartychak to host a Unified Robotics Competition at Hopewell High School on January 31, 2025.

**Athletics:** Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Gill, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. PIAA cooperative sponsorship agreement between the Hopewell Area School District and Ambridge Area School District in Boys Varsity Tennis for the 2024-2025 School Year.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Disposal of broken stage at Hopewell Elementary School.

2. Disposal of/Recycle the choral risers at the Senior High School. New risers have been purchased at the Senior High School.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Joshua Burkert and Jordan Perille to purchase parcel 65-054-0116-000-01-1 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)**
2. Contract with BerkOne to process the District's Act 80 records at an approximate cost of \$878.00.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season.

**Transportation:** Ms. Bell, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2025-2026 school year.

### **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.

Diane Passantino expressed her concerns regarding the use of fireworks at varsity football games. She voiced her belief that the fireworks present a potential safety hazard for residents in surrounding areas. She noted that the noise associated with the fireworks can be disruptive and bothersome to both event-goers and neighborhood residents, including those with pets, young children, and the elderly. Mrs. Passantino requested that the Board review this practice and consider alternative methods for celebrating during games that do not involve fireworks.

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

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius**

**MOTION #2**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of the FCCLA class to use the Senior High School Auditorium on December 14, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for a princess tea. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance

**Buildings and Grounds by Jeanette Miller, Co-Chair**

**MOTION #3**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Saturday, January 18, 2025 and Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for a softball clinic. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Anitre Bell, to approve the request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use the auxiliary gym at the Senior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 5, 2024 through December 20, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning January 7, 2025 through the end of March 2025 from 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Saturdays beginning January 11, 2025 through the end of May from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Note: beginning in April, the gym will only be used in case of inclement weather. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, Chair**MOTION #7

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Chad Toporski, music teacher at the Junior High School, effective November 5, 2024. Departure from the District will be no later than January 4, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Policy and Planning by Ms. Bell, Co-Chair**MOTION #8

By Anitre Bell, 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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| a. | Policy 006.1 – | Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications                |
| b. | Policy 100 –   | Comprehensive Planning  |
| c. | Policy 101 –   | Mission Statement/Vision Statement/Shared Values                    |
| d. | Policy 102 –   | Academic Standards  |
| e. | Policy 105 –   | Curriculum  |
| f. | Policy 105.1 – | Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students |
| g. | Policy 105.2 - | Exemption From Instruction  |
| h. | Policy 106 -   | Guides for Planned Instruction                                      |
| i. | Policy 107 -   | Adoption of Planned Instruction                                     |
| j. | Policy 108 -   | Adoption of Textbooks   |
| k. | Policy 109 -   | Resource Materials  |
| l. | Policy 110 -   | Instructional Supplies  |
| m. | Policy 111 -   | Lessons Plans   |
| n. | Policy 112 -   | Guidance Counseling   |
| o. | Policy 113 -   | Special Education   |
| p. | Policy 113.1 - | Discipline of Students with Disabilities                            |
| q. | Policy 150 -   | Title I – Comparability of Services                                 |
| r. | Policy 620 -   | Fund Balance  |
| s. | Policy 622 -   | GASB Statement 34   |
| t. | Policy 625 -   | Procurement Cards   |

MOTION #9

By Anitre Bell, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the retirement of Policy 105.3 – Title I Comparability. This policy is being replaced with Policy 150 (Title I – Comparability of Services. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 26, 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 7:20 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Deborah Engelman, Acting Secretary