

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in the Junior High School Cafeteria as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve 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 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.

Prior to the start of the meeting Dr. Beltz led a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of Ed West and Nancy Miller, two outstanding members of the school community who recently lost their battles with cancer.

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  
Daniel Caton  
Matthew Erickson

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Nancy Barber, Secretary; Edward Katkich and Korri Kane, principals and visitors.

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

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction:** Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

1. Request of Mr. Katkich for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to Cleveland, Ohio on May 23, 2024.

**Athletics:** Mr. Caton, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

1. Request of Ronda Koblek for the junior varsity and varsity softball teams to attend spring training at the Ripken facilities in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from March 26, 2024 through March 30, 2024.
2. Request of Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School, for Jaylee Duncan to practice and compete with the varsity swim team as an independent swimmer.

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

1. Quote (No. BJK11012023) from Huckestein Mechanical to replace one boiler at Margaret Ross Elementary School at a total cost of \$68,271. Huckestein (COSTARS #: 008-E22-885) is an approved government contractor. The cost will be attributed to ESSER funding.
2. Quote (No. 495M000375) from Combustion Service & Equipment Co. for a one-year preventative-maintenance boiler plan at Hopewell High School at a cost of \$2400.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

1. Resignation of Laura Davis, second cook at Independence Elementary School, effective October 27, 2023.
2. Employment of Laura Davis, special education classroom paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective October 30, 2023.
3. Resignation of Tyler Ditoro, bus driver, effective October 31, 2023.
4. Resignation of Matt Weiss, Head Football Coach, effective November 15, 2023.
5. Resignation of Nick Mohrbacher, Head Boys Soccer Coach, effective November 15, 2023.
6. Employment of Isabella Rocca, long-term substitute special education teacher at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective October 25, 2023.

7. Employment of Samantha Lash, long-term substitute music teacher at Independence and Margaret Ross Elementary Schools, effective November 13, 2023.
8. Employment of Michael Lopata, substitute custodian, effective November 7, 2023.

**Policy/Planning:** Mrs. Buxton, Chair; Mrs. Gill, Co-Chair

1. Review of Board Policy 246, Wellness. This policy must be reviewed every three years. There are no recommended changes to the policy. First Reading

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the November 28, 2023 Business meeting.

**Athletics:** Mr. Caton, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

1. PIAA cooperative sponsorship agreement between the Hopewell Area School District and Ambridge Area School District in Boys Varsity Tennis for the 2023-2024 School Year.
2. Michael Sabat parent/coach for representation at WPIAL Rifle Championships for his daughter Rachel Sabat. Mr. Sabat will incur all costs and transportation.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Daniel Caton, Chair; Vicki Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request of Hopewell Lady Vikings Softball to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Saturday, January 13, 2024 and Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. for a softball clinic.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

1. Payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season. (**Attachment**)
2. Request of Michael White, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning December 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. Mr. White may return at any time with the release of his doctor.
3. Resignation of Lizzie Firich, lifeguard, effective November 29, 2023.
4. Resignation of Molly Shrum, lifeguard, effective November 29, 2023.

**Transportation:** Bethany Pistorius, Chair; Dan Caton, Co-Chair

1. Participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2024-2025 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
- 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.

**Matt Berg**

Mr. Berg asked what the procedure would be for appointing a new member of the Board. He understood that Mrs. Buxton won both the 4-year and 2-year seats and that she would need to choose which position she preferred. The vacant seat would be filled by an appointment of the Board.

Mr. Salopek explained that Mrs. Buxton will announce which seat she will take at the Reorganization meeting on December 5, after which a 10-day notification period begins. The District will announce that an opening exists on the Board and that candidates from that region may notify the District of their desire to be considered a candidate. The Board will then choose, by majority vote, an individual to fill the vacancy.

**James Lindstrom**

Mr. Lindstrom asked what impact the cyber breach had on students, parents and staff.

Dr. Beltz explained that student devices were not impacted, as they do not run on an iOS or Windows operating system. The District continues to work to identify what information has been breached and to notify individuals that have been affected. Dr. Beltz explained that all families and staff, both past and present, will be given the opportunity to sign up for credit monitoring services.

**Megan Smith**

Ms. Smith asked how students will be compensated due to the breach of their personal information.

Dr. Beltz reiterated that it does not appear that student specific information has been breached, but that all concerned individuals will be given the opportunity to receive adult credit monitoring and minor cyber monitoring.

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

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius****MOTION #2**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Mr. Katkich for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to Cleveland, Ohio on May 23, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Athletics by Bethany Pistorius****MOTION #3**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Ronda Koblek for the junior varsity and varsity softball teams to attend spring training at the Ripken facilities in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from March 26, 2024 through March 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School, for Jaylee Duncan to practice and compete with the varsity swim team as an independent swimmer. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Victoria Gill****APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS****MOTION #5**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve items (1) and (2) as presented in accordance with School Board's agreement for grouping items in a single motion. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

1. Quote (No. BJK11012023) from Huckestein Mechanical to replace one boiler at Margaret Ross Elementary School at a total cost of \$68,271. Huckestein (COSTARS #: 008-E22-885) is an approved government contractor. The cost will be attributed to ESSER funding.
2. Quote (No. 495M000375) from Combustion Service & Equipment Co. for a one-year preventative-maintenance boiler plan at Hopewell High School at a cost of \$2400.

**Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic****MOTION #6**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Laura Davis, second cook at Independence Elementary School, effective October 27, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Laura Davis, special education classroom paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective October 30, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation of Tyler Ditoro, bus driver, effective October 31, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #9**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, accepted the resignation of Matt Weiss, Head Football Coach, effective November 15, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Nick Mohrbacher, Head Boys Soccer Coach, effective November 15, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Isabella Rocca, long-term substitute special education teacher at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective October 25, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Samantha Lash, long-term substitute music teacher at Independence and Margaret Ross Elementary Schools, effective November 13, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Michael Lopata, substitute custodian, effective November 7, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

November 28, 2023, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

MOTION by Anissa Klessner, 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 7:45 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary