

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. This meeting was recorded.

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

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

Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson (Via Zoom)
Victoria Gill
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Mike Allison, Lou Ceccarelli, Gary Hutsler and Donna Steff, principals; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

Good New in our Schools reports were presented by Mr. Allison, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mrs. Steff. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the agenda as written.

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.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the October 25, 2022 and the November 8, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #3

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve items (1) through (3) 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.

Tax Collectors' Report

1. Recommendation to accept report for taxes collected for the month of October, 2022, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

2. Recommendation to accept report of the Treasurer for the month of October, 2022, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of October, 2022, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

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.

Logan Mehalich – Hopewell Township

Mr. Mehalich is upset because he says that his son was assaulted and is bullied at the high school. He asked if the Board was aware of the situation and what they planned on doing about it.

Mr. Santia continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Jeanette Miller, Co-Chair

MOTION #4

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Hopewell Education Association regarding Grievance Nos. 2020-5 and 2021-1 relating to the Art Department. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve Nick Mohrbacher and Rich Collins as co-sponsors for the Hopewell High School SHOUT Club. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Carla Buxton

MOTION #6

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton to approve the request of Hopewell Lady Viking Softball team, to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Saturday, January 14, 2023 and Saturday, February 18, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. to conduct a softball clinic. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair

MOTION #7

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve 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 \$769,686.05
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$144,558.37
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$2,435,409.77

MOTION #8

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the Agreement with Questeq for E-Rate Category 1 and 2 Strategy and Application Processes for the 2022-2023 school year at an approximate cost of \$7,500.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve the transfer of \$300,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund as of June 30, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve the Resolution to amend the Hopewell Area School District’s 403(b) Retirement Plan as it pertains to hardship withdrawals. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the proposal from Hawley Consulting Group for a postretirement medical valuation for the District under GASB 75 at a cost of \$4,400.00 for fiscal years ending June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the transfer of \$2,476.44 from the following inactive Hopewell High School student club activity accounts. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

a.	Class of 2016	\$45.44
b.	Class of 2017	\$724.78
c.	Class of 2018	\$1,688.79
d.	Class of 2022	\$17.43

To the following accounts in the amounts listed below: **(New Item)**

a.	Class of 2023	\$240.00
b.	Class of 2024	\$1,200.44 (Prom class)
c.	Class of 2025	\$676.00
d.	Class of 2026	\$360.00

MOTION #13

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the change order from Force Turf Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$52,959.60 for recycled infill on the high school football field. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the Service Agreement Reinstatement with OMNI/TSA for the Preferred Provider Program (P3) P3L in the amount of \$1,860.00 for the 2022-2023 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-ChairMOTION #15

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gil, to accept the resignation for retirement of Denise Stevens, Cook at the Junior High School, effective April 14, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of Kamryn Giesler, special education teacher at the Junior High School, effective December 12, 2022 at Step 1 of the Masters scale. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the appointment of Ryan Brown, Junior High volunteer assistant basketball coach. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, to accept the resignation of Reon Nesmith, volunteer assistant boys basketball coach. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve the employment of Annette Doria as an After School Fall Learning substitute teacher effective November 10, 2022 at the extended education rate per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve the employment of Tammy Holland, substitute custodian, effective November 17, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of Austin Almandarez, elementary art long term substitute teacher effective November 14, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to direct the Superintendent to meet with the President of each bargaining unit to discuss the issue of unpaid leave days. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to continue the additional stipend of \$750.00 per week for Robert J. Kartychak, Ed.D. from November 29, 2022 through December 13, 2022 during the Superintendent transition. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve the conclusion of temporary employment of Nadia Engel, Acting Assistant Principal at Hopewell High School, effective December 14, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Dan Caton, ChairMOTION #26

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve District participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Mr. Santia thanked Dr. Kartychak for the outstanding job that he did while he was acting superintendent. He also thanked Mrs. Engel for the great job she did as the Assistant Principal at the Senior High School while Dr. Kartychak was in Central Administration.

Mrs. Pistorius reported that the Junior High School musical was outstanding and the talents of the cast and crew were unreal. In particular, she said that it was wonderful to see that students with disabilities were included, stating that a nonverbal student used their speaking device for their lines. She thanked the directors for the exceptional job that they did.

Superintendents Report

Dr. Kartychak wished Denise Stevens well in her retirement. Mrs. Stevens has been with the District for 40 years and she will truly be missed. He also thanked Mrs. Engel for filling in for him while he was working in Central Administration. He stated that she has done a wonderful job and will also be missed.

Dr. Kartychak reported that he and other District employees recently completed 40 hours of comprehensive diversity and inclusivity training.

Dr. Kartychak wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Salopek wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

December 6, 2022, 7:00 p.m. – Reorganization Meeting

MOTION 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 7:32 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary