

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss transportation staffing and substitute pay. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Darren Newberry, Board Vice President.

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

Daniel Caton
Lesia Dobo
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent

Jeffrey Winkle

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Michael Allison, Nadia Engel, Louis Ceccarelli and Gary Hutsler, principals; and visitors.

Dr. Kartychak asked for a moment of silence for Billy Cowger. Mr. Cowger passed away this afternoon following a brief illness. Billy has worked on the Buildings and Grounds crew for 40 years as well as delighting students as Santa each holiday season. Billy was an extremely hard worker and a joy to be around. His smile and laughter will be missed.

Good New in our Schools reports were presented by Ms. Engel, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mr. Hutsler. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

Mr. Newberry recognized Dominic Flitcraft, an 11th grade student at the Senior High School. Dominic finished second in the WPIAL in cross country and 23rd in the state. Congratulations to Dominic for this outstanding achievement.

MOTION #1

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approved the agenda as amended to include the approval of the Agreement with Questeq for E-Rate Category 1 and 2 and Application Processes for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Newberry asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Dan Caton, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the October 26, 2021 and November 9, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPEd ITEMS

MOTION #3

By Dan Santia, seconded by Matt Erickson, 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, 2021, 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, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of October, 2021, 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 and address
- 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.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 S. Trillium Drive, Aliquippa

Mrs. Pistorius wanted to offer her congratulations to Dominic Flitcraft and all student athletes for their accomplishments. She thanked those members leaving the Board for their services to the school and community. She also offered her condolences to the family and friends of Billy Cowger, who passed away this afternoon. Mrs. Pistorius also wanted to thank Mrs. Richards, Transportation Director, for the outstanding work she has been doing with limited staff.

Jen Parrish, 750 Davis Road, Aliquippa

Mrs. Parrish asked if there was going to be a vote at the December 7th Reorganization Meeting with respect to the Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Salopek gives a brief synopsis of the court proceedings regarding the mask mandate.

Mr. Newberry said, that although he won't be on the Board at that time, a vote would depend on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision whether to stay the injunction.

Mrs. Dobo said that this was also her last meeting after 20 years of being on the Board. She understands that the mask mandate is a difficult subject but hopes that the Board can come to a consensus regarding masks. She said that the Board has been divided over the last two years but is optimistic that they will come together moving forward.

Sergio Garcia, 200 Edgewood Avenue, Aliquippa

Mr. Garcia asked the Board to consider replacing the head football coach. He believes that the students are embarrassed by their losing record and athletes are not willing to play for him.

Bradly Gouza, 4138 Third Street, Aliquippa

Mr. Gouza also expressed his frustration with the football coach. He said at the start of the season there were 39 athletes and finished the season with only 17.

Mr. Newberry continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Matt Erickson, Chair

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request of the Hopewell High School Ski Club to travel to Burlington, Vermont January 14, 2022 through January 17, 2022 for a ski trip. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the removal of the following individuals as volunteer wrestling coaches. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Cory Getz
- b. Jose Molina
- c. Bill Bain
- d. Jason Winters

Buildings and Grounds by Darren Newberry, Chair

Informational: The Hopewell High School track will reopen on November 17, 2021 for public use during school hours. The “track closed during school hours” signs will return on March 1 through the end of school.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair

MOTION #6

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, 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 \$820,865.49
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$126,474.60
Payments to be ratified:
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$5,119,575.99

MOTION #7

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Fund Balance assignments, restrictions and commitments as of June 30, 2021 as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Restricted for Stadium | \$19,802.00 |
| Committed for Budget | \$860,900.00 |
| Committed for Health Care | \$750,000.00 |
| Committed for Future Retirement Contribution | \$750,000.00 |
| Committed for Technology | \$750,000.00 |
| Unassigned | \$1,071,024.00 |
| Total Fund Balance | \$4,201,726.00 |

MOTION #8

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, 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.

Legislation by Kathryn Oblak, Chair

MOTION #9

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Hopewell Board of School Directors Reorganization meeting on December 7, 2021 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 Matt Erickson, Chair

MOTION #10

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the employment of Annette Doria and Erin Hoyne-Kovacevic as Kindergarten grade level co-chairs for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season, as listed. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

| | Salary | Length of season | # of weeks beyond | divided by 1/2 | extended pay |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <u>Cross Country</u> | | | | | |
| Tim Monske | \$ 2,450.00 | /10 | x1 | x.5 | \$ 123.00 |
| Brian Wolfe | \$ 4,025.00 | /10 | x1 | x.5 | <u>\$ 201.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 324.00 | | | | |
| <u>Boys' Golf</u> | | | | | |
| Jeff Hack | \$ 2,908.00 | /8 | x2 | x.5 | \$ 364.00 |
| Jeff Homziak | \$ 1,891.00 | /8 | x2 | x.5 | <u>\$ 236.00</u> |
| | | | | TOTAL | \$ 600.00 |
| <u>Girls' Volleyball</u> | | | | | |
| Terry Borkovic | \$ 5,099.00 | /11 | x1 | x.5 | \$ 232.00 |
| Joe Cioc | \$ 3,314.00 | /11 | x1 | x.5 | <u>\$ 151.00</u> |
| | | | | TOTAL | \$ 383.00 |
| | | | GRAND TOTAL | = | \$ 1,307.00 |

MOTION #12

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Buzard, bus driver, effective November 9, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Michael Gilmore, BCIT teacher at the Junior High School, at step 1 of the Bachelor's scale, effective November 24, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the employment of Jeff Exline, mechanic, pending receipt of all clearances, effective on or around December 5, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Dan Santia, Chair**MOTION #15**

By Dan Santia, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the District's participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kartychak thanked Mr. Newberry, Mrs. Oblak and Mrs. Dobo for their service to the District, as this is their final meeting as a Director. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said that he was so grateful for the staff and administration.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Salopek also thanked the members that were leaving the board. He said that they have contributed so much to the District and supported him throughout the years.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Newberry thanked Mrs. Dobo and Mrs. Oblak for serving with him on the Board. He said that the last couple of years have been difficult but he is optimistic for the future. He welcomed Mrs. Pistorius and Mrs. Miller to the Board.

Dr. Erickson wanted to make sure everyone saw the flyer for Breakfast with Santa, which supports benefits Adoption Connection PA. He also wanted to reassure band parents that the Board is still discussing new band uniforms.

Mrs. Oblak wanted to say that it has been an honor to serve on the Board. She has grandchildren in the District and is confident for the future of the District.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

December 7, 2021, Reorganization Meeting

MOTION by Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Newberry adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Darren Newberry, Board Vice President

Nancy Barber, Secretary