

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

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

Members Absent
Anissa Klesser

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, Gary Hutsler, and Donna Steff, Principals; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

Good News In Our Schools were presented by Dr. Kartychak from the Senior High School, Mr. Ceccarelli from the Junior High School and Mr. Hutsler from the Elementary Schools.

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 Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the agenda as written.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the October 24, 2023 and November 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Roth presented information on the District's analysis of current state testing results. His analysis is attached to these minutes.

Visitors

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.

No visitors wished to address the Board.

Mr. Santia continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #3

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved Michael Sabat parent/coach for representation at WPIAL Rifle Championships for his daughter Rachel Sabat. Mr. Sabat will incur all costs and transportation. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Daniel Caton, Chair**MOTION #5**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Dan Caton, seconded by Matt Erickson, approved the request of Hopewell High School Baseball Boosters to use the Main and Auxiliary gyms at Hopewell High School on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for a youth baseball camp. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Dan Caton, seconded by Matt Erickson, approved the request of Hopewell High School Baseball Boosters to use the student parking lot at the Senior High School on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a food truck event. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the change order for the high school front door access by Johnson Controls in the amount \$1,185.00. The original cost was approved at \$7,935.00 but additional equipment and work is needed to move the Aiphone video/telephone and swipe card access to the exterior of the building. The total cost is \$9120.00 for the entire project. The cost will be attributed to the district's PCCD grant. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

It was announced that Draw Collective will be updating the 2019 feasibility study at the December 5, 2023 Reorganization meeting.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair**MOTION #9**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, 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 \$1,000,842.95
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$61,988.96
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$344,871.34

Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair

Mrs. Miller announced the anticipated Board member vacancy in Region 1. Interested individuals have until December 1, 2023 to submit a letter of interest.

Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Lizzie Firich, lifeguard, effective November 29, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Molly Shrum, lifeguard, effective November 29, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the appointment of Donovan Jeter, volunteer middle school basketball coach, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the change of employment status for Heidi Dierdorf, cafeteria substitute to 4.25 hours server/prep at the Senior High School, effective November 20, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the temporary change of employment status for Lisa Sinclair from substitute bus driver to bus utility attendant, effective November 28, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy/Planning by Carla Buxton, Chair

MOTION #17

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved Board Policy 246, Wellness. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Carla Buxton

MOTION #18

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, approved District participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz thanked Gary Hutsler for his contributions to the District and wished him well in his new position at West Allegheny School District. Dr. Beltz also thanked Dr. Erickson for his service on the Board.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

MOTION by Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary