

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

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

MOTION #1

By Dan Caton, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approved 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 this meeting to discuss substitute rates, non-professional employee staffing, special education staffing, and the Superintendent search. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

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

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

Members Absent
Daniel Santia

Also present were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, Korri Kane and Edward Katkich, Principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported that his focus has been on analyzing District data. He has been reviewing PSSA, Keystone and Future Ready PA Index, with the goal to look for some commonality and trends to see if students have been meeting benchmarks or to see if gaps have been widening. Along with District data, it has been important to analyze student data. The District uses Dibels, NWEA, teacher feedback and daily analysis. This data allows teachers to immediately identify student needs as well as the need for enrichment. With all the analysis, there is an immediate need for consistency across all grade levels. In the coming months, the District will have a mid-point review of its Comprehensive Plan. This will give the

District the opportunity to make adjustments to improve student outcomes, as resources are spent on programs and practices likely to have a positive impact.

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

Personnel: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Agreement between the Confidential Employees and the Hopewell Area School District for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.
2. Employment of Marjorie Ciucci, part-time substitute teacher at Hopewell High School, effective November 1, 2021, at a rate of \$80.00 per day worked.
3. Employment of Michael Gilmore, long-term substitute BCIT teacher at the Junior High School, effective October 29, 2021.
4. Modify substitute rate of pay to \$13.00 per hour for any non-500 hour substitute custodial employee, effective November 10, 2021.
5. Management Labor Agreement between Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association in regards to Virtual Instruction Days for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. Resignation of Lisa Litzinger, as a cook at Independence Elementary School, effective October 8, 2021. Ms. Litzinger remains on the substitute cafeteria roster.
7. Request of Gail Brown, bus driver, for a 60-day unpaid leave of absence, effective November 1, 2021.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Matt Erickson, Chair; Lori McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Service Agreement with Holy Family Specialized Learning for 1 student for the 2021-2022 school year.

At this time, Dr. Kartychak began his review of those items that would be voted on at the November 23, 2021 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Service Agreement with Holy Family Specialized Learning for 1 student for the 2021-2022 school year.

Finance and Budget: Ms. McKittrick, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair

1. 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.

Legislative: Kathryn Oblak, Chair; Darren Newberry, Co-Chair

1. Hopewell Board of School Directors Reorganization meeting on December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Administration Board Room.

Personnel: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Employment of Annette Doria and Erin Hoyne-Kovacevic as Kindergarten grade level co-chairs for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season, as listed.

	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

Transportation: Dan Santia, 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 2022-2023 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 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.

Patricia Butcher, 3648 State Route 151, Aliquippa, PA
Katie Watts, 2401 Woodbine Road, Aliquippa, PA

Both Patricia and Katie advocated for outside guests to be allowed to attend the Christmas Semiformal dance at the Senior High School. Currently, due to the pandemic, only District students are permitted to attend. Both students pointed out that many students participate in extra curricular activities and sporting events and are around students from other districts. They asked why the Semi should be any different. Patricia suggested that this year, perhaps, only juniors and seniors be permitted to attend, so that there are not as many people, which would make it easier to social distance.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Mrs. Pistorius thanked Dr. Roth for his excellent report and plans for the future. She also thanked Mrs. Dobo for her many years of service to the Board. Mrs. Pistorius will take Mrs. Dobo's seat at the reorganization meeting, as Mrs. Dobo did not run for reelection. Mrs. Pistorius again raised the question as to specials being cancelled for elementary students. She asked Dr. Kartychak the status of building substitutes. She is also very excited to announce that the Junior High School play, Matilda, Jr., was coming up and that she hoped everyone would attend.

Dr. Kartychak reported that previously the Board had approved ten building substitutes. As of now, the District has only been able to fill five of those positions and that the District only had a 25% fill rate. He also said that 4th grade students would be coming to the Senior High on November 19, 2021 to see the play.

Jen Parish, 750 Davis Road, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Parish asked if the Board was aware that the Governor was leaving the decision to wear masks up to individual school districts as of January 17, 2022. The Board responded that they were all aware of the decision. She said that she assumes that the mask mandate will be lifted only if individuals are vaccinated. She wanted the Board to vote on a Motion that vaccines would never be required as a condition of in-person learning. She asked that the plan be amended to eliminate the mandate. Dr. Kartychak responded that the Health and Safety Plan would be reviewed in January.

Marcy Asvestas, 627 Cherry Street, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Asvestas asked if the District had an After Action Plan related to the pandemic and the Health and Safety Plan. She believes that this plan should be in place for when the Health and Safety Plan expires. She wanted to confirm that the District held vaccine clinics. Dr. Kartychak reported that the District has held two vaccine clinics, one in June and one in September. The first clinic was sponsored by UPMC, with approximately 250 people attending. The second clinic was sponsored by Rite Aid, with only five people participating.

Lee Ann Sardo, 445 School Road, Clinton, PA

Mrs. Sardo has a son with autism. He is struggling with the requirement for everyone to wear a mask, as it is difficult for him to identify facial and social cues. This causes her son distress and anxiety. She asked if there was a plan in place to help students struggling with this issue. Mrs. Sardo was told that she could reach out to his guidance counselor or teachers for help or that she could contact Dr. Utchell, the Director of Special Education.

At this time, Mr. Winkle returned to Personnel.

Personnel by Matt Erickson, Chair**MOTION #2**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the Agreement between the Confidential Employees and the Hopewell Area School District for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Marjorie Ciucci, part-time substitute French teacher at Hopewell High School, effective November 1, 2021, at a rate of \$80.00 per day worked. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Michael Gilmore, long-term substitute BCIT teacher at the Junior High School, effective October 29, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to modify the substitute rate of pay to \$13.00 per hour for any non-500 hour substitute custodial employee, effective November 10, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Management Labor Agreement between Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association in regards to Virtual Instruction Days for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried by a vote of seven to one, with Mr. Winkle voting no, and Mr. Santia absent.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to accept the Resignation of Lisa Litzinger, as a cook at Independence Elementary School, effective October 8, 2021. Ms. Litzinger remains on the substitute cafeteria roster. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the request of Gail Brown, bus driver, for a 60-day unpaid leave of absence, effective November 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Matt EricksonMOTION #9

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Service Agreement with Holy Family Specialized Learning for 1 student for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Caton asked if we can add to the agenda for the Business Meeting to permit outside students to attend the Semi. Several other Board members were in agreement. Dr. Kartychak said that it didn't need to be a Board action item, that administration could make that decision. Mr. Allison said that the dance is at the Fez and he continues to have concerns about the ability to social

distance. Miss Butcher asked if the dance could be held in the gymnasium and lobby at the Senior High School, which would be a bigger venue.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

November 23, 2021, Regular Business Meeting will be in person and held virtually.

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. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeffrey Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary