

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REORGANIZATION MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 2354 Brodhead Road, Hopewell Township for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization of the Board in compliance with Section 404 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, and any other business which may come before the Board of Directors.

Mr. Santia, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Anitre' Bell
Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Principal; and visitors.

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 Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the agenda as written.

For purposes of reorganization, Motion by Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to nominate Jeff Beltz, Superintendent, as Temporary President. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Beltz called for nominations for President. Motion by Carla Buxton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic to nominate Daniel Santia as President of the Board. There being no other nominations for President, Motion by Victoria Gill, second by Dan Caton, nominations for President closed. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Roll Call vote for Daniel Santia as President of the Board of Directors. Motion carried by a vote of eight to one, with Mrs. Pistorius voting no.

Dr. Beltz called for nominations for Vice President. There were three nominations. Anissa Klessner nominated Jeanette Miller; Dan Santia nominated Dan Caton; and Bethany Pistorius

nominated Carla Buxton as Vice President of the Board. There being no other nominations for Vice President, Motion by Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, nominations for Vice President closed. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

During the election process for Vice President, Mrs. Miller secured the necessary five roll call votes on the first ballot. As a result, no further voting rounds were required. Mrs. Miller was thereby duly elected as Vice President.

Officers were seated.

MOTION #2

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the November 26, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

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.

Jason Powell addressed the Board to offer a formal apology to a Board member regarding his previous remarks. At the prior meeting, Mr. Powell had delivered an impassioned speech, calling for the resignation of the Board member. However, at this meeting, Mr. Powell expressed regret for the tone and content of his earlier statements.

Mr. Powell acknowledged that a simple miscommunication had played a significant role in the conflict and reiterated the importance of fostering open dialogue. He then extended his gratitude to the Board member for their dedicated service to the community, recognizing the commitment and effort required in their role.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Powell urged the entire Board to remain open to differing perspectives and to consider both sides of issues thoughtfully as they make decisions affecting the community. His comments were received with appreciation for their respectful and constructive tone.

In response, the Board member graciously accepted Mr. Powell's apology, noting that no negativity was intended on their part. They expressed appreciation for Mr. Powell's willingness to engage in constructive conversation, reaffirming the Board's commitment to serving the community collaboratively and respectfully.

Mr. Santia continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #3

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved Zach Lemansky, a student at Geneva College, to complete his student teaching at Hopewell High School during the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year under the supervision of Ray Smith. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved Elizabeth Chellis, a student at Carlow University, to complete her Pre-Student teaching practicum at Hopewell High School during the second semester of the 2024-25 school year under the supervision of Janet Meyers. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Cheerleading to use the cafeteria at the Junior High School on December 21, 2024 to host a breakfast fundraiser. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller approved the appointment of Diane Palsa as Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Hopewell Township for 2024 school taxes for period December 31, 2024 through April 15, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the appointment of Debra Shaffer as Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Independence Township for 2024 school taxes for period December 31, 2024 through April 15, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the appointment of Linda McCoy as Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Raccoon Township for 2024 school taxes for period December 31, 2024 through April 15, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved Resolution 11-2024, a Resolution by the School Board of the Hopewell Area School District Voting Delegate Appointment to the Beaver County Tax Collection Committee. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Jeanette Miller, ChairMOTION #10

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Work and Business meeting dates for discussion and conducting any other general business that may come before the Board of Directors, as presented. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, ChairMOTION #11

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Beth Butter, substitute cafeteria, effective November 26, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted the resignation of Amy Giza, bus driver, effective January 3, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Mrs. Klessner asked that the Board discuss the 2025-2026 school calendar in January.

Mrs. Gill thanked Mr. Caton for his service as Vice President of the Board and congratulated Mrs. Miller on her appointment as the new Vice President.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz said that he was looking forward to the holiday concerts that are coming up. He also thanked Mr. Caton and members of the Hopewell Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance with the fire alarm issues at the Senior High School earlier in the week.

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 14, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual
January 28, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

MOTION by Bethany Pistorius, 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 7:36 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary