

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in-person Board meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Dan Santia, Board President.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia.

Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Anitre' Bell (via Zoom)

Carla Buxton

Daniel Caton

Victoria Gill

Anissa Klessner

Jeanette Miller

Bethany Pistorius

Daniel Santia

Members Absent

Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Nancy Barber, Board Secretary; Rob Kartychak and Korri Kane, Principals; 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 Dan Caton, approved the agenda as written.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on later in this meeting.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resolution #2-2025 establishing the compensation paid to the tax collectors of Hopewell, Independence, and Raccoon Townships of \$5.00 per real estate tax parcel and \$5.00 per interim real estate tax parcel beginning a four-year term starting the first Monday of January 2026. **(Roll Call)**

Personnel: Mrs. Buxton, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Employee #289 for an unpaid medical leave of absence effective February 26, 2025.
2. Change of employment status for Rose George from full-time bus driver to substitute driver, effective February 5, 2025.

Policy and Planning: Mrs. Klessner, Chair; Ms. Bell, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Policy Review and Adoption (First Reading)
 - 113.2 Behavior Support
 - 113.3 Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
 - 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
 - 114 Gifted Education
 - 115 Career and Technical Education
 - 116 Tutoring
 - 117 Homebound Instruction
 - 118 Independent Study
 - 119 Current Events
 - 121 Field Trips

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the February 25, 2025 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Ms. Bell and Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chairs

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. School calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Sale or disposal of old band uniforms. New band uniforms were purchased in 2022.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. The Hopewell Football Boosters make the following requests:
 - a. Conduct a 50/50 raffle at all home football games during the 2025 season;

- b. Place a 5x8 removeable storage bin behind the concession stand for four months. This will be sponsored by U-Haul and will be removed after the last game:
- c. Use the Senior High School cafeteria on Thursday evenings during the season for team dinners;
- d. Kona Ice to set up at all home games inside the top gate by the concession stand; and
- e. Fireworks for home games. Boosters will secure additional insurance and rider provision.

Mr. Caton reported that the Football Boosters would need to secure the necessary permits from the township for the planned fireworks display.

In response, Mrs. Buxton inquired whether the Boosters were aware of the community's concerns surrounding the fireworks.

Mrs. Gill shared that she had already spoken with Mr. Mottes about these concerns, and he expressed his willingness to collaborate with both the township and the District to find a suitable solution to address the community's issues.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

- 1. Discussion: District payment of \$46,707.36 for Sections A and B of the CTC roof replacement.

Dr. Beltz reported that the District's share of the CTC roof replacement project is approximately 12% of the total cost. This percentage aligns with Hopewell's share of student enrollment at the CTC, which is also 12%.

Personnel: Mrs. Buxton, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

- 1. Spring coaches and salaries. (Attachment)

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 township of residence
- 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.

Diane Passatino, a resident who lives directly across from the senior high school soccer field, voiced her concerns regarding the fireworks display requested by the Football Boosters for the upcoming football season. Mrs. Passatino shared that she has also expressed her concerns to township officials. She described the fireworks as very disruptive to the neighborhood and questioned whether specific regulations were being followed.

Mrs. Passatino explained that the fireworks are particularly upsetting to her dog, as she must take him out of the house to avoid stressing him to the point of illness. She also mentioned that the intensity of the display causes her house to shake and raises concerns about the potential danger of embers igniting nearby houses. She concluded by respectfully asking that the District be a good neighbor to those in the surrounding area.

Ms. Bell thanked Mrs. Passatino for sharing her concerns and expressed appreciation for her input. She then inquired if there would be an issue if the fireworks were to be shot off in a different location, further away from the school, in an effort to address the concerns raised.

At this time, Mr. Santia returned to Finance and Budget

Finance and Budget by Jeanette Miller, Chair

MOTION #2

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve Resolution #2-2025 establishing the compensation paid to the tax collectors of Hopewell, Independence, and Raccoon Townships of \$5.00 per real estate tax parcel and \$5.00 per interim real estate tax parcel beginning a four-year term starting the first Monday of January 2026. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, Co-Chair**MOTION #3**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Employee #289 for an unpaid medical leave of absence effective February 26, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the change of employment status for Rose George from full-time bus driver to substitute driver, effective February 5, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Anissa Klessner, Chair**MOTION #5**

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the first reading of the following policies. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy 123.1	Concussion Management
Policy 123.2	Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Policy 124	Alternative Instruction
Policy 125	Adult Education
Policy 126	Class Size
Policy 127	Assessment System
Policy 130	Homework
Policy 137	Home Education Programs
Policy 137.1	Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
Policy 137.2	Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students
Policy 137.3	Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students
Policy 138	Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners

Other Business

Dr. Beltz extended his best wishes to Coach Homziak and the Girls Basketball team as they prepared for their first-round playoff game against Elizabeth Forward School District.

Additionally, Dr. Beltz informed the Board that he had sent a letter to District families regarding the ongoing issues with the hot water boiler at the Senior High School and its impact on meal preparations. He stated that the District has been diligently working with an outside contractor to implement a permanent fix; however, the issue persists. To ensure compliance with

regulatory standards, meal preparation for the Senior High School will be relocated to the Junior High School whenever water temperatures are not sufficient.

Mrs. Pistorius congratulated the senior basketball players, cheerleaders, and swimmers on completing their final high school season. She recognized their dedication, hard work, and contributions to their respective programs, wishing them success in their future endeavors.

Upcoming Board Meetings

February 25, 2025, Regular Business Meeting, Central Administration 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 7:35 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Board Secretary