

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Board Secretary, Nancy Barber.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Barber.

Mrs. Barber asked for a motion to approve Mrs. Jeanette Miller as Acting Board President for this meeting. Motion by Victoria Gill, seconded by Anissa Klessner, the motion carried.

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

Carla Buxton (Participated by phone conference)

Victoria Gill  
Anissa Klessner  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent

Anitre' Bell  
Daniel Caton  
Daniel Santia

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, Jim Cassell and Donna Steff, Principals; Dennis Barber, the Director of Technology and visitors.

Good New in our Schools reports were presented by Dr. Kartychak, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mrs. Steff. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

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

MOTION #1

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the agenda as written.

Mrs. Miller asked for approval of minutes.

### MOTION #2

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Anissa Klessner, to approve the January 23, 2024 Business meeting and the February 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dennis Barber presented information on the Technology Department. Mr. Barber discussed the schedule to purchase and replace iPads, Chromebooks and desktop workstations and budgeting for those items for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. Mr. Barber explained the E-Rate categories and what those funds should be used for, including the fiber line replacement between the Senior High School, Junior High School, Margaret Ross Elementary School and the bus garage.

### 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
- 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.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair****MOTION #3**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the school calendar for the 2024-2025 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Hopewell Area School District and Flourish Beaver County for the launch of the Beaver County Education Initiative to foster educational opportunities for our students and the coordination of a post-secondary scholarship. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the review of the District's Health and Safety Plan, pursuant to ESSER requirements. At this time, there are no recommended changes to the Plan. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Staffing Agreement with STAT Staffing for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Victoria Gill****MOTION #7**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Football cheerleaders to use the Junior and Senior High School buildings on the following dates and times. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Cafeteria at the Junior High School on April 30, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and May 4, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.
- b. Gym A at the Junior High School on May 4, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. for tryouts.
- c. Gym A at the Junior High School April 30, 2024 through May 24, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
- d. The Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on September 22, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MOTION #8

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Girls Softball to use Gym A at the Junior High School weekdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. beginning March 11, 2024 through April 27, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Baseball to use Gym B at the Junior High School weekdays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. beginning March 11, 2024 through April 20, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Victoria Gill seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Waterways Association of Pittsburgh to use the Junior High School pool on Thursday, July 18, 2024 from approximately 12:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. for a survival rescue swim class. Rental fee is \$300.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Natalee Bufalini, Hopewell Aquatics Director, in association with Heart Strong Wellness, to conduct a lifeguard training and recertification class at the Junior High School, on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 26, 2024 through May 2, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of Joe Obeldobel and Wings of Moon to use the track at the Senior High School for practice beginning April 1, 2024 through July 30, 2024 on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Our Lady of Fatima school to use the grass soccer fields at the Senior High School for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. beginning March 12, 2024 through May 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair****MOTION #14**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, 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 by an affirmative roll call vote of five Directors. It should be noted that Mrs. Buxton attended the meeting virtually, but did not respond when called upon for her vote.

1. General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$1,165,168.68
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$394,030.60
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$716,839.91

**Legislative by Victoria Gill****MOTION #15**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the appointment of Anissa Klessner to the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit Board for a three-year term to commence July 1, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, Chair****MOTION #16**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve spring coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #17**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Amanda Brunton, substitute nurse, effective February 28, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #18**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Jennifer Hull as a substitute breakfast monitor, at Margaret Ross Elementary School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #19**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted the resignation of Marian Hunt, substitute cafeteria employee, effective February 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the unpaid leave of absence for Crystal Hough, transportation aide, effective February 22, 2024 through March 6, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Christina Varner, transportation aide, effective February 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Taylor Carnot, long-term substitute kindergarten teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, effective February 14, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the unpaid leave of absence for Vonda George, bus driver, effective February 26, 2024 through April 9, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Marcy Bebout, Director of Special Education, at a salary of \$97,000.00 with a start date pending release from current employer but not to exceed April 29, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Policy/Planning by Anissa Klessner, Chair**MOTION #25

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Policy 246 – Wellness. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Nothing to Report

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz thanked Mr. Barber for his presentation and thanked him for his service to the District, as he will be retiring at the end of March. He also welcomed Ms. Marcy Bebout as the new Special Education Director. Dr. Beltz reported that the community meeting with DRAW Collective on February 20, 2024 went well with approximately 60 people in attendance and additional individuals participating online. He said that the next presentation by DRAW Collective will be at the next Board meeting, March 12, 2024. Dr. Beltz congratulated Isaiah Pisano on his 100<sup>th</sup> match victory and finishing 1<sup>st</sup> at the WPIAL Championship. He also congratulated all athletes on their outstanding performances during the winter season.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Board Meetings

March 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

March 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

MOTION by Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mrs. Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeanette Miller, Acting Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary