

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, February 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
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Lori McKittrick

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Frank Paganie, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Robert Kartychak, Louis Ceccarelli, Gary Hutsler, and Donna Steff, principals; 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.

MOTION #1

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

Stephen Niedenberger from Hosack Specht Muetzel & Wood reviewed the June 30, 2022 audit report.

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

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the January 24, 2023 and February 14, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPEd ITEMS

MOTION #3

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve items (1) through (3) as presented in accordance with School Board's agreement for grouping items in a single motion. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Tax Collectors' Report

1. Recommendation to accept report for taxes collected for the month of January 2023, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

2. Recommendation to accept report of the Treasurer for the month of January 2023 presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of January 2023, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

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 Matthew Erickson, Chair

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the school calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Hanna Spinosi, a student at Slippery Rock University, to complete her school nurse certification practicum during the fall of 2023, under the guidance of Tamara Kross and Sarah Ambrose. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Hopewell Education Association regarding Grievance No. 2020-3 relating to the French teaching position. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #7

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the update to the District's feasibility study by DRAW Collective (formerly VEBH), cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. MOTION carried by a vote of seven to one, with Matt Erickson voting no.

MOTION #8

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Central Valley School District for students from the Central Valley Middle School swim team to utilize the pool for practice for the 2022-2023 season at a cost of \$50.00/day. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, 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. Gym A at the Junior High School May 2-4, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- b. Gym A and the cafeteria at the Junior High School May 6, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- c. Gym A at the Junior High School May 8-12, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- d. Gym A at the Junior High School May 15-19, 2023 and May 22-26, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
- e. The Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on September 24, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MOTION #10

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Waterways Association of Pittsburgh to use the Junior High School pool on Thursday, July 20, 2023 from approximately 12:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. for a survival rescue swim class. Rental fee is \$500.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Dan Caton, seconded by Matt Erickson, approved the request from Ambridge varsity boys' tennis to use varsity tennis courts for their home 2022-2023 matches, at a cost of \$50.00 per match. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Varsity Cheerleaders to use the Main gym at the Senior High School March 6-8, 2023 and March 29-30, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a cheerleading clinic. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Motorcycle Safety Academy to use the parking lot at Margaret Ross Elementary School March 25, 2023 through May 13, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and from May 14, 2023 through July 30, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for motorcycle safety training. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Dan Caton, 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, April 3, 2023 through May 4, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Softball to use Gym A at the Junior High School Monday, Wednesday and Friday beginning March 6, 2023 through April 28, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Baseball to use Gym B at the Junior High School March 13, 2023 through April 29, 2023, Monday through Friday from 6:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Erin Caputo to use the varsity tennis courts from June through August to conduct a USTA 10 and Under tennis clinic. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair

MOTION #18

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, 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 \$954,816.46
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$100,372.56
3. General Fund Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$1,552,475.59

MOTION #19

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Audit Report of the Hopewell Area School District for the year ended June 30, 2022 issued by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Aliquippa Bucktails to purchase parcels 65-011-1204-000 and 65-011-1211-000 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried by a vote of six to two, with Dan Caton and Dan Santia voting no.

MOTION #21

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the following budget transfer. Budget transfer. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

From: Account 10-2511-110 - \$ 7,200.00 -Supervisor-Fiscal services salaries
Account 10-2519-150 - \$27,000.00-Fiscal services salaries
Account 10-2519-211 - \$11,000.00-Fiscal services benefits

To: Account 10-2650-762 - \$45,200.00 -Equipment replacement

For purchase of a Bobcat Skid Steer Loader.

MOTION #22

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and the BC RWAN Consortium for a five (5) year agreement for the Regional RWAN contract with DQE Communications. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair

The board unanimously agreed to the first reading of revised Policy No. 707 - Use of School Facilities.

Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #23

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the employment of Brenna Wandel, head varsity girls tennis coach, at a stipend of \$5,100.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the spring coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Madison Martin, day-to-day substitute teacher at Hopewell High School effective February 21, 2023 at a stipend of \$100.00 day. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation for retirement of Dixie Loverde, Junior High School secretary, effective August 18, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Eric Drake, substitute custodian, effective February 22, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Shauna Howard for After-School Learning from February 28, 2023 through March 30, 2023. After-School Program will be funded using ESSER III 7% set-aside monies. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Nicole Ozimok for After-School Learning from February 28, 2023 through March 30, 2023. After-School Program will be funded using ESSER III 7% set-aside monies. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation of Chet Gapczyinski, varsity head girls soccer coach, effective March 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz reported that Spring Learning began this week with about 150 students participating. He also stated that the District had received a \$3,000.00 grant from Betty Sue Schaugency and the Robert Todd Carter Foundation to support Viking Pride, our school-wide positive behavior support program. He said that the District continues to do environmental testing at Hopewell Elementary School to ensure that previous concerns will continue to be monitored.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Nothing to report.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

March 14, 2023, Regular Work Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Board Room and Virtual
March 28, 2023, Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Board Room and Virtual.

MOTION by Jeanette Miller, seconded by Victoria Gill, that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary