

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by David Bufalini, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

An Executive Session was held on January 25, 2022 to discuss the superintendent search. An Executive Session was also held prior to this meeting to discuss employee grievances, a vehicle accident and assessments. 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 Mr. Bufalini. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

David Bufalini
Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Jeffrey Winkle

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

Dr. Kartychak initiated a conversation and review of the Health and Safety Plan. He said that the number of students and staff affected by Covid has gone down. He also said that the main objective is to be able to keep schools open and it is his recommendation to continue the mask mandate. The District Health and Safety Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Free school privileges for Shyanne Trosky to attend Hopewell High School for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Personnel: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair

1. Employment of James Mros, substitute custodian, effective January 31, 2022.
2. Request of Amy Giza, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 24, 2022 through March 31, 2022.
3. Request of Kim Stowers, bus driver, to extended her unpaid leave of absence beginning February 3, 2022 through March 3, 2022.
4. Employment of Judy Brice, substitute secretary, effective February 9, 2022.
5. Request of Michael White, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning February 7, 2022 through March 7, 2022.

Mr. Bufalini asked if the requested leaves of absence would put a strain on transportation. Dr. Kartychak responded that drivers are in short supply, but that drivers are eligible for leave based on their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

At this time, Dr. Kartychak began his review of those items that would be voted on at the February 22, 2022 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. School calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Request of Mr. Allison for three students and their teacher to attend the 2021-2022 Academic Games in Knoxville, Tennessee, April 21-26, 2022.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Santia, Chair; Mr. Winkle, Co-Chair

1. Request of Hopewell Girls Fast Pitch Softball to use either Gym A or Gym B at the Junior High School two days a week for two hours for the months of March and April, 2022.

2. Request of Hopewell Youth Baseball to use Gym B at the Junior High School Monday through Friday from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. beginning March 7, 2022 through April 30, 2022.
3. Request of Lady Viking Basketball Boosters to use the student parking lot at the Senior High School on October 11, 2022 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. to host the 2nd Annual Food Truck Frenzy.
4. Request of the Musical Boosters to use the chorus room at the Senior High School the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Renewal agreement with Crown Castle to provide ethernet for the period beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027 at a cost of \$447.92 per year.

Dr. Kartychak announced a revision to this Motion, stating that the cost of \$447.92 is per month rather than per year.

Personnel: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, 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
- 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.

Shawna Selinsky

Mrs. Selinsky asked where the District gets their Covid numbers. Mrs. Pistorius answered from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Mrs. Selinsky responded by stating that the CDC is not a government agency, but one that is privately funded and believes that the CDC does not act on an impartial basis. She believes that the lobbying efforts by these corporations unduly influences CDC policy. She asked that the District base their decisions regarding health and safety on fact rather than those influenced by special interest groups.

Jen Parrish

Mrs. Parrish asked the Board if there was a plan to create a community survey regarding the mask mandate. Mr. Bufalini responded that the Board had not discussed the issue. Mrs. Parrish asked for the District policy on facial coverings. She has heard that students are being disciplined for refusal to comply with the policy. Dr. Kartychak reported that, on the whole, there have been very few instances where students have ignored directives to put on their mask.

Kortney Berg

Mrs. Berg reported issues with busing last week. She said that the bus was overcrowded and two hours late. She believes that parents should have received a telephone call notifying them of the delay. She asked that the District look at bus runs so that times are shorter and are less crowded.

Marcy Asvestas

Mrs. Asvestas believes that it is against the law to mandate that students wear masks. She asked why students are required to wear masks if they are healthy. Mrs. Asvestas cites 21 US Code §§360bbb-3 as a constitutional right to refuse compliance with the mask mandate.

Mr. Bufalini responded that the Board takes their duties very seriously and they are making the best decisions they can with the information that has been provided to them.

Mr. Salopek explained that the mask mandate was overturned by the Supreme Court based on a procedural issue, not a legal issue.

Kris McCafferty

Mrs. McCafferty said that she had sent emails to the Board asking for an analysis of first quarter data compared with the data from the same quarter from 2020-2021. She is asking what the plan is for students to recoup learning losses due to school closure because of the pandemic. Dr. Kartychak said that their primary focus had been on social and emotional issues, stating that

without that, it is very difficult for students to learn. He said that he agrees that there has been learning loss, and that is being addressed as well.

At this time, Mr. Bufalini returned to Education/Curriculum/Instruction.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Matt Erickson, Chair

MOTION #2

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve free school privileges for Shyanne Trosky to attend Hopewell High School for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Matt Erickson, Chair

MOTION #3

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of James Mros, substitute custodian, effective January 31, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the request of Amy Giza, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 24, 2022 through March 31, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Kim Stowers, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 3, 2022 through March 3, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Judy Brice, substitute secretary, effective February 9, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve a request from Michael White, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning February 7, 2022 through March 7, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

February 22, 2022, Regular Business Meeting in the Central Administration Board Room and held virtually.

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

Mr. Bufalini adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

David Bufalini, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary