

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
MARCH 14, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

MOTION #1

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

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.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Matthew Erickson

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak and Ed Katkich, Principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

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

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

1. Agreement with Mars Home for Youth Family Services and Longmore Academy for licensed private academic placement for the 2022-2023 school year.

Buildings and Grounds: Daniel Caton, Chair; Vicki Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request from Our Lady of Fatima school to use the grass soccer fields at the Senior High School for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning March 14, 2023 through June 3, 2023.

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

1. Advertisement for receipt of bids for supplies and/or equipment for the 2023-2024 school year.

Legislative: Mrs. Miller, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

1. Board Policy 707 – Use of School Facilities (Second Reading)

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

1. Employment of Ryan Becker, substitute bus driver, effective March 6, 2023.
2. Creation of a special education classroom paraprofessional position at the Senior High School.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the March 28, 2023 Business meeting.

Buildings and Grounds: Daniel Caton, Chair; Vicki Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request of Hopewell Baseball Boosters, to place sponsorship banners on the outfield fence and on the home fan bleachers fence.
2. Request of Jeff Brunton to use Tony Dorsett Stadium for a Junior High School track meet on April 21, 2023 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

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

1. 2023-2024 Pay Schedule, as presented. (**Attachment**)
2. 2023-2024 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit general operating budget in the amount of \$1,608,913.00. (**Attachment**)
3. Exoneration of the following property tax collectors for uncollected 2022 taxes: Debra Shaffer, Independence Township, Diane Palsa, Hopewell Township, and Jeanie Parrish, Raccoon Township.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Employment of _____, special education paraprofessional at the Senior High School.
2. Employment of _____, special education paraprofessional at _____.

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.

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

Cheryl Crabb

Ms. Crabb, a retired teacher that worked in the District for 36 years, questioned why the Board limits individual speakers to only three minutes to ask questions or voice concerns.

Mr. Salopek stated that the policy has been in effect for many years and stated that the District adheres to the regulations of Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act, which permits the limitation on the amount of time an individual can speak. The Board has always given visitors this right and has been flexible with imposing time limits.

Ms. Crabb also asked which Board members were on the negotiating committee.

She was told that Mr. Santia, Ms. McKittrick and Mrs. Miller were on the committee.

Vito Petrina

Mr. Petrina asked about the status of the teacher's contract. He asked how long negotiations have been ongoing.

Mr. Salopek stated that the teachers continue to work under the terms of the old contract, which expired June 30, 2022. The Board and HEA have been working on the contract for 1.5 years and that negotiations continue.

Nancy Schafer

Nancy Schafer, a former student and retired teacher in the District, asked if progress was being made with respect to the teacher's contract and questioned the confidentiality of the process.

Mr. Salopek stated that some progress was being made and believed that all parties were negotiating in good faith.

Renee Wrzesniewski

Mrs. Wrzesniewski asked if there was a timeline to complete the contract and if there were a strike, would parents be given enough time to make proper arrangements for the children.

Mr. Salopek explained that the union must give the District 48 hours' notice of a planned walkout. He said that parents would be informed by the Superintendent immediately of such notice.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius, Co-Chair

MOTION #2

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the agreement with Mars Home for Youth Family Services and Longmore Academy for licensed private academic placement for the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Daniel Caton, Chair

MOTION #3

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request from Our Lady of Fatima school to use the grass soccer fields at the Senior High School for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning March 14, 2023 through June 3, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair

MOTION #4

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the advertisement for receipt of bids for supplies and/or equipment for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair

MOTION #5

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve revised Board Policy 707 – Use of School Facilities. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the employment of Ryan Becker, substitute bus driver, effective March 6, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve creation of a special education classroom paraprofessional position at the Senior High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

March 28, 2023, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

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

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary