

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 25, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in-person Board meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 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
Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Christina Lane, Solicitor attended virtually; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, James Cassell, and Donna Steff, Principals; and visitors.

Good News in our School was presented by Dr. Kartychak from the Senior High School, Mr. Ceccarelli from the Junior High School and Mrs. Steff from the elementary schools. Copies of each report are attached to these minutes.

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

MOTION #1

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the agenda as written.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the February 25, 2025 Business meeting and the March 11, 2025, Board Work Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Financial Reports consisting of the Tax Collection, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements, for February. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

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.

No visitors wished to address the Board.

Committee Discussion and Recommendations**Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #4

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Hopewell Area School District Comprehensive Plan for September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the contract renewal for the 2025-2026 school year with AOT, Inc., providers of the District's occupational and physical therapy services, as well as speech therapy services on an as needed basis. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved Lindsay Paul, a student at Robert Morris University, to complete her pre-student teacher field experience at in the fall of 2025 at Hopewell Elementary School, under the supervision of Katie Snyder. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved Elizabeth Chellis, a student at Carlow University, to complete her student teaching in the fall of 2025 at the Senior High School under the supervision of Janet Meyers. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Education Master Services Agreement with Amergis Healthcare Staffing, Inc. to provide nursing services on an as-needed basis. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the Educational Institution Agreement with Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc. to provide nursing services on an as-needed basis. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Daniel Caton, ChairMOTION #10

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved Resolution No. 3-2025 Declaration of Taking. The Hopewell Area School District having met all due diligence and statutory requirements in seeking to negotiate a sale with the property owner and all efforts of outreach have failed hereby resolve to take the property located at 1207 Longvue Avenue, Aliquippa, PA 15001 (Parcel ID # 651940110000) by eminent domain pursuant to the school district's statutory authority. Said Hopewell Township property will be utilized for school purposes to include school building alterations, additional parking, and vehicle traffic considerations. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Cheerleaders to use Gym A at the Junior High beginning April 22, 2025 through May 22, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. for practice and tryouts. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Cheerleaders to use the cafeteria at the Junior High School in conjunction with their practices on April 22 and April 26, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Dan Caton, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Cheerleaders to use Gym A at the Junior High School beginning August 25, 2025 through October 9, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. for practice. 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 Hopewell Township to use the parking lots at Hopewell and Margaret Ross Elementary Schools for parking during Park Fest, July 12, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #15

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved items (1) and (2) and to ratify items (3) and (4) as presented, in accordance with the 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 \$1,224,845.63
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$51,755.83
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$740,796.55

MOTION #16

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the 2025-2026 Pay Schedule, as presented. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the 2025-2026 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit general operating budget in the amount of \$2,340,106.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the exoneration of the following property tax collectors for uncollected 2024 taxes: Diane Palsa, Hopewell; Debra Shaffer, Independence; and Linda McCoy, Raccoon Township. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the proposal from Transfinder to upgrade the Routefinder transportation software at a cost of \$12,985.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Carla Buxton, ChairMOTION #20

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the payment of winter coaches beyond the regular season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the revision to Administrative Compensation Plan creating a program rewarding individuals who have shown exemplary service and a commitment to Hopewell Area School District and community. The longevity program will provide a three thousand dollar increase in salary for individuals who have completed three years of continuous administrative service in the District. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the job description for the Director of Facilities and Grounds. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the employment of Charles Piroli, Director of Facilities and Grounds, at a salary of \$80,000.00 for a one-year period upon the release of his current employer. MOTION carried by a vote of seven to two, with Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Pistorius voting no.

MOTION #24

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted the resignation of Mark D'Alessandris, Varsity Head Basketball Coach, effective March 26, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the change of employment status for Kimberlee Halfhill from substitute driver to full time driver, effective March 17, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Zachary Lemansky, substitute teacher, effective April 25, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted resignation for retirement of Laura Buchanan, second grade teacher at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective May 30, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the employment of Robert Osman, 2-hour breakfast cook at the Senior High School, effective March 24, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Anitre Bell, ChairMOTION #29

By Anitre Bell, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Township to use District buses and drivers for Park Fest, July 12, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Mrs. Pistorius commended the directors of the Senior High School musical, *Anastasia*, for their exceptional work in bringing the production to life. She also expressed her appreciation for the parents of former students who continue to dedicate their time and talents to supporting the musical. Mrs. Pistorius noted that the performance was outstanding and shared that it was her favorite in recent years. Additionally, she extended congratulations to the 19 seniors who participated in the production, recognizing their contributions and dedication to the show.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz extended his congratulations to all those involved in the Senior High School musical performance, noting that it was an enjoyable and entertaining production. He also recognized and congratulated the students who were recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and National Honor Society (NHS), applauding their academic achievements and commitment to service.

Additionally, Dr. Beltz welcomed Mr. Piroli as the District's new Director of Facilities and Grounds, expressing enthusiasm for his leadership in this important role. Lastly, he congratulated Mrs. Buchanan on her remarkable 32 years of service to the District and wished her well in her retirement, acknowledging her dedication and lasting impact on the school community.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Upcoming Board Meetings

March 11, 2025, Regular Work Meeting
March 25, 2025, Regular Business Meeting

MOTION by Bethany Pistorius, 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 7:39 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary