

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 8, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in-person Board meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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:

Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Anitre' Bell

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Board Secretary; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel, real estate 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 Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the agenda as written.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on later in this meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Ms. Bell and Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chairs

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Dual Credit Agreement by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the University of Pittsburgh, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.

Athletics: Mrs. Gill, Chair; Mr. Caton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request from the High School Track and Field team to participate in the Penn Relays on April 24-26, 2025 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All costs associated with this trip/competition will be incurred by the Track Boosters.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Hopewell Youth Soccer to use the stadium at the Senior High School on Sunday's beginning April 6 through June 8, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. games.
2. Request of Hopewell Youth Soccer to use the stadium at the Senior High School on Friday evenings from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. beginning March 28, 2025 through June 6, 2025, for practice.
3. Request of Joe Obeldobel and Wings of Moon to use the track at the Senior High School for practice beginning April 1, 2025 through July 30, 2025 on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
4. Informational: Partial Senior High School roof replacement project. This project is part of the \$1,150,000.00 Public School Facility Improvement Grant that was awarded in November 2024.

Personnel: Mrs. Buxton, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Appointment of Barb Marnhout, volunteer assistant Junior High School swim coach, effective April 9, 2025.
2. Employment of Ava Yoder, lifeguard, effective April 9, 2025.
3. Resignation for retirement of Elizabeth Lehman, science teacher at the Junior High School, effective May 31, 2025.

Policy/Planning: Mrs. Klessner, Chair; Ms. Bell, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Policy Review and Adoption (First Reading)

Policy 140 Charter Schools
Policy 140.1 Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students

Policy 142	Migrant Students
Policy 143	Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools
Policy 144	Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
Policy 146	Student Services

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the April 22, 2025 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Ms. Bell and Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chairs

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of the Class of 2025 to conduct a baccalaureate service the evening of Tuesday, May 27, 2025 in the Senior High School auditorium.
2. Request of Dr. Kartychak for Mrs. Esther Aloia and three Hopewell High School students that qualified for the National Family Career and Community Leaders of America Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida July 5-9, 2025 to attend.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Terry Borkovic to use Gym A at the Junior High School to conduct a volleyball camp for Hopewell girls in grades 4 and 5 on June 5 and 6, 2025.
2. Request of Terry Borkovic to use Gym A at the Junior High School to conduct a volleyball camp for girls in grades 6 through 9 the week of June 2 through June 6, 2025.
3. Request of Lady Viking Basketball boosters to use the football parking lot at Tony Dorsett Stadium on September 16, 2025 beginning at 3:00 p.m. for a Food Truck event.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. 2025-2026 Beaver County Career and Technology Center General Fund Budget in the amount of 8,114,319.00.

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.

Sara Fogg, a 7th grade student at the Junior High School, expressed interest in the District offering American Sign Language (ASL) as a course at the Senior High School. Sara shared that her motivation stemmed from a desire to create a more inclusive environment for students with special needs. She noted that offering ASL would allow more students to communicate effectively with their peers, fostering greater understanding and connection within the school community.

Deanna Hiltz addressed the Board to express her heartfelt appreciation for the staff at the Junior High School who have supported her daughter, Danica, throughout her educational journey. She specifically recognized Mrs. Rodgers and Mrs. Ralston for their meaningful gesture of including Danica as an honorary member of the National Junior Honor Society. This recognition not only honored Danica's unique approach to learning, but also highlighted the inclusive values upheld by the school community.

Mrs. Hiltz and Danica also extended their gratitude to several other staff members who have played a significant role in supporting Danica's growth and success: Mrs. Belich, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Burak, Mrs. Syrko, Mrs. Wilson, and Mrs. McShane. Their collective efforts in understanding and addressing Danica's individual needs exemplify the dedication and compassion of District staff in fostering an environment where all students feel valued and empowered.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #2

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Dual Credit Agreement by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the University of Pittsburgh, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Athletics by Victoria Gill, Chair

MOTION #3

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request from the High School Track and Field team to participate in the Penn Relays on April 24-26, 2025 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All costs associated with this trip/competition will be incurred by the Track Boosters. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton

MOTION #4

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Soccer to use the stadium at the Senior High School on Sunday's beginning April 6 through June 8, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. games. MOTION carried by a vote of seven to one, with Mrs. Pistorius abstaining from voting.

MOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Soccer to use the stadium at the Senior High School on Friday evenings from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. beginning March 28, 2025 through June 6, 2025, for practice. . MOTION carried by a vote of seven to one, with Mrs. Pistorius abstaining from voting.

MOTION #6

By Dan Caton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the request of Joe Obeldobel and Wings of Moon to use the track at the Senior High School for practice beginning April 1, 2025 through July 30, 2025 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.

Dr. Beltz provided an update on the partial roof replacement project at the Senior High School. He noted that the project is being partially funded through the \$1,150,000 Public School Facility Improvement Grant awarded to the District in November 2024. The grant covers

approximately 75% of the total project cost, significantly reducing the financial burden on the District while supporting the ongoing effort to maintain and improve school facilities.

Personnel by Carla Buxton, Co-Chair

MOTION #7

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the appointment of Barb Marnhout, volunteer assistant Junior High School swim coach, effective April 9, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Ava Yoder, lifeguard, effective April 9, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation for retirement of Elizabeth Lehman, science teacher at the Junior High School, effective May 30, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Mrs. Klessner, Chair

MOTION #10

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the first reading for review and adoption of the following policies:

Policy 140	Charter Schools
Policy 140.1	Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Charter Students
Policy 142	Migrant Students
Policy 143	Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools
Policy 144	Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes
Policy 146	Student Services

Other Business

Mrs. Klessner shared that she had the pleasure of attending the Special Olympics event held last week at Geneva College. She expressed her appreciation for all of the students and staff who participated, assisted, and cheered on the athletes throughout the day. Mrs. Klessner noted that it was a truly wonderful event, marked by school spirit, support, and celebration of the athletes' efforts and accomplishments. She thanked everyone involved for making the day such a positive and memorable experience.

Mrs. Pistorius extended her appreciation to the Junior High principals and the Best Buddies organization for their efforts in organizing the Junior High Unified Bocce tournament. She

commended the principals for their thoughtful coordination in accommodating parent schedules, allowing families the opportunity to attend and support the matches during the school day. Mrs. Pistorius expressed how pleased she continues to be with the level of inclusivity the District provides to all students, noting that events like these exemplify the District's commitment to creating meaningful and supportive experiences for every learner.

Mrs. Gill thanked Sara and Danica for taking the time to speak at the board meeting. She acknowledged that it is never easy to speak in front of unfamiliar people and commended both students for their courage and composure. Mrs. Gill applauded their passion for their education and expressed appreciation for the perspectives they shared, noting how valuable student voice is to the work of the District.

Upcoming Board Meetings

April 22, 2025, Regular Business Meeting, Central Administration Board Room and virtual.

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. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Board Secretary