

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
APRIL 9, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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:

Anitre' Bell
Carla Buxton
Dan Caton
Victoria Gill
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Anissa Klesser

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Dr. Rob Kartychak, Edward Katkich, principals; 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. 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 Dan Caton, to approve the agenda as written. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Klesser, Co-Chair

1. Request of Esther Aloia to have the three Hopewell High School students that qualified for the National Family Career and Community Leaders of America Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington June 28-July 3, 2024 to attend. Per policy, the district will contribute \$2500.00 towards the expense of the trip with families contributing to the remainder of the balance.

2. Request of Brittany Covalt and up to six AP Physics students to attend the 2024 Worlds KidWind Challenge at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 5 - May 8, 2024. Per policy, the district will contribute \$2500.00 towards the expense of the trip with families contributing to the remainder of the balance.

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

1. Resignation of Heidi Dierdorf, 4.25 hour server/prep at the Senior High School, effective March 27, 2024.
2. Appointment of Jen Armour, volunteer nurse, for the 8th grade field trip to Cleveland, Ohio on May 23, 2024.
3. Resignation of Michelle Shannon, paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective April 19, 2024.
4. Resignation of Sayra Frausto Marquez, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective April 3, 2024.
5. Resignation of Shelly Syrko, head cheer coach, effective April 3, 2024.
6. Extend the unpaid leave of absence for Crystal Hough, transportation aide, effective April 4, 2024 through May 14, 2024.
7. Employment of the following individuals as assistant boys soccer coaches:
 - a. Thomas Armour
 - b. Jose Gonzalez
 - c. Armando Marcantonio
 - d. Sam Bailey-Hockin
8. Employment of Samantha Lash, elementary music teacher, at a prorated 2023-2024 bachelor's degree Step 1 salary of \$57, 205.00, effective April 10, 2024.

Policy and Planning: Mrs. Klessler, Chair; Ms. Bell, Co-Chair

1. Policy 000 - Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations (First Reading)
2. Policy 001 - Name and Classification (First Reading)
3. Policy 002 - Authority and Powers (First Reading)
4. Policy 003 - Functions (First Reading)
5. Policy 004 - Membership (First Reading)
6. Policy 005 - Organization (First Reading)
7. Policy 006 - Meetings (First Reading)

8. Policy 006.1 - Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications (First Reading)
9. Policy 007 - Policy Manual Access (First Reading)
10. Retire Policy 008 - Organizational Chart (Retire)
11. Policy 011 - Principles for Governance and Leadership (First Reading)

Mrs. Miller wanted to confirm that this is only the first reading and not final approval, as she wants to carefully review each policy before final approval.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the April 23, 2024 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

1. Adoption of the Hopewell Area School District 2024-2027 Special Education Plan.
2. Nicole Sheheen, a student from Geneva College, to complete her student teaching under the guidance of Mr. Larry Spinnenweber during the 2025 spring semester.

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

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 6 and June 7, 2024.

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

1. Request of Adam Urquhart to purchase parcel 65-184-0112-000-01-1 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. **(Roll Call)**
2. Membership renewal with the Pennsylvania School Boards Association in the amount of \$12,987.73.
3. 2024-2025 Beaver County Career and Technology Center General Fund Budget in the amount of \$7,546,214.00. **(Roll Call)**

Mrs. Buxton, who represents the District on the CTC Board, wanted to assure the Board that this is the CTC's overall budget and not the amount Hopewell is responsible to pay.

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

1. Resignation for retirement of Deborah Skiba, transportation nurse, effective May 31, 2024.

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 at this time.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic

MOTION #2

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Esther Aloia to have the three Hopewell High School students that qualified for the National Family Career and Community Leaders of America Leadership Conference in Seattle, Washington June 28-July 3, 2024 to attend. Per policy, the district will contribute \$2500.00 towards the expense of the trip with families contributing to the remainder of the balance. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Brittany Covalt and up to six AP Physics students to attend the 2024 Worlds KidWind Challenge at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 5 - May 8, 2024. Per policy, the district will contribute \$2500.00 towards the expense of the trip with families contributing to

the remainder of the balance. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany Pistorius

MOTION #3

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation of Heidi Dierdorf, 4.25 hour server/prep at the Senior High School, effective March 27, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the appointment of Jen Armour, volunteer nurse, for the 8th grade field trip to Cleveland, Ohio on May 23, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Michelle Shannon, paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective April 19, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted the resignation of Sayra Frausto Marquez, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective April 3, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation of Shelly Syrko, head cheer coach, effective April 3, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the extended unpaid leave of absence for Crystal Hough, transportation aide, effective April 4, 2024 through May 14, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of the following individuals as assistant boys soccer coaches. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Thomas Armour
- b. Jose Gonzalez
- c. Armando Marcantonio
- d. Sam Bailey-Hockin

MOTION #10

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anitre' Bell, approved the employment of Samantha Lash, elementary music teacher, at a prorated 2023-2024 bachelor's degree Step 1 salary of \$57,205.00, effective April 10, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Anitre' Bell

MOTION #11

By Anitre Bell, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the first readings of the following Board policies. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Policy 000 - Board Policy/Procedure/Administrative Regulations (First Reading)
- b. Policy 001 - Name and Classification (First Reading)
- c. Policy 002 - Authority and Powers (First Reading)
- d. Policy 003 - Functions (First Reading)
- e. Policy 004 - Membership (First Reading)
- f. Policy 005 - Organization (First Reading)
- g. Policy 006 - Meetings (First Reading)
- a. Policy 006.1 - Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications (First Reading)
- h. Policy 007 - Policy Manual Access (First Reading)
- i. Policy 008 - Organizational Chart (**Retire**)
- j. Policy 011 - Principles for Governance and Leadership (First Reading)

Other Business

Dr. Beltz announced that there would be no DRAW Collective meeting in April. The next meeting with them is scheduled for May 14 and then June 11, after that. Dr. Beltz stated that some time in between the May and June meetings, there will be a community-wide meeting.

Mrs. Miller asked if DRAW Collective would be open to a Saturday meeting. Dr. Beltz said that he would check into that.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

April 23, 2024, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

MOTION by Bethany Pistorius, 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 7:23 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary