

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 28, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; John Salopek, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, Donna Steff, Jim Cassell, Principals; and visitors.

Good New in our Schools reports were presented by Dr. Kartychak, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mr. Cassell. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

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

Prior to approval of the agenda as written, Mrs. Pistorius asked that Jeffrey Miller's name be added to the motion for the employment of the assistant principal at the Senior High School.

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the agenda as corrected.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the April 23, 2024 Business meeting and the May 14, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Financial Reports consisting of the Tax Collection, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements, for April 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Beltz announced that the District has been working with Hopewell Township to secure a federal grant to add an additional school resource officer beginning the 2024-2025 school year. He stated that that officer will be approved by the Township at their next meeting and the District will introduce him in June.

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.

Deanna Hiltz brought up the topic of the need for more inclusion and differentiated design opportunities within the District. She emphasized the importance of these aspects in order to meet the diverse needs of each student. Mrs. Hiltz highlighted that the music teachers have been at the forefront of fostering inclusive environments and that their innovative approaches to inclusion can provide valuable lessons and best practices that can be adopted across various departments. Mrs. Hiltz would like to see current staffing in the music department remain the same.

Peggy McCowin outlined several key points regarding the necessity of including a pool in building or renovation plans being discussed. She emphasized that swimming is an essential life skill that promotes physical health and fitness. She felt that the pool not only benefited students but also the broader community, potentially serving as a facility for community programs, swim lessons, parties and local swim teams. Mrs. McCowin argued that having a pool could make the school more attractive to prospective students and families.

Megan Murray discussed the College in High School program offered by the Community College of Beaver County ("CCBC"). This program creates a more accessible and affordable pathway to earning college credits. She explained that high school teachers teach college courses during the regular school day, affording students to potentially obtain up to 30 credits for a fraction of the costs.

Mrs. Zupsic, Mrs. Miller and Ms. Bell asked several questions, including which courses would be offered; what credentials teachers would need to have to teach an approved course; and how often would students need to be on campus.

Ms. Murray explained that CCBC requirements have changed with respect to teaching credentials required to teach one of their courses. Currently teachers would only be required to have a bachelors degree in the content area and CCBC will provide a teaching mentor and a teaching program to assist teachers. Ms. Murray said that it would be up to the District to decide which courses they were willing to offer and said that students would not have to come to the CCBC campus for lectures.

Crystal Borrer said that she appreciated the potential opportunity to take college in high school courses. She also thanked the Board for the hard work and dedication. She reminded the Board of those that spoke at the previous Board meeting in support of retaining the current staff in the music department, including Mrs. Ujhazy, Mrs. Hiltz and Mr. Bufalini. She felt that each made a legitimate argument in support of the current structure of the music department, highlighting its numerous benefits for students. Mrs. Borrer believes that when we have 21st century buildings, it is crucial to ensure we have the staff and curriculum to match

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #4

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Board of School Directors concurs in the recommendation of the Superintendent for the alteration of the Program of Courses and Classes of Music by the elimination of one elementary music position, effective June 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 School Term Year, to conform to standards of organization and due to a substantial decline in pupil enrollment; and the realignment of the Music Department for the 2024-

2025 school year as follows. MOTION carried by a vote of six to one, with Mrs. Klessner voting no. Mrs. Pistorius voted yes, but wanted it noted that she is concerned about the loss of MTSS support.

- a. 1 music teacher at the Senior High School;
- b. 2 music teachers at the Junior High School; and
- c. 1 music teacher for the three elementary schools.

MOTION #5

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Mrs. Bethany Pistorius, approved awarding 160 high school diplomas to Hopewell High School Senior Class of 2024. Further, awarding of said diplomas is contingent upon student completion of all graduation requirements. (Copy in Superintendent's Office). MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Online Education for the 2024-2025 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Jeanette Miller, Co-Chair

MOTION #7

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the disposal by abandonment and placement in the Building Refuse Dumpster the following equipment from Hopewell High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- Asset Tag 05039 Upright Bike (cardio room)
- Asset Tag 05023 Upright Bike (locker room shower)
- Asset Tag 05022 Upright Bike (locker room shower)

- 2 Treadmills (cardio room) (No asset tag found)
- Recumbent bike (cardio room) (No asset tag found)
- Ping Pong Table (hallway) (No asset tag found)

MOTION #8

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request from Hopewell Township to use the parking lots at Hopewell and Margaret Ross Elementary Schools for parking during Park Fest, July 13, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #9**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved items (1) and (2) and to ratify item (3) as presented, in accordance with School Board's agreement for grouping items in a single motion. MOTION carried by an affirmative roll call vote of five Directors. It should be noted that Mrs. Buxton attended the meeting virtually, but did not respond when called upon for her vote.

1. General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$883,816.68
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$193,730.76
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$690,422.59

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the agreement with Medic Rescue to provide emergency medical transport for the 2024-2025 school year, at a cost of \$3,600. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the agreement for Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. to conduct one Head Start Classroom at Hopewell Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year, subject to PIC receiving appropriate funding. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Andrii Stepovyi to purchase parcel 65-203-0103-013-01-1 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair**MOTION #13**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the appointment of Jeanette Miller and Carla Buxton as Hopewell Area SD School Board voting delegates to represent HASD at the PSBA 2024 Delegate Assembly event being held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at PSBA Headquarters in Mechanicsburg, PA. Voting delegates may attend the meeting either in person or virtually. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, Chair**MOTION #14**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the removal of the following individuals from employment from the Transportation Department. These individuals have not worked for the District in over one year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Dan Boni
- b. Dan Bubien
- c. Guy Celeste
- d. Tammy Celeste
- e. Rick Cropper
- f. John Mazzie

MOTION #15

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, accepted the resignation of Carol Morse, Vikette Sponsor, effective May 31, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted the resignation of Jennifer Sutton, Assistant Marching Band Director, May 31, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the employment of the following individuals for the Senior High School Marching Band. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

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|----|-----------------|--|
| a. | Carly Belich – | 1 st Assistant Director |
| b. | Samantha Lash – | 2 nd Assistant Director |
| c. | Fayte Wilson – | 3 rd Assistant and Vikette Instructor |
| | | (pending receipt of all clearances) |

MOTION #18

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Maegan Johnson, individual paraprofessional, effective June 24, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the elimination of one 4th grade position at Independence Elementary School effective the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the elimination of one 5th grade position at Hopewell Junior High School effective the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the creation of one 6th grade position at Hopewell Junior High School effective the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted resignation for retirement of Donald Polzot, custodian at the Junior High School, effective August 3, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted resignation of Alayna McDonald, Junior High School secretary, effective June 28, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

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

MOTION #25

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Jeffrey Miller, assistant high school principal, on or about July 1, 2024, at a salary of \$80,000.00, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the non-renewal of the temporary professional employee contract of Samantha Lash, elementary music teacher, on the grounds of substantial decline in pupil enrollments and to conform to standards of organization,

effective June 1, 2024, and to give notice of the right to a hearing. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the creation of School Psychologist position beginning the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the creation of an autistic support position beginning the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted the resignation of John Rosa, Head Varsity Football Coach, effective May 29, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the appointment of John Rosa, volunteer varsity assistant football coach, effective May 29, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #31

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation for retirement of Oswald Schlueter, bus driver, effective June 7, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #32

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted the resignation for retirement of Deborah Roush, paraprofessional at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective May 31, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #33

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the appointment of Kelly Waibel, head varsity cheerleading sponsor at the Senior High School, effective for the 2024-2025 school year. Salary determined by the Hopewell Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #34

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Matthias Goth, summer cleaner, effective June 1, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #35

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the change of employment status for Robert West from transportation aide and van driver to bus driver, effective May 20, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #36

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation for retirement of Edward Bujakowski, custodian at the Senior High School, effective August 10, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Anitre Bell, ChairMOTION #37

By Anitre Bell, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Hopewell Township to use District buses and drivers for Park Fest, July 13, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Ms. Bell wanted to thank Mrs. Wandel for the phenomenal job she did organizing the 8th grade trip to Cleveland, Ohio. She said her son had a wonderful time and that she appreciated the hard work of the entire staff.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz thanked each of the retirees for their service to the District. He announced that graduation is this Thursday and that it looks like the weather will cooperate and that graduation will be outside. He also reminded everyone that DRAW Collective will be at the June 11 Board meeting to discuss final options and that that meeting will be held in the Senior High School Auditorium

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Board Meetings

June 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Senior High School Auditorium and Virtual
June 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – 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 8:03 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary