

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
JUNE 27, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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:

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

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; and visitors.

MOTION #1

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

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

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Victoria Gills, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the May 23, 2023 and June 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #3

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve items (1) through (3) as presented in accordance with School Board's agreement for grouping items in a single motion. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Tax Collectors' Report

1. Recommendation to accept report for taxes collected for the month of May 2023, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

2. Recommendation to accept report of the Treasurer for the month of May 2023 presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of May 2023, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

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.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius, Co-Chair**

**MOTION #4**

By Bethany Pistorius, 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 Family Behavioral Resources. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Township Police Department for procedures to be followed when specific incidents happen on school property, at any school sponsored activity, or on any public conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school sponsored activity. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Independence Township Police Department for procedures to be followed when specific incidents happen on school property, at any school sponsored activity, or on any public conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school sponsored activity. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Raccoon Township Police Department for procedures to be followed when specific incidents happen on school property, at any school sponsored activity, or on any public conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school sponsored activity. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the renewal agreement with PA-Educator, the District's clearinghouse for professional applications, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$2,175.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair****MOTION #9**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders to attend UCA camp at Slippery Rock University July 20-23, 2023. There will be no cost to the District. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #10**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the varsity girls volleyball team to attend camp at Indiana High School from August 1-3, 2023. All costs will be paid for by the boosters and parents. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Victoria Gill, Co-Chair****MOTION #11**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning November 4, 2023 through March 31, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 8: 00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #12**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use the mat room at the Junior High School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning November 4, 2023 through March 31, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #13**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School July 18-20, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for wrestling camp. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #14**

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use the main and auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School December 2, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on December 3, 2023 from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for a youth wrestling tournament. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School January 19, 2024 from 8:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and on January 20, 2024 from 6:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for a youth wrestling tournament. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Football to use Tony Dorsett Stadium on August 20, August 26, September 16 and October 14, 2023 for their home football games. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Agreement for Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. to conduct one Head Start Classroom at Hopewell Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year, subject to PIC receiving appropriate funding. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of Jared Rogers, School Resource Officer, and Hopewell Township Police Department, to use Hopewell Elementary School on July 5, 2023 for emergency and first responder training. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair**MOTION #19

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve 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 unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

1. General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$325,208.10
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$103,654.56
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$2,402,936.66

MOTION #20

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Renew the following insurance coverage through Utica Insurance Company and UPMC (for worker's compensation) for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This coverage will be provided through the A.J. Gallagher Agency. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

1.	Privacy and Network Liability	\$15,275.00
2.	General Liability/Excess Liability	\$104,390.00
3.	Automobile	\$32,131.00
4.	Workers Compensation	\$170,615.00

MOTION #21

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved Resolution No. 14-2023 requiring the tax collectors for the Hopewell Area School District to waive additional charges in connection with the collection of school real estate taxes beginning July 1, 2023 if the taxpayer meets requirements. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved membership renewal with Pennsylvania School Boards Association for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$12,460.93. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the three-year subscription agreement with Securly to provide web filtering in the amount of \$6,875.00 per year for a total of \$20,625.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #24

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Marian Hunt, a substitute in the cafeteria, effective August 24, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the payment of spring coaches beyond the regular season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved fall coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the amendment to the Confidential Employees Agreement to provide that the salary of the Payroll and Benefits Coordinator shall be \$44,876.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the reappointment of John F. Salopek, Esquire, Solicitor, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the reappointment of Johannah Robb, Treasurer, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approve the employment of Sheila Lubert, Business Administrator, at a salary of \$110,000.00, pending receipt of all clearances. Start date to be determined. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #31

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the agreement with the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) to provide the District with a Business Administrator at a cost of \$81.00 per hour, effective July 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #32

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Elisha Satkovich, special education teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, at step 1 of the bachelor's scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #33

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Mackenzie Cuneo, special education teacher at Independence Elementary School, at step 2 of the master's scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #34

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Briana DeNardo, elementary art teacher, at step 1 of the master's scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried by a vote of 8 to 1, with Mrs. Pistorius voting no.

MOTION #35

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Act 93 Agreement for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #36

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the elimination of full-time elementary cyber teacher, effective the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #37

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the creation of half-time K-6 cyber teacher, half-time elementary special education teacher effective the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Mrs. Gill reported that she, Dr. Beltz, Mrs. Buxton and Mrs. Miller met to discuss the organization of the new Board Communications Committee.

Mrs. Pistorius reported that 23 students and 3 teachers attended theater camp at Geneva College. She said the District had the most student and teacher participants and all had a wonderful time.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz welcomed Mrs. Lubert to Hopewell as the Business Administrator. He reported that he discussed the annual threat assessment with the Board in Executive Session and explained that township police would be conducting training at Hopewell Elementary School on July 5. He congratulated Mrs. Steff on receiving a \$25,000 grant from the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and Beaver County Behavioral Health to enhance new or existing projects for the social and emotional wellbeing of students.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Salopek thanked the board for their continued support and the renewal of his appointment as solicitor.

Upcoming Board Meetings

July 11, 2023, Regular Work Meeting, 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 7:33 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary