

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 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
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Bethany Pistorius

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Christina Lane, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Joe Lamenza, Lou Ceccarelli, Jim Cassell and Donna Steff, Principals; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

Good News in our School was presented by Mr. Lamenza from the Senior High School, Mr. Ceccarelli from the Junior High School, and Mrs. Steff from the elementary schools. Each gave an update on what was happening in the schools in the coming weeks.

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.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the July 9, 2024 Business meeting, the July 30, 2024 special meeting and the August 13, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the Financial Reports consisting of the Tax Collection, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements, for July 2024. 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
- 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.

Megan Murray discussed a dual credit agreement proposal with the Community College of Beaver County.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #4**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Senior High School club and activity sponsors for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Junior High School club and activity sponsors for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the review of the District's Health and Safety Plan with no recommended changes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Shannon Witkouski, a student at Westminster College to complete her field experience at the Junior High School in January 2025 under the supervision of Chad Toporski. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved Lauren Boggs, a student at Robert Morris University to complete her pre-student teaching at Hopewell Elementary School beginning August 28, 2024, under the supervision of Katie Snyder and Tina Carbone. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the appointment of Nancy Daltorio, English Language Arts Department Chair. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the appointment of David Vestal, Science Department Chair. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved free school privileges for Shawn Bruzzese to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the appointment of Dr. Mitchell Pfeiffer, district physician, for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$5,400 per year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Lehman, co-sponsor of the 7th Grade Class Club, effective August 13, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the proposal of KeySolution Staffing LLC to provide student psychoeducational evaluations at a cost of \$625.00 per evaluation, effective August 28, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, ChairMOTION #15

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Band Boosters to use the Junior High School Cafeteria on November 2, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for a craft show. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of David Bufalini and Hopewell Big Band to use the Junior High School band room on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. beginning September 18, 2024 through June 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Dan Caton, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the request of the Girls Basketball Boosters to use the Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on Saturdays during the Months of January and February 2025 for a Junior High School Girls Basketball winter league. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the quote from Mongiovi & Son to repair sprinkler system at the Senior High School pursuant to the inspection completed on August 9, 2024 in the amount of \$11,475.83. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the quote from Mongiovi & Son to repair sprinkler system at the Junior High School pursuant to the inspection completed on August 22, 2024 in the amount of \$2,060.54. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, ChairMOTION #20

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, 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 unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

1. General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$484,315.14
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$39,693.63
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$1,942,404.24

MOTION #21

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved real estate tax exemption on parcel #751820209000. Notice of approval has been received from the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission for Real Estate Tax Exemption. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Carla Buxton, Co-ChairMOTION #22

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the continuation of current SRO/Inter-agency agreement for the 2024-2025 school year. Discontinuation of this agreement can occur at any time by either party with 30 days notice. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the one (1) year extension of the Agreement with the Confidential Employees for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the updated varsity football coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

a.	Head Coach Matt Mottes	\$9,764.00
b.	1st Assistant Zach Rosa	\$5,500.00
c.	2nd Assistant Scott Aguglia	\$3,000.00
d.	3rd Assistant Guy Martini	\$5,000.00
e.	4th Assistant Craedel Kimbrough	\$4,300.00
f.	5th Assistant Reiker Welling	\$3,000.00
g.	6th Assistant Tom Pipkins	\$3,000.00
h.	7th Assistant Paul Mann	\$2,500.00
i.	8th Assistant Jeremy Martini	\$4,000.00
j.	Volunteer James Durkin	\$0.00
k.	Volunteer John Rosa	\$0.00
l.	Volunteer Tony Amadio	\$0.00
m.	Volunteer Tim Morgan	\$2,500.00
n.	Volunteer Armando Marcantonio	\$0.00
o.	Equipment Manager Bob Cromer	\$0.00
p.	MS Head Coach Joe Pollick	\$2,200.00
q.	JH Assistant Tristen Clear	\$1,350.00
r.	JH Volunteer Nate Muzy	\$0.00
s.	JH Volunteer John Young	\$0.00

MOTION #25

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the change of employment status for Ray Karlheim from substitute bus driver to full-time driver, effective August 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the change of employment status of Crystal Hough from transportation aide to van driver, effective August 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the change of employment status for Katie King from transportation aide to van driver, effective August 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, approved the employment of Timothy Etters, van driver, effective August 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of GERALYN Williamson, transportation aide, effective August 12, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted the resignation of Kimberlee Halfhill, substitute driver, effective July 31, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #31

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, accepted the resignation of Somia Rafiq, paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective August 19, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #32

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted the resignation of Beth Butter, 5-hour cook/cashier at the Senior High School, effective August 19, 2024. Ms. Butter would like to be placed on the substitute roster. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #33

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Jena Adams, half-time cyber, half-time special education teacher at the Junior High School, at step 1 of the masters scale, start date pending release from her current employer. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #34

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Laura Newton, substitute English teacher at the Senior High School, effective August 21, 2024 through September 6, 2024, at a rate of \$100.00 per day. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #35

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Laura Newton, English language arts teacher at the Senior High School, at step 1 of the masters scale, effective September 7, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #36

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Madeline Richardson, special education teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, at step 1 of the bachelors scale, start date pending release from her previous employer and receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #37

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Anitre Bell, accepted the resignation of Holly Hobbs, 4.75-hour cafeteria person at the Senior High School, effective August 22, 2024. Ms. Hobbs would like to be placed on the substitute cafeteria roster. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #38

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Dustin Royer, substitute custodian, effective August 22, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #39

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the employment of Karen Talik, one-on-one paraprofessional at the Senior High School, effective September 9, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #40

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Beverly Reed, classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective August 28, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Anissa Klessner, Chair

MOTION #41

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved policy 718- Service Animals in Schools. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz reported that the start of school is going well. He reviewed upcoming events, including Open House in each building and the Homecoming Parade, which will be at 6:00 p.m. on September 26. He also said that he will shortly be sending out a letter updating the public on the Board's plans regarding the feasibility study.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Board Meetings

September 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Central Administration Board Room and Virtual

September 24, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - Central Administration Board Room and Virtual

MOTION by Victoria Gill, seconded by Dan Caton, that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary