

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 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 (Via Zoom)  
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; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, Gary Hutsler, and Donna Steff, Principals; Dennis Barber, Director of Technology and visitors.

Good News In Our Schools were presented by Dr. Kartychak from the Senior High School, Mr. Ceccarelli from the Junior High School and Mr. Hutsler from the Elementary Schools.

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 Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the agenda as written.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Anissa Klessner, to approve the August 22, 2023 and September 12, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #3

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, 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 August 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 August 2023, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

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

Dennis Barber, Director of Technology, gave an update on the status of technology issues throughout the District, including, containing costs, Chromebook and iPad replacement, and the need to replace fiber lines from the High School to the Junior High School to Margaret Ross Elementary School.

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.

### **Steven Koscelnik**

Mr. Koscelnik asked if there is advanced notice given to District residents prior to a tax increase. He stated that his taxes go up every year and, at some point, he will not be able to afford them. He asked if the Board sees a point when they won't need to raise taxes.

Dr. Beltz stated that notice of the District budget and any tax increase is given in June. Mrs. Miller explained that the state dictates the maximum a school district can raise taxes and that if a school district believes that taxes must be raised beyond that limit, the approval must be done by referendum vote.

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

#### **MOTION #4**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the appointment of the following: MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Dr. Moka as District Physician - \$10 per exam;
- b. Optometric Care as District Vision Examiner - \$3.40 per exam; and
- c. Dr. Rich Covatto to provide dental exams - \$5 per exam.

#### **MOTION #5**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved Samuel Phillips, a student at Point Park University, to complete his student teaching at the Junior High School during the fall semester, under the guidance of Anna Smyers. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

#### **MOTION #6**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Amy Baker, at student at the University of Pittsburgh, to complete her school nurse certification, under the direction of Leah Meehan and Adriane Prickett. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

#### **MOTION #7**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the appointment of Brenna Wandel as sponsor of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class club. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the appointment of Paula Battisti and Betsy Lehman as co-sponsors of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class club. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Daniel Caton, Chair**MOTION #9

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Joe Sullivan to use the Junior High School band room beginning September 20, 2023 through the end of May from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Mr. Sullivan will not have access to the building during times the District is closed. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Youth Basketball to use Gym A at the Junior High School Monday through Friday beginning October 16, 2023 through March 8, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of the Girls Basketball Boosters to use gyms A and B at the Junior High School and the Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on December 8, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and on December 9, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a basketball tournament. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of the Girls Basketball Boosters to use the Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on Saturday mornings during the months of January and February 2024 for a Junior High School girls winter league. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the pool rental fee for district residents set at \$200.00 per event and non-district residents at \$250.00 per event, effective October 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Co-Chair**

**MOTION #14**

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 \$851,417.76
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$46,993.39
3. Payments to be ratified for August 2023 in the amount of \$5,010,207.68

**MOTION #15**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Agreement with Questeq for E-Rate Category 1 and 2 Strategy and Application Process for the 2023-2024 school year. The District’s contribution is 5% of pre-discount amounts for E-Rate purchases. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #16**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Aliquippa Bucktails to purchase parcels 65-011-1316-000 and 65-011-1320-000 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.

**MOTION #17**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the appointment of the law firm of McMillen, Urick, Tocci & Jones as Special Counsel to the District regarding real estate assessment appeals. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair**

**MOTION #18**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the PSBA election of officers. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

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|----|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. | Allison Mathis      | President                   |
| b. | Sabrina Backer      | Vice President              |
| c. | Karen Beck Pooley   | Treasurer                   |
| d. | Marsha Pleta        | Western Zone Representative |
| e. | Marianne Neel       | PSBA Insurance Trustee      |
| f. | Michael Faccinnetto | PSBA Insurance Trustee      |

**Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair****MOTION #19**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the removal of the following individuals from the cafeteria sub list, effective immediately. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Paula Bain
- b. Lauren Giles
- c. Nadine Kennelly
- d. Andrea Lisenby
- e. Rose Morrison
- f. Earlene Nale

**MOTION #20**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the following regular education teachers, as “teachers of record” for the Beaver County Jail for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Rosetta Dufalla, English
- b. Elizabeth Lehman, Science
- c. Raymon Smith, Math
- d. Mark Witterman, Social Studies

**MOTION #21**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the appointment of Robert J. Kartychak, Ed.D., as Acting Senior High School Principal, effective August 24, 2023, with an additional stipend of \$750 per week in addition to his 2023-24 salary. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #22**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Susan Selinsky, breakfast cook at the Junior High School, effective September 13, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #23**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Madi Milligan, classroom paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective September 27, 2023, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Tammy Holland, part-time library paraprofessional, effective September 27, 2023, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Lisa Litzinger, classroom paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective October 2, 2023, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Emily Gibson, classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective September 27, 2023, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Sayra Marquez, classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective September 27, 2023, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Shannon Rushman, substitute custodian, effective September 14, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the increase of lifeguard pay from \$8.25 per hour to \$10.00 per hour, effective October 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator, at a salary of \$110,000.00 pending receipt of all clearances at a 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, accepted the resignation of Ashley Ashbaugh, paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective October 6, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz welcomed Debbie Engelman to the District as Business Administrator. He also reported that it was great to meet many parents at elementary Open House and that the Junior High School Open House would be this coming Thursday.

Dr. Beltz reported that as a follow-up to environmental issues at Hopewell Elementary School last year, long-term radon tests were done in three locations in that building. He said that all results came back within the acceptable range, 1.2 to 1.6 pCi/L. Dr. Beltz explained that above 4pCi/L is considered a dangerous level of radon.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Upcoming Board Meetings

October 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

October 24, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

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 8:01 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary