

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, in the Senior High School Auditorium as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by David Bufalini, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Daniel Santia, seconded by Daniel Caton, to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

An Executive Session was held on December 14, 16, 2021 and January 4 and 11, 2022 to discuss the superintendent search. An Executive Session was also held on Monday, December 20, 2021 and prior to the start of this meeting to discuss collective bargaining, litigation matters and personnel. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bufalini. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

David Bufalini
Daniel Caton
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius (participated via Zoom)
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Matthew Erickson

Also present were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, Korri Kane and Edward Katkich, Principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

Stephen Niedenberger from Hosack Specht Muetzel & Wood presented and discussed the June 30, 2021 audit report.

Dr. Kartychak initiated a conversation and review of the Health and Safety Plan. The current plan, dated August 24, 2021, states that as long as Beaver County is in the high or substantial rates of transmission for Covid-19, staff and students are required to wear masks. Dr. Kartychak stated that the current plan has been successful and recommends that the mask

requirement remains in place. He said that the Health and Safety Plan can be reviewed at any time. Ms. McKittrick and Mr. Caton agreed with the recommendation.

Mrs. Miller reported that she continues to hear that Specials teachers continue to be pulled to cover teacher absences. Dr. Kartychak responded that that is correct. Due to the substitute shortage and teacher illness, the fill rate, at times, is only 20%.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Establish the Table Top Game club at the Junior High School, beginning the second semester for the 2021-2022 school year, under the direction of Mr. Bryan Testa. Stipend pursuant to amount set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
2. Removal of Algebra Club at the Junior High School, effective August 26, 2021. This club was sponsored by Mr. Thellman to prepare students for the Western Pennsylvania Algebra Competition. However, the competition is no longer held.
3. Free school privileges for Pamela Baker to attend Hopewell High School for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Santia, Chair; Mr. Winkle, Co-Chair

1. Request from Stephany Richards, Director of Transportation, to use the Junior High School library on January 15, January 22 and January 29, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for PA School Bus Instructors Class.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resolution #1-2022, a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District, certifying that the District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, which for the 2022-2023 school year is 4.5%.
2. Approve the request of Nathan Oravitz to purchase parcel 65-018-0506.000 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes prior to the 2021-2022 tax year are exonerated.

Personnel: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Employment of Holly Hobbs, substitute cafeteria employee, effective December 3, 2021.
2. Employment of Melva Mosholder, bus driver, effective December 13, 2021.
3. Employment of Anita Dempsey, bus driver, effective December 14, 2021.
4. Employment of Sandra DiBacco, substitute nurse, effective
5. Resignation of Mark Guzzo, 8-hour custodian at the Junior High School, effective December 15, 2021. Mr. Guzzo would like to move to the 500-hour substitute list.
6. Appointment of Nancy Barber as School Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025 at an annual salary of \$2,500.
7. Request of Michael White, bus driver, to amend his initial request for an unpaid leave of absence from October 22, 2021 through January 22, 2022 to December 21, 2021 through February 7, 2022.
8. Modify substitute rate of pay to \$13.00 per hour for all substitute secretaries, substitute paraprofessionals, and substitute cafeteria personnel effective January 12, 2022

At this time, Dr. Kartychak began his review of those items that would be voted on at the January 25, 2022 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Dean Nelson and Ray Smith as co-sponsors for Hopewell High School National Honor Society effective September 1, 2021.
2. Request of the BCIT department at Hopewell High School to create a Computer Science I elective beginning the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Request of Kit Keiper at Hopewell High School to create a Guitar Class elective beginning the 2022-2023 school year.
4. High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2022-2023 School Year.
5. Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2022-2023 School Year.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Santia, Chair; Mr. Winkle, Co-Chair

1. Request of Alexis Potts and New Horizon School to use the pool Wednesday's starting January 26, 2022 through March 23, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for practice.

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

1. Audit Report of the Hopewell Area School District for the year ended June 30, 2021 issued by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.
2. Resolution #2-2022 granting an exemption from the payment of the Hopewell Area School District real estate tax on the property of Dennis L. and Marie T. Bertoni located at 4040 Patterson Road, Raccoon Township, being Tax Parcel No. 75-018-0114.000 pursuant to the PA Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption Act. The tax exemption shall be for the 2022-2023 school real estate tax and through the 2026-2027 school real estate tax, provided that the qualifications continue under the Act. The Raccoon Township Tax Collector is exonerated from the collection of those school real estate taxes.

Personnel: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Resignation for retirement of Judy Pippard, cafeteria employee at the Junior High School, effective January 30, 2022.

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.

Vivian Lumbard

Mrs. Lumbard believes that the current Health and Safety Plan has been successful and the most responsible action is to keep the mask requirement.

Tory Aquino

Ms. Aquino said that a big concern for her was if the District decided to rescind the mask mandate. She believes that the best course of action is to keep the mask requirement in place as long as the County is in the high or substantial rate of transmission.

Jennifer Parrish

Mrs. Parrish continues to advocate to revoke the mask mandate. She feels that when students and staff are away from school they do not wear masks. She does not feel that the District has the legal right to require that students wear masks. She also feels that individuals that have not been vaccinated are treated differently than those that are vaccinated.

Amy Kelly

Mrs. Kelly asked that status of the Fair Funding Resolution that she asked the District to consider at the last Board meeting. Ms. McKittrick said that she spoke to Mr. Salopek about issuing the Resolution and that it will be on the agenda January 25, 2022.

Matt Berg

Mr. Berg asked the Board to have a review of the Health and Safety Plan on the agenda each month, as the information and statistics are rapidly changing.

Valerie Hilton

Ms. Hilton asked the Board and Dr. Kartychak where and how they receive the information that the County is in the high rate of transmission. She stated that she has looked for up-to-date information, but has not be able to locate it on any website. Mrs. Zupsic explained that the most accurate information is detailed on the CDC website.

Jamie Sheffield

Ms. Sheffield stated that she has pulled her children from the District. She does not believe they were receiving an adequate education and does not believe that the District has students best interests in mind.

Mr. Bufalini thanked everyone who participated in the meeting. He assured everyone that the Board and Administration will always do what is right for the students, staff and community.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Jeanette Miller

MOTION #2

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the establishment of the Table Top Game club at the Junior High School, beginning the second semester for the 2021-2022 school year, under the direction of Mr. Bryan Testa. Stipend pursuant to amount set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the removal of Algebra Club at the Junior High School, effective August 26, 2021. This club was sponsored by Mr. Thellman to prepare students for the Western Pennsylvania Algebra Competition. However, the competition is no longer held. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve free school privileges for Pamela Baker to attend Hopewell High School for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Santia

MOTION #5

By Dan Santia, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the request of Stephany Richards, Director of Transportation, to use the Junior High School library on January 15, January 22 and January 29, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for PA School Bus Instructors Class. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick

MOTION #6

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve Resolution #1-2022, a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District, certifying that the District will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following

fiscal year by more than its index, which for the 2022-2023 school year is 4.5%. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Nathan Oravitz to purchase parcel 65-018-0506.000 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes prior to the 2021-2022 tax year are exonerated MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Holly Hobbs, substitute cafeteria employee, effective December 3, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Melva Mosholder, bus driver, effective December 13, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of Anita Dempsey, bus driver, effective December 14, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to accept the resignation of Mark Guzzo, 8-hour custodian at the Junior High School, effective December 15, 2021. Mr. Guzzo would like to move to the 500-hour substitute list. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Sandra DiBacco, substitute nurse, effective December 15, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the appointment of Nancy Barber as School Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025 at an annual salary of \$2,500. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve the request of Michael White, bus driver, to amend his initial request for an unpaid leave of absence from October 22, 2021 through January 22, 2022 to December 21, 2021 through February 7, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the modification to the substitute rate of pay to \$13.00 per hour for all substitute secretaries, substitute paraprofessionals, and substitute cafeteria personnel effective January 12, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

January 25, 2022, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Senior High School Auditorium and held virtually.

MOTION by Dan Santia, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Bufalini adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

David Bufalini, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary