

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in-person Board meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020 in the Senior High School Auditorium. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held on October 7, 2020 and prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and student issues. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board Vice President.

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

Daniel Caton  
Lesia Dobo (via Zoom)  
Matthew Erickson  
Lori McKittrick  
Darren Newberry  
Kathryn Oblak  
Jeffrey Winkle  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent:  
Daniel Santia

Also present were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison and Korri Kane, Principals and visitors. Visitors also participated virtually through Zoom Meeting.

Dr. Miller gave an update on positive COVID 19 cases and the efforts the District is making to clean and sanitize all learning spaces and buses.

At this time Dr. Miller reviewed the agenda in its entirety.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction**: Mr. Winkle, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Free school privileges for Eve Fraser to attend Hopewell High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Personnel:** Dr. Erickson, Chair and Mrs. Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Annual salary for the assistant high school principal to be adjusted to \$91,491.00.
2. Advertise for an elementary assistant principal.
3. Employment of Brittany Cejer, long-term substitute teacher at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective on or around November 16, 2020 through approximately February 6, 2021.
4. Employment of Margaret Brutt, paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective October 26, 2020.
5. Employment of Amy Downer, substitute school nurse, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, effective October 13, 2020.
6. Employment of Brenda Galino, substitute school nurse, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, effective October 13, 2020.
7. Employment of Molly Strum, lifeguard, effective October 13, 2020.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction:** Mr. Winkle, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. 2020-2021 Department/Grade Chairpersons.
2. Revise 4<sup>th</sup> grade assessment for the 2020-2021 school year for Social Studies to Pass/Fail grading.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of David Bufalini to use the Senior High School auditorium to livestream a concert on December 5, 2020 to benefit the BF Jones Memorial Library and Artist in Residence.
2. Informational:

Indoor and Outdoor gatherings update from October 6, 2020 state guidelines:

Maximum Occupancy / Allowable Indoor Rate  
0-2,000 people / 20% of Maximum Occupancy  
Maximum Occupancy / Allowable Outdoor Rate  
2,001 - 10,000 people / 20% of Maximum Occupancy

District areas used for fall sports:  
 HS Field Complex: 4000 max / 800 allowable occupancy  
 HS Gymnasium: 800 max / 160 allowable occupancy

**Finance: Ms. McKittrick, Chair**

1. Transfer of \$255,605.40 from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund as of June 30, 2020.
2. Fund balance assignments, restrictions and commitments as of June 30, 2020 as follows (forthcoming as soon as audit is complete):

Restricted for Stadium  
 Committed for Budget  
 Committed for Health Care  
 Committed for Future Retire  
 Committed for Technology  
 Unassigned  
 Total Fund Balance

3. Approve a Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Exemption of the 2020-2021 Hopewell Area School District real estate taxes in the amount of \$2,816.92 for Joseph and Joyce Patz on parcel 75-029-0291.000 (Raccoon Township) and exonerate the Raccoon Township tax collector from the collection of said Hopewell Area School District real estate taxes. When and if it is determined that Mr. and Mrs. Patz are no longer eligible for a Veteran's exemption, Hopewell Area School District real estate taxes would become due based on the applicable determination date.
4. Sale of work benches, CB radios and antennas, and a fuel system printer in "as is and where-is" condition by sealed bids advertised appropriately to employees of the School District or such other bidding parties but without the cost of further public advertising. Bids can be individual or together. The sealed bids shall be received by 2:00 p.m. in the Business Office on Monday, November 16, 2020. The sealed bids shall be opened and tabulated by the Business Administrator for presentation and approval of the sale at the meeting on November 23, 2020

**Personnel:** Dr. Erickson, Chair and Mrs. Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Employment of Kari Steuer, assistant girl's basketball coach, at a stipend of \$2,500.00
2. Change of status for Margaret Heranic from paid assistant girls basketball coach to volunteer assistant coach.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Since this meeting is being conducted virtually and in person, virtual visitors were asked to email questions prior to the meeting. Dr. Miller stated that she would answer questions directly to the individual and post online.

**Rhonda Kloss**

I have a question for the Board meeting tonight. I realize it's past noon, but given we were just notified of another positive COVID case, I'd appreciate it being answered. My question is:

What is the procedure for notifying students who have classes with a student who has tested positive? Are the parents of ALL students in those classes notified and asked to be tested?

**Bethany Pistorius**

1. Why was there a volleyball game held in the high school only hours after notification of the first positive case? (Game was held at 3pm, notification was provided between 1-2pm, custodians were conducting cleaning at the same time) What exactly does the health and safety plan state as procedure after the district is notified of a positive case (please be specific)?
2. Why are common areas not sprayed with the Bacronics when there is a positive case or suspected case? At the high school only classrooms were sprayed, not hallways, bathrooms, etc. Shouldn't all areas the person with the positive diagnosis has been in be deeply cleaned? (If this spray is so effective, why not use in all areas the covid positive person was?)
3. How much overtime has the district spent for the custodial department since eliminating one full-time custodial position in the junior high? Has the district spent greater than a salary in OT?
4. With covid ramping up in our area, does the district AND BOARD still agree that it is wise to reduce the custodial department?
5. I asked at the last meeting and did not receive any response, so I will again raise this question...what is the district preparing to do to evaluate each child in the district to assess deficiencies, or benchmarks not met due to the interruption in learning in the spring as well as this fall? As you know, not all children learn well remotely, but should not be held back because the district is unable to provide a more hands on approach at this time. How will the children be assessed and what will the district do to assist each child with meeting standards?

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

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair**

**MOTION #1**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve free school privileges for Eve Fraser to attend Hopewell High School for the 2020-2021 school year. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Dr. Erickson, Chair**

**MOTION #2**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the annual salary for the assistant high school principal to be adjusted to \$91,491.00. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #3**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve that the District advertise for an elementary assistant principal. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Brittany Cejer, long-term substitute teacher at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective on or around November 16, 2020 through approximately February 6, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Margaret Brutt, paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective October 26, 2020. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Amy Downer, substitute school nurse, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, effective October 13, 2020. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Brenda Galino, substitute school nurse, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, effective October 13, 2020. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Molly Strum, lifeguard, effective October 13, 2020. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Unfinished Business

Lori McKittrick asked that the Board reinstate liaison meetings with the Hopewell Education Association.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 26, 2020, Regular Business Meeting will be held virtually and in person.

MOTION by Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Winkle, Board Vice President

Nancy Barber, Secretary