

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

REORGANIZATION MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in person and virtually on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization of the Board in compliance with Section 404 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, and any other business which may come before the Board of Directors.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Judge Dale Fouse swore in the newly elected members of the Board, David Bufalini, Jeanette Miller, Bethany Pistorius, Daniel Santia, Jeffrey Winkle and Lindsay Zupsic.

Mr. Winkle, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Prayer and flag salute was led by Ms. McKittrick. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

David Bufalini
Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

MOTION #1

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

For purposes of reorganization, Motion by Daniel Santia, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to nominate John Salopek as Temporary President. Motion carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Salopek called for nominations for President. Motion by Lindsay Zupsic to nominate David Bufalini as President of the Board and a Motion by Jeanette Miller to nominate Jeff Winkle as President of the Board. There being no other nominations for President, Motion by Matt Erickson, second by Dan Caton, nominations for President closed.

Roll Call vote for President of the Board of Directors followed with David Bufalini receiving five votes and Jeffrey Winkle receiving four votes. Mr. Bufalini is President of the Hopewell Area School Board.

Mr. Salopek called for nominations for Vice President. Motion by Lori McKittrick to nominate Daniel Santia as Vice President of the Board. Dan Caton nominated Jeffrey Winkle as Vice President. Mr. Winkle stated that he would not take the position. There being no other nominations for Vice President, Motion by David Bufalini, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, nominations for Vice President closed.

Roll call vote for Daniel Santia as Vice President of the Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors present.

Mr. Bufalini thanked the Board for their support. He thanked Mr. Winkle for his past leadership of the Board. Moving forward, the Board will continue to work for the school and community.

Officers are seated.

Mr. Bufalini asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the November 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

MOTION #3

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve items (1) through (3) as presented in accordance with School Board's agreement for grouping items in a single motion. MOTION carried by a vote of 6 to 0, with Mr. Bufalini, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Pistorius abstaining, as they were not on the Board in November.

Tax Collectors' Report

1. Recommendation to accept report for taxes collected for the month of November, 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 November, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of November, 2021, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

At this time, Dr. Kartychak reviewed the agenda in its entirety.

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 and address
- 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 Lombard, 2867 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa

Mrs. Lombard welcomed the new members to the Board. Mrs. Lombard said that she understood that the administration was under pressure to rescind the mask mandate. She asked the Board to stay the course for a while longer, as not enough people are vaccinated. She believes that in-person learning is most important for students and masks help achieve that goal.

Amy Kelly, 1203 Connecticut Avenue, Aliquippa

Mrs. Kelly spoke in support of the ongoing lawsuit brought by William Penn School District et al. against state legislative leaders, state education officials and the Governor for failing to adequately fund public education and violating the Constitution's equal protection clause. She said that quality education should not be dictated by a student's zip code. She asked the District and, individually, Board members, to pass a resolution in support of providing a fair,

adequate, and predictable funding system that enables all children to meet state academic standards and does not discriminate against low-income school districts.

Mr. Salopek said that the Board could review the issue and adopt a resolution in January, if they wished.

Shawna Selinsky

Mrs. Selinsky welcomed the new members to the Board. She is concerned about the requirement of the Board to state your name and address prior to addressing the Board. She is nervous about retaliation if an individual expresses an unpopular opinion.

Mr. Salopek said that he would research the matter and provide a recommendation prior to the next meeting.

Jennifer Parrish, 750 Davis Road, Aliquippa

Mrs. Parrish continues to express her concerns with the mask mandate. She would like to see the Board update and vote on the Health and Safety Plan and remove the mask requirement.

Austin McClean, 1001 Sweet Brier Drive, Aliquippa

Austin would like for the Board to consider approving a Table Top Club for the Junior High School. The club would be for tabletop games such as Magic the Gathering, Pokemon, and Dungeons and Dragons. He believes the club would help develop time management skills, organization, and focus as well as collaborative skills. Materials and resources will be provided by Titan Game Shop.

Dr. Erickson made a request to have a motion for club approval on the agenda at the next Board meeting.

Chezna Saxe and her son, Nolan, 1044 Sweet Brier Drive, Aliquippa

Mrs. Saxe and Nolan spoke of their concern for the leadership of the football program. Athletes are leaving the program. Nolan said that due to the coaching staff he has lost his passion for the game and that it feels like a chore. Mrs. Saxe said that there is a lack of control and anger issues on the part of the football staff. Both Nolan and Mrs. Saxe would like for the Board to consider replacing the head coach.

Stacy Garcia and her son, Sergio, 110 Lexington Drive

Sergio and Mrs. Garcia also spoke of their concern with the football program. Although they had high hopes for the season, that just wasn't to be. The behavior of the coaching staff was a major concern. Athletes wouldn't see coaches during halftime and they made their anger and frustration very apparent. Sergio felt that if he spoke up during the season of his concerns, he

would be benched. Both Mrs. Garcia and Sergio believe that a change in leadership is needed to be more successful.

Mr. Bufalini continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #4

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeff Winkle, to approve the request of Ronda Koblek to conduct two softball skills clinics, January 15, 2022 and February 19, 2022, from 12:30 until 2:30 in the Junior High School gym. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeff Winkle, to approve Michael Sabat parent/coach for representation at WPIAL Rifle Championships for his daughter Rachel Sabat. Mr. Sabat will incur all costs and transportation. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Santia

MOTION #6

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request of Beaver County Flag Football to use the Senior High School football field Saturday's from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. beginning April 2, 2022 through May 21, 2022. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick

MOTION #7

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, 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 \$107,476.54

Payments to be ratified:

2. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$1,894,855.04

MOTION #8

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, 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 roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

1. Appointment of Diane Palsa as Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Hopewell Township for 2021 school taxes for period December 31, 2021 through April 15, 2022.
2. Appointment of Mary Ellen Oros as Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Independence Township for 2021 school taxes for period December 31, 2021 through April 15, 2022.
3. Appointment of Sandra Cain as Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector for Raccoon Township for 2021 school taxes for period December 31, 2021 through April 15, 2022.

MOTION #9

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the contract with BerkOne to process the District's Act 80 records at an approximate cost of \$851.80. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Lindsay Zupsic**MOTION #10**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Hopewell Area School Board Work and Business meeting dates for 2022. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Matthew Erickson**MOTION #11**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to reaffirm the appointment of Kellee Oliver, Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services, as the District's Title VI and Title IX, Section 504 Compliance Officer. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Prior to adjournment, Mrs. Pistorius thanked the students who spoke at the meeting. She said that she understands that it is difficult and was proud of them.

Dr. Kartychak welcomed the new Board members. He said that the schools are collecting toys for those less fortunate in the District and directed everyone to the website if they wanted to make a donation. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Solicitor, John Salopek, also welcomed new Board members and said he was eager to work with them.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion or recommendations to come before the Board of Directors, Mr. Bufalini asked for a motion for adjournment.

Motion by Dan Santia, seconded by Lori McKittrick, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Mr. Bufalini adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

David Bufalini, Board President

Nancy M. Barber, Secretary