

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
MAY 11, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual Board meeting on Monday, May 11, 2020 due to the closure of school during the Covid-19 pandemic.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel 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 7:04 p.m. by Lesia Dobo, Board President.

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

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

Members Absent:  
Daniel Santia

Also in attendance were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Dr. Jacie Maslyk, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, Principal; and visitors.

Mrs. Conrad gave an update on the 2020-2021 budget. This presentation can be found on our website at [hopewellarea.org](http://hopewellarea.org).

Dr. Miller announced that the following items would be voted on at the May 18, 2020 meeting. She and Mrs. Conrad then reviewed the agenda in its entirety.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction**

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Online Education for the 2020-2021 School Year.

2. Continuation of Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Family Behavioral Resources.
3. 2020-2021 Beaver County Career and Technology Center General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,136,989.
4. Articles of Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide Discovery Education at a cost of \$1.46 per student for the 2020-2021 school year.
5. Agreement with Adelphoi Education Services to provide emotional supports services to students on an as needed basis for the 2020-2021 school year.
6. Contract renewal for the 2020-2021 school year with AOT, Inc., providers of the District's occupational and physical therapy services, as well as speech therapy services on an as needed basis.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of the Hopewell Quarterbacks and Football Boosters to use the Senior High School cafeteria to serve lunch during football camp, August 17, 2020 through August 21, 2020.
2. Request of the Hopewell Quarterbacks and Football Boosters to conduct 50/50 raffles at each of the varsity, junior varsity and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade football games.
3. Request of the Hopewell Quarterbacks and Football Boosters to use the concession stand and spirit shop at Tony Dorsett Stadium during the following events:
  - a. All Home Varsity, Junior Varsity and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade games; and
  - b. Thursday evenings during football season to provide dinner for players and coaches.

**Finance and Budget:**

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Supply bids for the 2020-2021 school year for the following departments:
  - a. Athletics
  - b. Art
  - c. Custodial
  - d. Industrial Arts
  - e. Physical Education
  - f. Science
2. Adoption of the Hopewell Area School District proposed 2020-2021 General Fund budget, which projects revenues of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and appropriations of \$\_\_\_\_\_. The difference of \$\_\_\_\_\_ will come from the Fund Balance.
3. Plancon Part K refinancing documents with regard to Lease number 022395, Accelerated Redemption of Series A of 2002.
4. Resolution No. 4-2020, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ to refund all or portions of the School District's outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2015, all in accordance with the Local Government Unit Debt Act.
5. 2020-2021 Pay Schedule, as presented (**Attachment**)
6. Authorization to award electricity supply contract to Energy Harbor (formerly First Energy) for 36 months beginning January, 2022, at a price of 5.042/kWh.

**Personnel:**

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resignation for retirement of Terry Borkovic, change of effective date to June 8, 2020.
2. Reappointment of John F. Salopek, Esquire, Solicitor, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
3. Reappointment of Jennifer Conrad, Board Treasurer, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
4. Reaffirm the District's Non-Discrimination Policy as required by Title VI and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975. Further, said policy to be advertised in the Beaver County Times.

5. Resignation of Rebecca Fischer, substitute nurse, effective June 8, 2020.

**Transportation:**

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Accept bid and purchase five (5) 72-passenger buses from \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_/each for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Delivery will occur between \_\_\_\_\_. Funds to be taken from the capital reserve account in the 2020-21 school year.
2. Reject all bids dated May 8, 2020, for one 48/54 flexible passenger Wheelchair lift bus.

**VISITOR'S COMMENTS**

Since this meeting is being conducted virtually, visitors were asked to email questions prior to the meeting.

Vivian Lumbard asked:

Given that it is unlikely that there will be a viable, tested vaccine and/or viral treatment for COVID-19 before the 2020-2021 school year commences, what types of options are you considering to reduce the chances of potential spread of the virus among the students/staff if schools are allowed to reopen?

Are you considering shortened "in person" attendance to reduce the number of students in the schools at any given time, reduce class sizes to allow for social distancing and allow for using more buses to transport students with sufficient distancing on the buses? i.e. 2 days in school, 3 days learning from home. Or some students beginning the school year physically present with others learning from home and switching places partway through a quarter/semester?

Are you considering having the teachers change classrooms instead of the students? I understand that it would be difficult to schedule for the higher grades, but it is easier for the adults to control potential spread than trying to ensure all students are complying. Perhaps more electives and physical education could be more at home-based, rather than in person to allow for ease in scheduling. In addition, it would be easier to identify which students are most likely to have come in contact with another if one subsequently tests positive to allow for all potentially affected students to isolate at home.

Are you considering taking lunch orders in the morning and having them delivered to classrooms instead of using the cafeteria?

Assuming mask-wearing is still recommended, will the district be providing masks to staff and/or students? What types of discipline would be involved for a student not wearing a mask?

Are you considering allowing the students to carry their backpacks with all their needed books/materials to reduce/eliminate the need to visit lockers and touching more surfaces?

Dr. Miller responded:

Thank you for the comments and inquiries. The District is currently working through many of these concerns and creating plans with multiple levels of safety precautions. We are reviewing guidance from the CDC and Department of Health. We are also working with state educational agencies such as PASA and PSBA, Beaver County superintendents, our own teachers, nurses and professionals. As soon as possible, we will share these plans with staff, parents, and students, however, we are still awaiting guidance and direction from the state to ensure that our plans are in compliance with state mandates.

Bethany Pistorius complimented teachers and tech staff on how they are handling continuity of education.

She also asked the following questions:

What is the timeline for reassessing option #5 or #7? At the 3/9/20 meeting the question "what happens next" was asked multiple times with no clear answer able to be given. While I understand that there are many other issues, this business still remains. Can you please update us on the process of the feasibility study, construction assessment, taxes raised (for these purposes)? Basically, what happens next?

Many people are still unaware of this process for the board meetings. Most do not know to check for the updates on the home screen in the red section. When looking at the calendar of upcoming meetings there is no additional information regarding how the meeting will happen. I previously sent the suggestion to do a one-time mass communication (email or robo call) to inform all parents of the instructions on how to be involved or to access the information on the meetings. Based on the attendance numbers from Dec-Mar I believe most parents were uninformed. This is a vital process of keeping everyone informed, now more than ever.

Dr. Miller responded:

Thank you Mrs. Pistorius for the kind comments about our teaching staff and our technology department. Our entire team of administration, educators, and support staff, especially the technology department have done an outstanding job addressing concerns or issues and staying focused on student learning and the needs of our families. Thank you for your comments.

Beginning on March 13, the district's focus immediately shifted to addressing student, family and employee issues resulting in the school closures during the pandemic. After the March 9 board meeting, the district was in the process of scheduling a Building and Grounds meeting with VEBH to address next steps and to reassess all of the District's options and information. Due to the closure of schools and businesses in the region, we have yet to reschedule this meeting. Beaver County is still identified by Governor Wolf as "red" so we are working within the associated expectations for business operations. As soon as it is possible to continue discussions and that we are able to safely meet with VEBH, the Buildings and Grounds committee will meet to discuss next steps. As soon as these plans are made, we will inform the community.

As for sharing the process of Board meetings, this information is on the District's website, posted on doors, and on our marquis. I am favorable to additional means of communicating this process under the desire and discretion of the Board of School Directors.

#### Unfinished Business

None

#### Upcoming School Board Meetings

May 18, 2020: Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. virtual meeting

MOTION by Jeff Winkle, seconded by Kathryn Oblak that the meeting be adjourned.  
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mrs. Dobo adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Lesia Dobo, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary