

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual Board meeting on Monday, August 10, 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.

There were times that the meeting was delayed due to streaming problems due to a failure of a fan in the laptop running the audio and video portion of the group side of the meeting. This failure resulted in damage to the internal components of the laptop that could not be repaired during the meeting. The meeting paused approximately three times as a result of the laptop malfunction.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board Vice President.

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

Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Kathryn Oblak
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent:

Daniel Caton
Lesia Dobo
Daniel Santia

Also in attendance were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Dr. Jacie Maslyk, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; and Nancy Barber, Secretary. Visitors participated virtually through Zoom Meeting.

Dr. Maslyk described the District's application to the Department of Education for Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs). The District will begin the 2020-2021 school year using a hybrid schedule of both in person and remote learning. The use of this method enables the District to use FIDs rather than cancelling school due to inclement weather.

Dr. Miller reviewed the plan for opening school for the 2020-2021 school year. She stated that the District would begin in the "yellow" or hybrid stage. Depending on the last name of the student would depend on whether they attend on a Tuesday/Thursday and alternating Mondays or a Wednesday/Friday and alternating Mondays schedule. She reviewed the plan for transportation and food services and the requirement that staff and students must wear masks. She informed

visitors that principals would be sending out information in the coming days regarding: orientation, transportation, start/end times, parent drop-off procedures, class assignments and device distribution.

Dr. Miller reported that there were items that would be voted on later in the meeting and then proceeded to review the agenda in its entirety.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Approval of the revised Health and Safety Plan as presented by the Superintendent and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Center for Disease Controls. This approval herein shall incorporate into the Health and Safety Plan all subsequent amendments to the aforementioned guidelines as based on new medical data related to Covid-19.
2. Resolution of the Board of School Directors of the Hopewell Area School District approving a Flexible Instruction Day program as proposed by the Superintendent.
3. Elimination of the following positions for the 2020-2021 school year for a period of up to one year in order to staff the HASD K-6 Cyber program while needed. If not needed for cyber, the teachers will return to classroom positions to support K-6 student learning:
 - a. 5th grade teaching position;
 - b. 6th grade teaching position;
 - c. 4th grade teaching position at Hopewell Elementary School;
 - d. 3rd grade teaching position at Hopewell Elementary School;
 - e. 2nd grade teaching position at Hopewell Elementary School;
 - f. 4th grade teaching position at Margaret Ross Elementary School; and
 - g. 4th grade teaching position at Independence Elementary School.
4. Creation of the following temporary one year positions for the 2020-2021 school year for a period of up to one year while cyber positions are needed:
 - a. Seven (7) K-6 cyber teaching positions.
5. Informational Item: The District and HEA are finalizing a MOU regarding HASD's Elementary Cyber Education. This item will be on August 24, 2020 board agenda.
6. Resignation for retirement of Sue Ann Masley, Art teacher at the Senior High School, effective August 31, 2020.
7. Approval to decrease in size the District's professional staff, through attrition, by the elimination of one (1) professional staff member in the Art Department after the retirement of Sue Masley.

8. Resignation of Julie Coston, speech teacher, effective July 31, 2020.
9. Resignation for retirement of Denise Curti, Transportation nurse, effective July 20, 2020.
10. Resignation of Deborah Albright, substitute secretary, effective July 20, 2020.
11. Resignation for retirement of Vanessa Weil, Secretary at the Junior High School, effective October 1, 2020.

Athletics: Mr. Caton, Chair; Dr. Erickson, Co-Chair

Reintroduction to Athletics Plan: Revision and Update: Updates to the Athletics plan include a delay to the start of the fall season, which will be August 24, 2020. A decision by the Governor was also made that spectators would not be able to attend.

The following items will be voted on August 24, 2020.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide ESL (English as A Second Language) for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$40.00 per hour.
2. Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide Title I services to students at Our Lady of Fatima for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$869.00 per pupil per year.
3. Service Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2020-2021 school year for Special Education services for students in outside placements.
4. Agreement for Educational Services with the Bradley Center, effective the 2020-2021 school year. Bradley Center provides educational services to students placed in their residential facility and/or who attend to receive their education in a therapeutic setting.
5. Free school privileges for Connor Antoszeski to attend Hopewell High School for the 2020-2021 school year.

Finance and Budget: Ms. McKittrick, Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and the BC RWAN Consortium to increase the total bandwidth from 10Gbps connection to a total connection speed of 40Gbps. The total cost of \$1,500.00 will be split between the 19 members of the Consortium, or \$78.95 per entity.
2. Articles of Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to participate in the Technology Council Pool Consortium for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$419.00.

Personnel: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Oblak, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Resignation of Rich Collins, 1st assistant boys' golf coach, effective August 16, 2020.
2. Appointment of Jeff Homziak, 1st assistant boys' golf coach, at a stipend of \$1,500.00, effective August 17, 2020, subject to completion of the fall sports season and proration of the salaries in the event that the fall sports season is shortened.
3. Appointment of Britta Hedglin, sponsor of the Digital Media Club at the Junior High School, effective the 2020-2021 school year.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

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

1. What is the plan with school sanctioned sports? It's already been in the news with local schools and the spread at practices. Can you address spectators, practice, protocol, and away game busing?

At this time, the District is following the Board approved Reintroduction to Sports Plan that is located on the website. We are monitoring the guidance from the state as well as through PIAA. Today, PIAA pushed back the "official" start date for sports to August 24. At this time, the state does not allow spectators at any sporting event. The safety protocols for games and practices are included in the Plan. At this time, we would expect to run bussing as we do for students attending school. We will assign one student per seat.

2. School supplies for cyber students? If the Cyber option was chosen when will parents be given additional information about the program and “binder” activities as well as any technology they are to be given? "

There will be informational Zoom meetings scheduled for parents and students enrolled in Hopewell's K-6 cyber program. School supplies will be addressed during this orientation meeting.

3. Why was boys' tennis canceled when you have enough boys every year to make a team? If any tennis team would have been canceled the girls should have been. The girls are allowed to play with the boys but boys are not allowed to play with the girls. Every year we play schools that have coed teams in the boys' league.

Only eight boys showed interest in playing tennis in 2020-2021. The District can explore a co-op with another district if these students still wish to play.

4. What will the school do if a student or teacher gets COVID-19? What are the steps that will take place? What will the quarantine procedures be, along with notification, when the district learns that staff and children have been exposed?

- *If an individual becomes ill and symptoms are presumptive COVID-19 symptoms, the nurse immediately communicates the need for disinfecting of the room/desk/area that the person was in that day. This will occur as soon as custodians are notified.*
- *The individual is isolated at the school and under a nurse's care until he or she can leave the building. (Employees will immediately leave the buildings)*
- *The District will follow DOH and PDE's guidance regarding return to school.*
- *If the individual tests positive, upon confirmation from the individual, the individual's parent and/or DOH, the District will alert parents in the District that an individual at a particular building has tested positive.*
- *DOH is responsible for contact tracing. Once DOH receives the notice of a positive case, DOH will contact the individual and the school, if applicable. DOH will provide guidance as to whether anyone needs tested or whether anyone in the classroom or building needs to be quarantined and they will recommend the time for quarantine.*
- *DOH is also required to inform the individual as to how long they are required to be quarantined or isolated. The District will not direct a person to self-quarantine or to isolate once a person tests positive for COVID.*
- *For any students who test positive, the District will follow DOH's requirements for return to school. For any employee who tests positive, the District will require the individual to have a negative COVID test before returning.*

5. "Why wasn't my July 17, 2020 email included in the public document on the HASD website for the public record as stated it would be in the last Board meeting?"

Ms. Lumbard's email was identified in the visitor's section and is included in the meeting minutes.

6. What is the progress on increasing electives for cyber learning, as well as honors & AP courses, etc. at the high school?

The high school administration and cyber coordinator is working through the additional courses and will share these additions with families once finalized.

7. Many parents who are on the fence about sending their children back to school would much rather have a remote learning option rather than just the cyber learning option currently being offered. Are there any thoughts about adding a remote learning option?

At the present time, the District's hybrid plan provides instruction face to face for 2-3 days per week and the remote learning on opposite days will occur at the students' home. In red, we will provide remote learning to all students without any face to face options.

8. Earlier this year, the facilities condition study stated that all our district buildings required HVAC upgrades as they are past their useful lifespans and the Board was considering options for a possible new building, etc. Given the fact that there is increasing evidence that COVID-19 can be spread via aerosol transmissions, has the Board considered that if all students were remote learning to start the school year, now would be a good time to do those upgrades and have the best air handling systems in place before students and staff are in the buildings regularly again?"

The District has been working with Tower Engineering to identify upgrades to address HVAC concerns in relation to COVID-19. Any capital project to address concerns in the feasibility study would need to have specifications and be bid. For school districts, this could be a 12-18-month process due to the required laws, financing, and timelines associated with school capital projects.

9. Can a parent sign up for Hopewell's Cyber program later in the school year if they feel more comfortable with that option?

Yes

10. Why is it that during last meeting indoors you all didn't have masks on but expect our children to wear them in school when it's not law?

We appreciate the feedback. As you can see, the Board and Administration are wearing facial coverings when we aren't speaking during tonight's meeting.

11. How long will the district plan on having the kids continue with education using the hybrid method?

At this time, the District is planning to be in a hybrid model until it is safe to move to “green” or for the safety of students, parents, and staff, that we need to be in “red” (remote). There are 3 ways that the district will reconsider the hybrid phase and moving to either “green” or “red”. 1) A local decision (i.e. either we can’t staff a building in order to operate a safe learning environment or we have information of numerous presumptive cases) 2) DOH recommends closing a building for a period of time 3) The Commonwealth directs districts to be remote, close school, or issues a stay home order.

12. Will masks be required all day or only during bus rides and when moving through the halls?

Facial coverings are required on busses with no breaks.

Facial coverings are required in common areas (halls, restrooms, office spaces).

Facial coverings are required in classrooms with the understanding that if students are 6 feet apart, the teacher may allow rotating “breaks” for students (not all at once).

13. With the recent Governor recommendation; will the district change our plan of reopening? Is the district considering starting all students virtual?

At this time, the District is planning to open school on September 8 in a hybrid phase. However, PDE published guidelines this afternoon on metrics on how schools should re-open. The District will review this guidance to determine if any changes should be made.

14. I'm a single mom and work full time. No one is able to help with home schooling. Is there any chance for full time schooling? Two days a week at school will not work. Will I have access to my child's teachers?

At this time, we are operating on a hybrid schedule. Due to social distancing, the District is unable to accommodate all students full-time.

15. Is there going to be orientation for Kindergarten?

Yes. Mrs. Kane will be sending Orientation information out this week.

19. They have to take the whole school supplies the first day even in Hybrid mode?

We recommend having the supplies identified per grade level at the start of school. We will be limiting sharing of supplies as best as possible, so having your son or daughter have their own supplies at school and home (on remote days) would be extremely beneficial for your child's learning.

20. I know every school district is different but the case that South Side is going 5 day and Independence Elem. goes hybrid when they are so close. Why not make also Independence go 5 days?

The issue is not the proximity to South Side, it is the room within the building. All elementary buildings are nearly "at capacity". In order to socially distance, each building would need approximately double the number of classrooms and teachers for every student to attend five days a week in person.

21. Will you have a monitors in the bathroom to make sure kids are actually washing their hands?

In the Elementary buildings, students use the restroom as a classroom and the teacher is not in the restroom, but is listening and monitoring, as appropriate. There will be multiple reminders in addition to explicit teaching of how to wash hands at the start of the school year.

In the junior and senior high, there will be reminders and explicit teaching by either the nurse or during health class, but we do not monitor high school or junior high students when they are in the restroom.

22. What will students with GIEP actually do if they choose to attend school each day? And what will the workload look like for the off days of the hybrid model- follow up assignments, new learning, a full days-worth of work? Thank you.

The District will be reaching out to parents of students with a GIEP to identify what their day may look like. Because a GIEP is individualized, so is the plan for the student while he or she is attending school in a hybrid model.

23. Why no synchronous learning? Zoom classes? "Still want to know why all remote learning can't be synchronous in ""yellow phase""? If bandwidth is a problem, there is plenty of Trump money available to upgrade it. If cameras in the classroom is the issue, it guarantees quality assurance. So why not?"

There will be multiple ways for students to be engaged and connected to their classroom and new material on their non-face to face days. Currently, depending on the course content and age of student, the District will have a blended approach of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities. Teachers will be creating their approach and sharing this with students during the first day as part of a review of expectations. You should expect your child to be required to be synchronous at times as well as watch teacher lessons asynchronously.

24. Rumor has it that the HS cafeteria will only be serving boxed lunches and will have service in the cafeteria and the lobby outside of the auditorium. Can you please provide and information or clarification on this? Thank you.

This is misinformation. The District will continue to provide options for all students for lunch in the cafeteria when students are in the buildings. If a student is on free and reduced lunch and would like breakfast and lunch for their non-face to face days, the District will provide these to students at dismissal.

25. Can the live instruction provided to students in the classroom also be recorded and or filmed so that those in the cyber option can also receive the benefit of having Hopewell teachers actually teach them LIVE rather than being limited to canned videos and the hope of arranging some tutor time with teachers? This would also help the Hopewell cyber option students transition seamlessly back to the in-school option when ready. The Hopewell cyber students could easily have access to their classes if they are live streamed as well as in school students having this option if they become ill or quarantine is required. "Will the Hopewell Cyber Curriculum mirror what is being done in the regular classroom (in the event parents choose to change their original choice of instruction- so students have an easily transition from one to the other)

Live instruction and/or videos of Hopewell teachers will be possible if a student remains in hybrid setting. If the district (or building) would move to red (remote learning), this would increase for all students 5 days/week. If a parent chooses cyber for his or her child, the District is using Edgenuity (grades 5-12) or Compass (grades K-4). A Hopewell teacher will be assessing and supporting the student, but the curriculum is established through research based videos, activities, and assignments. The cyber curriculum instructs on the same standards that students will be learning in the classroom in hybrid or red/remote. A parent would need to choose cyber or hybrid based on what is best for the student and the students' family.

26. Will there be an orientation for Kindergarteners who start cyber this year so if and when they do go back to school they may already have met the teacher and seen the classroom etc. Or would that happen when the time comes for them to actually opt out and go to class. I have a kindergartener who will be very confused with things this year as she's never gone to school yet besides preschool.

Dr. Maslyk will be holding orientation for students enrolled in cyber in coming week. Also, if your Kindergartener is returning to the classroom, Mrs. Kane, the building principal will send you links to our virtual Kindergarten orientation. Additionally, you can always arrange a "meet and greet" with the assigned teacher before or after the typical school day.

27. If and when I feel comfortable, how do I go about putting my child back into the actual school? If I enroll my son in the cyber program, how hard will it be to re-enroll in traditional school classes? What will the transition look like if a family would decide to go from Cyber to Hybrid? Will there be a certain time frame it will take once a family

decides to change to have their children change to Hybrid? With cutting teachers from the elementary schools how is the flexibility given to families taken into consideration?

You will need to alert your building principal or Dr. Maslyk and we can re-enroll within 1-2 days. The District is prepared to re-open classrooms if the enrollment numbers from cyber to in-person indicate the need.

28. We hear about the plan for the school and the teachers what about the bus drivers. What is the plan to keep the kids social distancing on the bus? Also, what is the plan for those drivers who drive the special need kids?

Protocols for bus drivers will be provided during the transportation department's annual orientation meeting this month. At this time, busses will have one student per seat, unless the students are siblings. All students and adults on the bus will be required to wear facial coverings, however, drivers are required to wear masks, not shields. The District will alert transportation employees of any student who is exempt from wearing a mask. If an employee is within 6 feet of a student who is not able to wear a facial covering, the employee is required to wear appropriate PPE.

29. How/ Why are schools exempt from the state mandate of maximum people allowed in an indoor space?

PDE has stated that, for instructional purposes, schools are exempt from the maximum of 25 individuals indoors. No reason was given why this exemption was made. The exemption does not apply to trainings, faculty meetings, assemblies, etc... The exemption is only for the instructional portion of school operations.

30. Will students be assigned a regular homeroom at the beginning of the year even if they choose the cyber option so, if at any point they choose the Hybrid option they are taken into account in classroom numbers? If so, will parents be notified the students homeroom teacher for the Hybrid Option?

Students are not assigned to a specific homeroom teacher once a family enrolls the student in cyber. We are prepared for students returning to the classroom and will share the student class assignment and schedule, if appropriate, at that time. Parents are always welcome to contact the building principals with any concerns or questions regarding placement or scheduling.

31. Can you clarify what Monday each group will be attending?

On the revised school calendar, the second page has all of the dates for Mondays for the students while in hybrid. Even if school is cancelled for any group, this schedule is not expected to change.

32. Why hasn't the district developed and presented the students with a completely synchronous option as most of the other districts, colleges, and even preschools have done?

The teachers should live stream their lessons so that any students, whether in class or at home, is receiving the same information from the same source. They teachers should share any content which they would share in class via blackboard, dry erase board, overhead projector, smart board, etc. by simply typing it onto a Word document and sharing that through a chosen application similar to axiom, Microsoft Teams, Blackboard,, etc. Files can also be shared through the apps or through Google classroom easily and students could also submit their work electronically as well. Those classes can and should also be recorded and available to the students for reference whether to recap something class or, if God forbid a student does get sick, they have the same opportunity to view the class lecture, view all notes and materials, access any and all materials distributed, and to submit their work through those same electronic methods.

There will be multiple ways for students to be engaged and connected to their classroom and new material on their non-face to face days. Currently, depending on the course content and age of student, the District will offer a blended approach of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities that is tailored to best support learning. Teachers will be creating their approach and sharing this with students during the first day as part of a review of expectations. You should expect your child to be required to be synchronous at times as well as watch teacher lessons asynchronously.

33. Why would this meeting be held virtually if the students don't have the same option for their safety when the family desires that choice? Is it because being there in person is not a wise and safe option?

The purpose for a virtual meeting is due to the Governor's order regarding maximum people allowed to gather in an indoor space.

34. What is the backup plan when students who choose to attend in person does get sick and the school loses 8 teachers to sick leave? Is the plan to shut the school down as it was in March? And have Asynchronous learning again? That was an utter failure and was a dear ice (Disservice?) to the students, the teachers, and all of the tax payers.

The District is securing building subs who can assist in filling in for any teacher. The District also has contingency plans when we experience a substitute shortage. If the District weren't able to provide instruction due to a school being closed, then full-time remote learning may be the best option. Our teachers and students, however, will have new expectations when we are remote and instruction will look very different than it did in the spring.

35. I hope that in the next 4 weeks that the option is there for full, virtual, synchronous learning for any student and family who desires that option. Anything less than that will result in failing our children. And you don't want or need that to take place. The health and safety of all of the teachers, students, and their entire families should be taken into consideration. The education of the students, by the teachers within the Hopewell school district, I am hoping that the correct choices are made. For the sake of the education of each and every student and no less.

36. What is the max number of students who can be in an in-person class? Will the option still be given to change between cyber and in-person now that some classrooms have been eliminated? With the flexibility between education options currently offered by the district, how will the district respond when cyber students flex into hybrid learning? How will class size be affected, ability to socially distance, and teachers be able to manage the influx?

There is no maximum number of students in an in-person class. The District, however, is monitoring enrollment numbers during the hybrid setting to ensure that there is adequate room for social distancing.

Parents still have the option to return to in-person instruction if they chose cyber. The District has plans to re-open and to staff classrooms if needed, while still providing our Cyber program.

37. Also requested additional information for Cyber last week and have not heard from anyone.

Dr. Maslyk will contact you directly.

38. How will the new cyber positions be trained to provide cyber instruction, as that is a specialized area?

The District will identify the cyber teachers through a bidding process on August 17. After that, the District will provide all of the necessary training through our Cyber Coordinator for teachers using Edgenuity. All new Cyber teachers will also receive cyber training from Compass and Edgenuity.

39. Please provide more detailed information on how transportation will be handled, as well as drop off and pick up.

Principals will be sharing pick-up and drop-off information in the next two weeks regarding each building's arrival and dismissal.

40. Please provide more detailed information on what the lunch time procedures will look like.

Students in grades K-8 will be assigned to a homeroom/classroom table. Students who pack their lunch will go directly to their assigned table. Students will be socially distanced at the lunch table. Students who are buying their lunch will go through the lunch line. Upon entering, they will use hand sanitizer. Students will stand 6 feet apart. The cafeteria workers will place chosen items on the students' trays. The checkout system is now cashless. Students will have an ID card that they will scan to checkout. If a student forgets his or her card, the student's name or ID number can be given. Plexiglas now divides the student at checkout with the cashier,

41. Are there alternate places kids can eat if they are not comfortable eating in the cafeteria with the large number of students without masks on?

If a student is uncomfortable eating in the cafeteria, we ask that you reach out to the building principal to discuss options.

42. How will the change between periods be managed in the hallways, especially in the junior high and high school level, with all students in the hallways at each of those occasions?

Students in grades K-6 will have little movement in hallways. When they do move in hallways, they will move together, for the most part, as a classroom with the teacher. In grades 7-12, there will be approximately half the students will be in the building on any given day. The hallways have been marked for students to walk on one side of the hallway or there are also one way hallways at the high school. Some staircases have also been identified as uni-directional. Students will be permitted to carry book bags this year so locker stops will be limited and only for essential reasons.

43. With the displacement of seven teachers, less than one month before the start of the school year, how will the district assist and train those teachers for their new positions. I am assuming that bidding and assignments on open positions will take approximately 1 to 2 weeks, so these teachers will be getting new assignments mere weeks before school begins.

All teachers who bid on a position will be certified to be in the position they bid on. The bid meeting will occur on August 17. That will provide 3 weeks for teachers to prepare and receive any necessary training.

44. Art Position at the High School

- a. Have you found a new art teacher to take Mrs. Masley's spot now that she has retired?
- b. What is the current plan for the students enrolled in art for the 2020-21 school year?
- c. "Not a question. After leaving Hopewell, I went to college to be an engineer. I have since graduated and found a full time position. The only way I got here was through a mix of traditional math/science and ARTS. Arts are important for developing creative solutions for problems. It is NOT just a ""hobby"" and it is most certainly important for the cognitive development of the right brain. Taking art out of high school will set back students in creative development, a skill that is highly sought after in STEM fields today."
- d. "The term 'well-rounded education' means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an

- enriched curriculum and educational experience.” (ESSA, Title VIII, Section 8002)
- e. “Arts” is included in this section of ESSA. How can you guarantee a well-rounded Education for students by considering the cutting of a position in the fine arts department? "
 - f. I am concerned with the removal of Sue Masley's position within the high school. Art education is an important component of Hopewell's educational opportunities, and reducing access to the arts would be detrimental to student's education overall.
 - g. Why are you guys getting rid of the art program when so many students find comfort and acceptance in that small room. Not to mention Masley has spent years building the program to what it is today. To see it be removed from the school environment is a disservice to say the least.
 - h. It's not a question, it's a demand. Do NOT cut ANY funding for the arts programs. I am willing to discuss other options at the meeting.
 - i. If Mrs. Masley is retiring why does that mean terminating the entire art program?
 - j. Getting rid of the arts program would do an injustice to every student and the school district as a whole. If Hopewell's goal is to produce well rounded students eliminating the arts program would only do the opposite.
 - k. As a new student coming into the high school have signed up for Art 1 so I can learn and comprehend new skills and abilities in Art. Not only would getting rid of Art stop students from learning new abilities, but also stop talent from being created at Hopewell High School.
 - l. No questions just don't get rid of art man
 - m. I am in support of art education.
 - n. I will make no attempt to sugarcoat this. The board's decision to eliminate a position in the art department is shameful, embarrassing, and angering. Any cut to faculty positions is a terrible thing. A cut to the arts is even worse. The arts are essential to a free and democratic society. Not a single free society has existed without them. This decision starts Hopewell down a very slippery slope. It negates years of promises that we are a district that values the arts. This decision also sheds light onto another issue that we have on this board; a complete and utter lack of transparency. Faculty cuts are massive decisions that affect everyone from students to taxpayers. Why was the latest cut only made public 2 days before this meeting? Will the board make a commitment, here and now, to be more transparent? Will the board guarantee that an art position will be brought back after the COVID-19 pandemic? If not, what is being done to improve arts education in other aspects? I ask that all of these questions be answered by an elected member of the board at this meeting so as to avoid previous situations where citizens were blatantly ignored. This is of the utmost importance and the board must hold themselves accountable. And, so you don't forget, you are all elected.
 - o. Will there be any kind of Art program at the High school or is this just temporary for the 2020-2021 school year?

Although the recommendation to reduce the art department by one teacher is on the Board agenda, the District is able to continue providing high quality art instruction to students in grades K-12. The District will have a full time art teacher at each building level to continue

to provide art education to our students. All students will be able to have art, in grades K-8, and the art electives at the high school are still options for students and in the master schedule. The only impact are two electives at the Junior High level including Ceramics and Recycle It. We are currently looking to see how we can continue these courses this coming school year.

After tonight's board meeting, the District will formally move Mrs. Lauer to the high school art teacher position, as she was successful in bidding on the position. The District will continue to provide all of the art courses at the high school level as we have when Mrs. Masley was here. All current high school courses that were scheduled for this school year will still occur.

Following questions and answers, Mr. Winkle returned to Personnel for action this evening.

MOTION #1

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Ms. McKittrick, to approve the revised Health and Safety Plan as presented by the Superintendent and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Center for Disease Controls. This approval herein shall incorporate into the Health and Safety Plan all subsequent amendments to the aforementioned guidelines as based on new medical data related to Covid-19. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #2

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Oblak, to approve Resolution of the Board of School Directors of the Hopewell Area School District approving a Flexible Instruction Day program as proposed by the Superintendent. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Zupsic, to approve Elimination of the following positions for the 2020-2021 school year for a period of up to one year in order to staff the HASD K-6 Cyber program while needed. If not needed for cyber, the teachers will return to classroom positions to support K-6 student learning. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. 5th grade teaching position;
- b. 6th grade teaching position;
- c. 4th grade teaching position at Hopewell Elementary School;
- d. 3rd grade teaching position at Hopewell Elementary School;
- e. 2nd grade teaching position at Hopewell Elementary School;
- f. 4th grade teaching position at Margaret Ross Elementary School; and
- g. 4th grade teaching position at Independence Elementary School.

MOTION #4

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Newbery, to approve the creation of the following temporary one year positions for the 2020-2021 school year for a period of up to one year while cyber positions are needed: **MOTION** carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Seven (7) K-6 cyber teaching positions.

MOTION #5

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Ms. McKittrick, to accept the resignation for retirement of Sue Ann Masley, Art teacher at the Senior High School, effective August 31, 2020. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Oblak, to the approve the decrease in size the District's professional staff, through attrition, by the elimination of one (1) professional staff member in the Art Department after the retirement of Sue Masley. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Zupsic, to accept the resignation of Julie Coston, speech teacher, effective July 31, 2020. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Ms. McKittrick, to accept the resignation for retirement of Denise Curti, transportation nurse, effective July 20, 2020. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Zupsic, to accept the resignation of Deborah Albright, substitute secretary, effective July 20, 2020. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Oblak, to accept the resignation for retirement of Vanessa Weil, Secretary at the Junior High School, effective October 1, 2020. **MOTION** carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Newberry and Mrs. Zupsic again wanted to address the question regarding the reduction in one art position with the retirement of Mrs. Masley. They explained that there will be one art teacher for each level, elementary, junior and senior high students. There will be no reduction in art courses at the senior high school. They also said that transparency of board actions is of the utmost importance to each board member. If there are questions within the community, reach out to administration or the board for answers and explanations.

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

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeffery Winkle, Board Vice President

Nancy Barber, Secretary