

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual Board meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 due to the Governor's guidelines on social distancing because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was on September 2, 2020 and prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel issues with respect to administration and transportation. 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. Dobo. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Daniel Caton  
Lesia Dobo  
Lori McKittrick  
Darren Newberry  
Kathryn Oblak  
Daniel Santia  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent:  
Matthew Erickson  
Jeffrey Winkle

Also present 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.

Mrs. Dobo asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #1

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the revised Business Meeting minutes of July 20, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Miller reported that the District had a good start to the school year. She was also pleased to report the "Seamless Summer Program," which provides free breakfast and lunch for all students in the District through December 31, 2020. Covid-19 numbers are going down in Beaver County from 6.5 to 5.7. Elementary drop-off and pick-up numbers have tripled from last

year. Dr. Miller thanked the secretaries and local police for the support they provide during these times. Mr. Lipnicky reported to Dr. Miller that iPad cases are being delivered this week and will be distributed soon. Dr. Miller reported that K-6 classrooms have 7-15 students per day.

Dr. Maslyk reported that 435 students are participating in the District's cyber program. There are 9 elementary teachers K-6. She thanked Mr. Nelson for all the work he has done helping the cyber program run smoothly.

Mrs. Dobo continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lori McKittrick, Co-Chair**

**MOTION #2**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the Cyber Services Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit, effective 2020-2021 through 2024-2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #3**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to provide free school privileges for Salena Colalella to attend Hopewell Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve Mackenzie Thomas, a student at Geneva College, to complete practicum hours under the supervision of Mr. Collins and Mrs. Rodgers. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve Addendum to the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children Outreach Agreement to include Covid-19 accommodations. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the Agreement with Precision HR to provide substitute paraprofessionals and substitute nurses on an as needed basis for the 2020-2021 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair****MOTION #7**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the appointment of Danica Elder and Courtney Hunt as First Grade Department co-chairs. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the appointment of Margaret Heranic as Physical Education Department Chair. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #9**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Alex Nicholson, Class 1 long-term substitute at the Junior High School, on or about September 14, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #10**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Melissa Haywood, Class 1 long-term substitute at the Junior High School, effective September 3, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #11**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Renee Dzigan, individual paraprofessional at Hopewell Elementary School, effective September 8, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #12**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Kirsten Gregory, substitute transportation driver and aide, effective August 25, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #13**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Lisa Sinclair, bus driver, effective September 3, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the appointment of Sara Hochmuth as a volunteer assistant girls' soccer coach, effective August 24, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the appointment of Ciaron Skolnekovich, assistant volunteer football coach, effective August 26, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Amber Moden, paraprofessional, effective August 26, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to accept the resignation of Diana McDonell, paraprofessional, effective September 1, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to accept the resignation of Marissa Bufalini, lifeguard, effective September 4, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept the resignation of Natalee Bufalini, Head Varsity Swim Coach, effective September 9, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Joe McFarland, 6-hour custodian at the Junior High School, effective September 3, 2020. Mr. McFarland would like to return to the 500-hour substitute list. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Dominique Ward, Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, effective August 26, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request of Tamara Celeste, transportation aide, for a 30-day unpaid leave of absence, effective September 8, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the request of Brittany Powell, bus driver, for a 30-day unpaid leave of absence, effective September 28, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Darren Newberry**MOTION #24

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Football to use facilities at the Junior and Senior High Schools for practice and games, if safe for participants as determined by the Superintendent. CDC guidelines will be followed in all locations. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of the Hopewell Area Aqua Club to use pool on the following dates, if safe for participants as determined by the Superintendent. This is with the understanding that parents will not be permitted in the building and athletes will not be able to use locker rooms. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. beginning September 14, 2020 until the varsity season begins.
- b. 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Fridays from September 14, 2020 through approximately March 26, 2021.
- c. 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., should the District not offer the open swim program.
- d. Saturdays as needed for Swim Meets, including Gym B during that time.

The following items were review by Dr. Miller for approval on September 28, 2020.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction**

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Agreement with the Prevention Network to provide services for the Student Assistance Program for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Appointment of the following:
  - a. Dr. Moka as District Physician - \$10 per exam;
  - b. Optometric Care as District Vision Examiner - \$3.25 per exam; and
  - c. Dr. Rich Covatto to provide dental exams - \$5 per exam.

**Finance and Budget:** Ms. McKittrick, Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Proposal from Reschini Group to assist with employer reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act in the amount of \$6.25 per required filing.
2. Purchase of parcel #65-184-0104-0002-01-1 out of repository by Hopewell Township. The 2020-2021 school taxes and all delinquent taxes for the 2019-2020 tax year and prior years are exonerated.

**Legislative:** Mrs. Oblak, Chair; Mr. Caton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve Item 1 (a-e) as listed:

1. Title IX related policies:
  - a. Policy 103, including attachments 1 through 3.
  - b. Policy 104, including attachments 1 through 3.
2. Candidates for PSBA election of officers:
 

a. President-elect:	David Hein
b. Vice President:	Sabrina Backer Daniel O’Keefe
c. Treasurer:	Michael Gossert
d. Western at Large	Marsha Pleta
e. PSBA Insurance Trust: (vote for up to 2)	Michael Faccinetto Marianne Neel

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Appointment of Dr. Michelle Miller, Title IX decision-maker.
2. Appointment of Dr. Kellee Oliver, Title IX Coordinator.
3. Agreement with Trend Inc., to utilize services of an administrator, as needed, throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

**Transportation:** Mr. Caton, Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Extension of Transportation Consulting Agreement with Frye Transportation Group, Inc., through July 31, 2020.

#### VISITOR'S COMMENTS

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

#### **Stacy Ritchart**

First, Kudos on the Cyber program. My kids are in elementary and Jr. High. I can say both are running smoothly and we had no issues that weren't addressed immediately in the first week. Device pickup, communication all went well.

We, personally plan to see how the first 9 weeks go in terms of COVID spread in the community and management before making a decision as how to move forward. Does the school plan to keep the Cyber and Hybrid options for the entire year or is there a set date to phase out cyber? Then backing off that question, what are the steps to move from hybrid to 5 days full room days?

#### **Amy Kelly**

Has the board considered adding a technology advisory committee or chair position? With the Viking Connect program, cyber school, and heavy reliance on the website, email, and social media to get information out, it seems rather important, and strange that there's no board member leading the district in the decision making. Going forward, education will rely heavily on technology and we need to make sure that we are making the best decisions in how we use technology, and to make sure our technology follows best practices both in reliability, security, and accessibility.

**Bethany Pistorius**

1. How have the junior high custodians been reconformed to cover the duties from the recently eliminated position?
2. Now that week one of school is complete, does the district feel that with the increased need for disinfecting that the eliminated custodial position is still a good idea? From the perspective of a parent it is very disheartening that other districts are putting more man power in their custodial department and Hopewell is reducing it.
3. What training has the custodial staff been provided by the district...please be specific it is vital that parents are provided all the information so that we may feel comfortable with our children being in a safe, clean environment.
4. Will ALL desks in the elementary level be sanitized daily? (Not just Group A desks on Group A day, etc.)
5. With the HVAC systems in each school being beyond end of life, how often are filters being changed? What is the standard? How is HASD ensuring that our under par HVAC systems are as safe as possible?
6. Do the new water bottle filling fountains have filters? How often will they be changed?
7. What PPE is the district providing for our amazing custodian department? How often is it provided?

Unfinished Business

None

Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 28, 2020, Regular Business Meeting will be held virtually.

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

Mrs. Dobo adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Lesia Dobo, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary