

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

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

Carla Buxton  
Daniel Caton  
Victoria Gill  
Lori McKittrick  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Daniel Santia  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent  
Matthew Erickson

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, Louis Ceccarelli, Gary Hutsler, and Donna Steff, principals; Dr. Lynn Utchell, Director of Special Education and visitors.

Good New in our Schools reports were presented by Mr. Allison, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mr. Hutsler. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve the agenda as written.

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

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the December 6, 2022 and January 10, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #3

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Carla Buxton, 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 vote of all Directors in attendance.

Tax Collectors' Report

1. Recommendation to accept report for taxes collected for the month of November and December, 2022, 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 and December, 2022, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of November and December, 2022, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

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
- 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.

Amy Sutton

Mrs. Sutton asked what the cleaning protocol was, specifically for Hopewell Elementary School, as she said that the rooms weren't being cleaned. She also questioned what was the status of teacher negotiations. Mrs. Sutton wanted to know if water lines were flushed throughout the District after a period of nonuse and where window air conditioners are being cleaned.

Dr. Beltz explained that there were open custodial positions at Hopewell Elementary and that some shifts have not been covered. He said that the District is actively working on filling those positions. He also explained that teacher negotiations would not be discussed in public, as that was confidential information. He let Mrs. Sutton know that water lines were flushed throughout the District and that he would check on AC units. Dr. Beltz reported that he would bring a proposal to the Board in February to have an updated feasibility study completed.

Mr. Santia continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius, Chair**

**MOTION #4**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2023-2024 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2023-2024 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lori McKittrick, approved Madison Martin, a student at Geneva College, to complete her student teaching at the Senior High School during the spring semester under the guidance of Nick Mohrbacher. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lori McKittrick, approved Peter Lewis, a student at Geneva College to complete 12 observation hours at Hopewell High School under the direction of Michele Grandovic during the 2023 spring semester. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Client Services Agreement with Soliant Health, LLC to provide psychological evaluation services beginning January 30, 2023 through May 31, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the Temporary Services Agreement with Trend Services, Inc. to provide psychological evaluation services beginning January 30, 2023 through June 30, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Spring Learning, after-school ELA, Math, and Wellness program, per ESSER III guidelines. Program range dates include February 28, 2023 to March 30, 2023 for students in Grades K-8. The program will take place at each K-8 school location; however, no district transportation will be provided. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair**MOTION #11

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the five year contract with Aramark to provide mop service to all District buildings. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton to table the request of Central Valley School District for students from the Central Valley Middle School swim team to utilize the pool for practice for the 2022-2023 season.

**Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair**MOTION #13

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve items (1) and (2) and to ratify items (3) and (4) 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 \$981,170.87
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$147,029.95
3. December General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$4,814,132.25

4. November General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$2,421,596.45

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Jared Rogers to purchase parcels 65-004-1411 and 65-004-1409 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated, provided that the purchasers shall pay the school real estate tax for the 2021-2022 tax year through the Beaver County Tax Claim Bureau, including any fees, costs, penalties and interest on the 2021-2022 tax year school real estate tax. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the contract with Hopewell Township Police Department to provide extra police services on an as requested basis at an hourly rate of \$69.27 per hour with a two hour minimum MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the settlement of the Assessment Appeals for the tax years 2022 and 2023 filed by the Schreiber Co. – Hopewell Shopping Center, a PA Limited Partnership at Docket No. 11536-2021 regarding five (5) tax parcels comprising the Hopewell Shopping Center. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Nutrition and Food Services by Bethany Pistorius, Chair**

MOTION #17

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the proposal from Singer Equipment Company in the amount of \$21,995.89 to purchase a gas convection steamer for the Senior High School kitchen. Amount to be taken from the Capital Reserve Fund. Costars Contract No. 036-005. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**

MOTION #18

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Debbie McMahon, head cook at the Senior High School, for an unpaid leave of absence from March 27, 2023 through March 31, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation for retirement of Debbie McMahon, head cook at the Senior High School, effective April 2, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Taylor Carnot, Hopewell Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade day-to-day substitute teacher, at a daily rate of \$125/day, effective Jan 3, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the employment of Terry Borkovic, middle school volleyball coach, at a stipend of \$1,450.00, effective January 25, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Lexi Thompson, middle school volleyball coach, at a stipend of \$1,450.00, effective January 25, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Lori McKittrick, approved the request of Jerry Baggett, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 6, 2023 through February 13, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz congratulated both the cheerleaders and the wrestlers for their success this season. He wished the girls well in the upcoming state meet.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Nothing to report.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

February 14, 2023, Regular Work Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Board Room and Virtual  
February 28, 2023, Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Board Room and Virtual.

MOTION by Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary