

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by David Bufalini, Board President.

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

Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle

Members Absent
Lindsay Zupsic

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

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

MOTION #1

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the agenda as written.

An Executive Session was held on January 16, 2022 to discuss the Superintendent search. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

Dr. Kartychak discussed the outcome of community and staff surveys with respect to where student learning and support currently stand, as we are in the second year of the Covid pandemic. He explained that the District would receive approximately \$2,103,251.00 in ESSER III federal funding. These funds must be used in very specific ways, including, learning loss; student social, emotional and mental health needs; staff professional development for social and emotional learning; reading improvement, after school programs; and summer school programs. Over the next several weeks, the administration will continue resource review to correspond with student need and conversations with staff regarding student growth and learning acceleration.

Mr. Bufalini asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Dan Santia, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the December 7, 2021 and January 11, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

MOTION #3

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, 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 December, 2021, 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 December, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of December, 2021, 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.

Shawna Selinsky

Mrs. Selinsky asked about the ceiling falling at the Junior High School. Her children told her that the band and chorus hallway was closed due to damage. She asked if a structural inspection had been done on the rest of the building to make sure that everything was safe. Mr. Santia and Dr. Kartychak explained that the damage was not structural, but that a pipe had burst and the ceiling tile had fallen out. Dr. Kartychak said that there was water on the floor in both the band and chorus rooms, but that restoration and clean-up had begun.

Mrs. Selinsky also asked how community members request items be placed on the Board for discussion. She said that questions asked during the Visitors section are not being addressed, specifically, the mask mandate. She also asked the status of a student representative to the Board.

Mr. Bufalini stated that the mask mandate had been addressed. The Board has made the decision to continue the mask mandate based on information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the CDC. As for the student representative to the Board, that is something they will discuss in the future. Their current focus is the superintendent search.

Kortney Berg

Mrs. Berg is concerned with the health and safety of her children as well as all students. Mrs. Berg has a degree in biology and understands what masks can and can't do. She would like to see the mask mandate end, as it is vitally important for children to breathe fresh air. Mrs. Berg would like the ability to send her children to a neighboring district that does not require masks.

Jen Parrish

Mrs. Parrish asked if the Board felt that unmasked individuals pose more of a threat than those wearing masks. Mr. Bufalini stated that they are making decisions that they believe are in the best interest for everyone. Mrs. Parrish wanted to know if the Board felt that the quarantine policy, when it relates to the length of quarantine based on vaccination status, could lead to bullying. She also asked if the administration was planning a survey regarding the mask policy

Mr. Bufalini continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Matt Erickson, Chair**MOTION #4**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve Dean Nelson and Ray Smith as co-sponsors for Hopewell High School National Honor Society effective September 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request of the BCIT department at Hopewell High School to create a Computer Science I elective beginning the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the request of Kit Keiper at Hopewell High School to create a Guitar Class elective beginning the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Bufalini, on behalf of the Artist in Residence program, pledged \$500.00 toward the initial start-up fee.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Senior High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2022-2023 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2022-2023 School Year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Athletics by Jeff Winkle, Chair**MOTION #9**

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the employment of Terry Borkovic, head junior high volleyball coach at a stipend of \$1,403.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the employment of Alexis Thompson, 1st assistant junior high volleyball coach at a stipend of \$1,402.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Santia, ChairMOTION #11

By Dan Santia, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Alexis Potts and New Horizon School to use the pool Wednesday's starting January 26, 2022 through March 23, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for practice. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Santia, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve 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 2021-2022 season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Bethany PistoriusMOTION #13

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Santia, 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 \$596,879.22
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$132,673.41
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$6,045,137.51
4. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$114,404.75

MOTION #14

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Audit Report of the Hopewell Area School District for the year ended June 30, 2021 issued by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Resolution #2-2022 granting an exemption from the payment of the Hopewell Area School District real estate tax on the property of Dennis L. and Marie T. Bertoni located at 4040 Patterson Road, Raccoon

Township, being Tax Parcel No. 75-018-0114.000 pursuant to the PA Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption Act. The tax exemption shall be for the 2022-2023 school real estate tax and through the 2026-2027 school real estate tax, provided that the qualifications continue under the Act. The Raccoon Township Tax Collector is exonerated from the collection of those school real estate taxes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the request of Thomas and Tracey Moses to purchase parcel 65-018-0108-000 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve Resolution #4-2022 for a 48-month lease with Wesbanco for \$445,500 with 4 annual payments of \$115,643.86 at an interest rate of 1.5% for 5 buses (bids accepted June 14, 2021). Total repayment from the capital reserve account will be \$462,575.44. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislation by Jeanette Miller, Chair

MOTION #18

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve Resolution 3-2022, a Resolution of the Hopewell Area School District supporting the fair and adequate funding of schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to table the appointment of a District representative to the Beaver County Career and Technology Center Board of Directors. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Matt Erickson, Chair

MOTION #20

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept the resignation for retirement of Judy Pippard, cafeteria employee at the Junior High School, effective January 30, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request of Kim Wilfong, cafeteria, for an unpaid leave of absence from January 21, 2022 through February 21, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

January is School Board recognition month. Dr. Kartychak thanked the Board for their thoughtful considerations during this difficult time. He understands that it is not easy sometimes, but their contributions to the school and community are appreciated.

The District received the Safe Schools grant. The grant is for two years and will offset the cost of the school resource officer. The District will receive \$60,000.00 the first year and \$30,000.00 the second year.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Nothing to report.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

February 8, 2022, Regular Work Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Board Room and Virtual
February 22, 2022, Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Board Room and Virtual.

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

Mr. Bufalini adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

David Bufalini, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary