

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. 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 Mr. Santia. Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Anitre' Bell  
Carla Buxton  
Dan Caton  
Victoria Gill  
Anissa Klessner  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Daniel Santia  
Lindsay Zupsic

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Edward Katkich and Korri Kane, principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Don Short, Athletic Director; and visitors.

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

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the agenda as amended.  
MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dan Engen from DRAW Collective led the discussion on the district-wide facility study. The discussion was focused on current enrollment and enrollment trends, the Junior and Senior High School buildings and capacity and a summary of available options and grade groupings.

Questions or comments directed to Mr. Engen regarding the presentation can be viewed on the District website at [www.hopewellarea.org](http://www.hopewellarea.org) posted under the Feasibility tab.

At this time, Dr. Beltz reviewed items that would be voted on later in the meeting.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

1. Request of Dr. Kartychak for the Hopewell High School Ski Club to travel to Holiday Valley, New York for a Ski Trip on February 9-10, 2024. Trip is at no cost to the School District.

**Finance and Budget:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. Contract with BerkOne to process the District's Act 80 records at an approximate cost of \$878.00.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Pistorius, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

1. Employment of Elizabeth Cagnon, substitute secretary, effective January 10, 2024.
2. Resignation of Rita Foley, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective December 12, 2023.
3. Request of Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning December 5, 2023 through December 21, 2023.
4. Request of Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 8, 2024 through January 31, 2024, with the reimbursement of the healthcare premium for January 2024.
5. Employment of Claire Peteya, substitute nurse, effective January 10, 2024.
6. Employment of John Rosa, varsity head football coach, at a salary of \$9,768.00, effective January 10, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances.
7. Employment of Nathan Richter, varsity boys head soccer coach, at a salary of \$5,139.00, effective January 10, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances.
8. Employment of Tameki Tarver, special education classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective February 1, 2024.
9. Employment of \_\_\_\_\_, special education classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the January 23, 2024 Business meeting.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Klessner, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2024-2025 School Year.
2. Junior High School Course Curriculum Guide for 2024-2025 School Year.
3. Creation of the Best Buddies Club at the Junior High School with Carly Belich and Monique Urick as co-sponsors.

**Athletics:** Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request of Central Valley School District for students from the Central Valley Middle School swim team to utilize the pool for practice for the 2023-2024 season at a cost of \$50.00 per use.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. Request of Brenna Wandel, Varsity Tennis Coach, to use the varsity tennis courts to conduct a youth tennis clinic May 13, 2024 through May 17, 2024 from 3:40 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
2. Request of Hopewell Softball to move the outfield fence to fall within specified distance regulations. There would be no cost to the District, as the costs associated with the project have been covered by an outside sponsor.

**Finance and Budget:** Mrs. Zupsic, Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. First Amendment to Rooftop Lease with Option by and between the District and T-Mobile Central LLC regarding the extension of the Lease for the cell tower array located on the Jr. High School chimney smokestack for two (2) additional five (5) year terms from December 4, 2026 until December 3, 2036 and continuing the annual three (3%) percent annual rent escalations.
2. Request of Aliquippa Bucktails to purchase parcels 65-011-1206.000-01-1 and 65-011-1212.000-01-1 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated.

### 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.

No visitors wished to address the Board.

At this time, Mr. Santia returned to Education/Curriculum/Instruction

#### **Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic**

#### **MOTION #2**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Dr. Kartychak for the Hopewell High School Ski Club to travel to Holiday Valley, New York for a Ski Trip on February 9-10, 2024. Trip is at no cost to the School District. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

#### **Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic**

#### **MOTION #3**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the contract with BerkOne to process the District's Act 80 records at an approximate cost of \$878.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Bethany Pistorius**

**MOTION #4**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved employment of Elizabeth Cagnon, substitute secretary, effective January 10, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Rita Foley, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective December 12, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning December 5, 2023 through December 21, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 8, 2024 through January 31, 2024, with the reimbursement of the healthcare premium for January 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Claire Peteya, substitute nurse, effective January 10, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #9**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the employment of John Rosa, varsity head football coach, at a salary of \$9,768.00, effective January 10, 2024, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #10**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the employment of Nathan Richter, varsity boys head soccer coach, at a salary of \$5,139.00, effective January 10, 2024,

pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Tameki Tarver, special education classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective February 1, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Bethany Pistorius, to table the employment of \_\_\_\_\_, special education classroom paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

Other Business

Dr. Beltz reminded everyone that information on the District-wide facility study will be on the District website and updated after each meeting.

Mr. Caton congratulated Paul Posluszny, a 2002 graduate of Hopewell High School, on his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

January 23, 2024, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

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 8:15 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary