

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Dan Caton, seconded by Anissa Klessner, to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

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

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

Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson (Via Zoom)
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klessner
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius (Via Zoom)
Daniel Santia

Members Absent
Lindsay Zupsic

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Nancy Barber, Secretary; Edward Katkich, principal; and visitors.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

1. Flexible Instructional Days for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Flexible Instruction Days for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Hopewell Band Boosters to use the Junior High School Cafeteria on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for a fundraising event.

Dr. Beltz discussed the replacement of one of two boilers at Margaret Ross Elementary School. A request for bid has been sent out and, once accepted, should take about six weeks for installation. ESSER money would be used for this project.

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

1. Employment of Nicholas Zabala, substitute transportation aide, effective October 2, 2023.
2. Employment of Lisa Sinclair, substitute transportation aide, effective October 4, 2023.
3. Change of employment status for Janet Logan from part-time (0.6) Speech teacher at the Junior/Senior High Schools to full time Speech teacher at the Junior/Senior High Schools, effective October 16, 2023.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the October 24, 2023 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

1. Request from Dr. Kartychak for the FCCLA Club to attend the annual FCCLA State Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on March 18-20, 2024. This is at no cost to the District.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of the South Side Area School District for Jozlyn Marnhout to practice and compete with the varsity swim team as an independent swimmer representing the South Side Area School District.

Buildings and Grounds: Daniel Caton, Chair; Vicki Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request of David Bufalini to use the Senior High School Auditorium for the Holly Jolly Christmas concert on December 2, 2023.

2. Request of Dr. Kartychak for the FCCLA to use the Senior High School Auditorium Lobby on December 9, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for a Princess Tea fundraiser.

Legislative: Mrs. Miller, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Hopewell Board of School Directors Reorganization meeting on December 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Administration Board Room.

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

1. 2023-2024 winter coaches and salaries.

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.

Parents came to the meeting to discuss District policy regarding transgender students using the bathroom with which gender they identify. Many were concerned with the safety and security issues this poses. A couple of students reported that they wouldn't feel safe if a student identifying as a different gender had access to their restroom. Parents asked what the District protocol was with respect to identifying a transgender student wishing access to the bathroom with which they identify. Parents asked why there can not be a dedicated bathroom specifically for transgender students.

There were also parents speaking to support the rights of transgender students and expressed concern for their mental health.

Dr. Beltz tried explained that the District was following the law as it pertains to transgender students and that the safety and security of all students at all times was the District's main priority. Dr. Beltz and the Board voiced their understanding of the concerns being expressed and that all students are supported within the confines of the law.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Jeanette Miller

MOTION #2

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Flexible Instructional Days for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Flexible Instruction Days for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton

MOTION #4

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Hopewell Band Boosters to use the Junior High School Cafeteria on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for a fundraising event. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Victoria Gill

MOTION #5

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Nicholas Zabala, substitute transportation aide, effective October 2, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Lisa Sinclair, substitute transportation aide, effective October 4, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the change of employment status for Janet Logan from part-time (0.6) Speech teacher at the Junior/Senior High Schools to full time Speech teacher at the Junior/Senior High Schools, effective October 16, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz announced that this is homecoming week and that the parade and pep rally would be Thursday evening.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 24, 2023, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

MOTION by Victoria Gill, seconded by Dan Caton, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary