

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss the superintendent search, labor/management agreements, employee vacancies, grievances, litigation matters and collective bargaining agreements. 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 7:00 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, 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 (via Zoom)  
Lori McKittrick  
Darren Newberry  
Kathryn Oblak  
Daniel Santia  
Jeffrey Winkle  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent

Lesia Dobo

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; Michael Allison, Nadia Engel, Louis Ceccarelli and Gary Hutsler, principals; and visitors.

Good News 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 Darren Newberry, seconded by Dan Caton, to approved the agenda as presented.

Mr. Winkle asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the September 28, 2021 and October 12, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried by an affirmative vote of seven Board members, with Mr. Newberry abstaining, as he was not present for the meetings.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #3

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, 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 September, 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 September, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of September, 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 and address
- 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.

**Barbara Reda, 1780 Clark Boulevard, Aliquippa**

Mrs. Reda thanked Dr. Kartychak for his response to her question as to how books were purchased for school libraries. She asks that the administration and librarians continue to stay vigilant about content of books purchased for student use.

**Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive, Aliquippa**

Mrs. Pistorius commended Mrs. Ozimok for her commitment and dedication to her class, as they were virtual last week due to Covid exposure. She did an outstanding job. Mrs. Pistorius would like for the District to define and update what “close contact” means for students with respect to Covid. Children are expected to quarantine if deemed a close contact to a positive or presumed positive person. She would like for the same procedure to be implemented throughout the District and this information placed on the District website for community reference.

**Jennifer Parrish, 750 Davis Road, Aliquippa**

Mrs. Parrish asked if the District was aware of current court cases regarding mask mandates. She also asked if the District was aware of parents filing a lawsuit in Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court challenging the mask mandate. She believes that the District should allow exemptions to the mask mandate based on religious or medical reasons.

Mr. Salopek, District solicitor, reported that he was aware of the pending litigation and said that the court had not made a definitive decision regarding the mandate.

Mr. Winkle continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Matt Erickson, Chair**

**MOTION #4**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide Title 1 services to students at Our Lady of Fatima School for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$876.82 per student. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the Agreement with Merakey Behavioral Health to provide services on an as needed basis for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair****MOTION #6**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the request from South Side Area School District for Jozlyn Marnhout to practice and compete with the varsity swim team as an independent. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Darren Newberry, Chair****MOTION #7**

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use Gym B at the Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November 4, 2021 through March 31, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Wrestling to use the Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on December 11, 2021 for a wrestling tournament. They have also asked permission to set up for the tournament on December 10, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #9**

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the request of David Bufalini to use the Senior High School Auditorium November 30, 2021 through December 4, 2021 for practice and the Holly Jolly Christmas concert. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair****MOTION #10**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve items (1) and (2) and to ratify item (3) 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 \$591,781.14
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$108,416.77
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$9,176,590.48

MOTION #11

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the transfer of \$207,483.00 from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund as of June 30, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Fund Balance assignments, restrictions and commitments as of June 30, 2021 as follows. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Restricted for Stadium	\$19,802.00
Committed for Budget	\$860,900.00
Committed for Health Care	\$750,000.00
Committed for Future Retirement Contribution	\$750,000.00
Committed for Technology	\$750,000.00
Unassigned	\$1,096,024.00
Total Fund Balance	\$4,226,726.00

MOTION #13

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 12 month continuation of Agreement with Questeq in the amount of \$1,085.50 for SherpaDesk access. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the Settlement Agreement with Westfield Towers, Inc. regarding the Assessment Appeal of Tax Parcel No. 65-203-0157.004 for the property located at 200 Westfield Drive in Hopewell Township. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Matt Erickson, - Chair**

MOTION #15

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 2021-2022 winter coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance. **See Attachment**

MOTION #16

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of Mark Guzzo, custodian, for a 30 day leave of absence, effective October 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Deanna Krotec, accounts payable, on step 0 of the Hopewell Secretaries and Paraprofessionals salary scale, effective on or about November 10, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Laura Emery, substitute school nurse, effective October 20, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept the resignation of Ben DiCola, mechanic, effective October 15, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to accept the resignation of Stephanie Keebler, special education classroom paraprofessional, effective October 15, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of John Lorkovich, substitute custodian, effective October 27, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Nothing to report.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Unfinished Business

None

Upcoming School Board Meetings

November 9, 2021, Regular Work Meeting, via Zoom and in person  
November 23, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom and in person.

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

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary