

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual Board meeting on Monday, November 23, 2020. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel matters. 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 7:03 p.m. by Lesia Dobo, Board President.

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

Lesia Dobo
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Daniel Caton

Also in attendance were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Dr. Jacie Maslyk, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Robert Kartychak, Kylee Babish and Korri Kane, Principals; and visitors.

"Good News" reports were presented by Mr. Kartychak from the Senior High School, Mrs. Babish from the Junior High School and Mrs. Kane from the elementary schools. Copies of each report are attached to these minutes.

Mrs. Dobo asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #1

By Dan Santia, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the October 26, 2020 and November 9, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #2

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, 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 October, 2020, 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 October, 2020, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

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

Dr. Maslyk presented analysis of first quarter data compared with data from the same quarter of the 2019-2020 School with respect to Academic, Intervention, Support and Attendance. Data presented is attached.

Dr. Miller gave a synopsis of data ascertained from parent surveys. Questions asked included: the return of school five days per week, satisfaction of the District's hybrid and cyber programs, and synchronous and asynchronous learning, among others. Results of the survey are attached.

Dr. Miller provided Covid-19 updates including data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

PDE informed Beaver County superintendents that as of Friday, November 20, 2020, Beaver County was in the 2nd week of substantial transmission level identification.

- o Beaver County: November 20, 2020: Beaver County was at 8.1 (decrease from 8.3 the previous week) percent positivity rate and 210.6 cases or incident rate per 100,000 (increase from 162.1 the previous week).
- o PA data: November 20, 2020: PA was at 11.1 percent positivity rate and 282.1 cases or incident rate per 100,000

As of Friday, the District has been aware of 15 total COVID cases, presumed positive or positive, in the month of November. Eleven (11) of these cases are students and 4 of these

are employees. In September, we were aware of 1 individual, and in October, we were aware of 11 individuals who were positive or presumed positive.

On Friday, November 20, the District sent home our Junior High and Senior High due to the cases we became aware of that morning and due to the inability to staff our Junior High School. Dr. Miller thanked the administration, secretaries, teachers, paraprofessionals and staff for their extraordinary efforts in making an unexpected early dismissal occur so smoothly. She also thanked bus drivers, bus aides and nurses, and the entire transportation office and staff for working so tirelessly to get all of our student's home safely. She stated that they were absolutely critical in Friday's efforts and their dedication to the District and the students' safety is to be commended.

Now that we are virtual, our food service staff will be making breakfasts and lunches for children 18 years old and younger. Students do not have to be school age to be included and this service is for our hybrid (now virtual students) as well as our cyber students. Meals can be picked up at any of our buildings between the hours of 11-1. A phone blast was sent to families this morning regarding breakfast and lunches. This information is posted on the website. Additionally, on the District website, there is a tab titled phone blasts. If a parent ever misses a phone blast and want to re-read the message, please check out this resource.

In the coming weeks, the Buildings and Grounds Department will complete a deep clean of the buildings and will complete preventative maintenance and other projects. They have been integral in keeping our buildings safe while we have been in-person.

Now that the District is virtual, parents were asked to review the expectations on the District website's blue banner and note the change in the time to report student attendance. Grades will not be pass/fail as they were in the spring, but they will be the same as if students were in-person. Also, students in the junior and senior high may be required to participate in synchronous learning. If a student is unable to participate, guidance is provided in the virtual expectations document on the website. Dr. Miller also noted that Wednesday, November 25 was supposed to be a half day. The schedule for Wednesday is posted on the District website. Parents were asked to review these changes for all students.

PA Department of Education has provided new guidance for facial coverings that includes more stringent use of facial coverings. When hybrid begins again, these requirements will be reviewed and communicated with families.

Dr. Miller shared that there are now PA requirements for quarantine or COVID testing in regards to traveling outside of the state. This applies to all students and staff.

Over the coming weeks, the District will revise the Health and Safety plan to include all of the state's new requirements. Administration will be asking for the Board's approval of this plan and will post this on the District website once approved.

Lastly, Dr. Miller thanked the District's school nurses and administrators who have been amazing during the past three months. She stated that they are incredible school leaders and their support, leadership and expertise over the past few months has been critical to the District's success in keeping students on track with academic growth, but also, keeping students and staff safe.

Mrs. Dobo became ill and had to leave the meeting. Mr. Winkle continued as Acting President.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Megan Buchanan 2205 Airport Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001

What is the plan for the Jr. High picture make day if the district is 100% virtual? It's scheduled for December 8th and 9th?

District response: The Junior High will reschedule these make-up pictures in January, if safe to do so. More information will be provided by JH principals.

Cara Sembower, 3300 Wilson Avenue, Aliquippa, PA 15001

Since High School and Junior High are now remote for at least the next 14 days, why are they running a 2-hour delay schedule? One of the many issues with being fully remote is students don't take it seriously. I feel it would be better they were required to log on at their normal times and follow their normal schedule when possible. The 2-hour delay schedule gets the students off their normal learning schedule thus opening the door for them to not take the day seriously. They treat the morning like a vacation day and are more inclined to stay up later the night before.

District response: For teachers who are recording lessons and providing tutorials or additional virtual help sessions, this provided time in the morning and at the end of the day to connect with students and to complete all instructional recordings. Additionally, we do want students online for 7+ hours. The 2-hour delay schedule provides 4-5 hours of potential online instruction with breaks throughout the day.

Other than that I feel at least in the Junior High, the teachers have done a great job with having synchronous learning when possible and actually recording lessons and posting them when synchronization is not possible. I would like to see all teachers be encouraged to post lessons or do synchronous learning as much as possible on remote days, especially in the Elementary Schools.

District response: Thank you for your support of the Junior High teachers. We believe that there will be more engagement when students are virtual. Now that teachers do not have to engage in-person learners at the same time as virtual learners, there is more opportunity for synchronous engagement.

I also have another question. This is regarding grading during remote learning. At the end of last school year pass / fail grades were given. Will this be the case during any grading period impacted by fully remote learning? I think pass fail is a disservice to all the kids and they deserve to receive

real grades and be held to a standard. I also think giving real grades encourages the teachers to actually teach a lesson than just give the kids a bunch of online sites to learn from.

District response: Students will be assessed as they were if they were in-person.

Randy Heranic, 805 Lexington Drive, Aliquippa

Dear Hopewell School District Board of Directors,

I am reaching out to all of you regarding Hopewell's winter sports programs. I strongly support maintaining all sports programs for our student athletes. I completely understand and respect the opinions of those who may disagree with me. However, I would like to explain why continuing the programs are important to the student athletes. The disruptions in the lives of the students, caused by the coronavirus, is now entering the 10th month with no real end in sight. Their routines with school, which is likely the most important aspect of their lives, have been dismantled. Their social interactions with friends and other family members have been halted. And as we are hearing more and more lately, their patience with social distancing has grown paper thin and they are beginning to gather with large groups of friends and many are not practicing social distancing or wearing masks.

When our schools go to full remote learning, and we all understand the logic behind it, I believe we have lulled ourselves into a false sense of security that this will stop the spread of the virus. But I believe it's likely exposing the students to more dangers of contracting Covid-19, via the gatherings they are having with their friends away from school, all while not practicing social distancing or using PPE.

If winter sports were to be maintained, the athletes will still be required to practice the safety protocols set forth by the State, but in addition, will gain their much needed exercise (both physically and mentally), experience some of the missed interaction, teamwork values, and quite frankly - some much needed normalcy back in their lives.

I feel it is important to continue the winter sports programs for as long as permissible by the State and the PIAA. We owe this to the student athletes who have worked hard at their sport, built a strong character through their efforts, gained leadership skills, and valuable team work attributes. All of these values have already been jeopardized since the cancellation of sports began with Covid-19's arrival. I respect the risks of contracting the virus, but personally feel the benefits of maintaining winter sports outweigh the risks involved.

I know you are all in a difficult position when making these, and many other, decisions on behalf of our district. I am just voicing my opinion in support of maintaining our winter sports programs.

Thank all of you for all of the countless hours and thoughtful efforts you each put into making our school district great!

District Response: Thank you, Mr. Heranic, for your comments regarding winter sports.

Daelyn Gratz, 3011 North Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001

Now that the district is 100% virtual learning, will sports be cancelled? If not I have a huge issue that my children cannot attend in class learning, while wearing a mask & social distancing, but we will still engage in contact sports. If we do allow sports to continue how we will help stop the spread of this virus? I think continuing to allow sports is completely irresponsible & does not support us trying to stop this virus.

District Response: Thank you, Ms. Gratz, for your comments regarding winter sports.

Vivian M. Lombard, 2867 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001

As I have not received an official response to my November 12, 2020 email to the School Board as to when, if or how my questions in that email will be answered, I am repeating some of them for the public record today. I would like to thank the one School Board member who reached out by telephone to acknowledge my email and to discuss some of my concerns regarding the discussions about returning to a 5-day in-person schooling model.

First, let me share that I have the highest regard for the vast majority of the educators within our district. They are on the front lines of teaching our children in unusual circumstances. I worry that they may not be receiving as much guidance and support as they need.

For my children in cyber learning, there have been three Junior High teachers that have been tasked with grading subjective content as well as being available in the event one of my children contacts them about the course. One of those teachers is responsible for one mandatory course, as well as two electives (of which I am aware), while the other two have been tasked with other mandatory courses. This concerns me as the grade sizes in the Junior High have been climbing over the past several years increasing the workloads within their own schools, yet some of the teachers are also expected to be available to some of the High School students.

1. Why are the Junior High teachers being utilized for some of the High School courses? Is it voluntary? Is it based on availability during the "set" time frames for students to ask questions? Is it certifications/experience in those courses? Or are there other reasons I have not listed?

District Response: Certified teachers in grades 7-12 may be assigned cyber courses in their content area. This would be the same as an assignment of any other class in their certified area.

2. Are the teachers being compensated for the extra work?

District Response: If there is not room in teacher's schedules for a needed cyber class, the position is posted and teachers may bid on the position, as long as they are certified in the content area. This work would happen outside of the school day and teachers are compensated for their work.

3. A number of families have asked the question for months "Why wasn't an all virtual option offered to families?" We have not yet received a satisfactory response. I know I would prefer to hear answers of "we don't have enough staff; the HEA won't agree because xxx; it's too much work because yyy" or whatever rather than having our questions ignored.

District Response: The District did not choose to require all teachers to teach synchronously. First, for younger students, it is not developmentally appropriate to be in front of a screen for the entire day. A full synchronous option would require all students in K-12 to be online for 6+ hours each day if they were to follow all classroom instruction as if they were present. The Board approved a hybrid schedule and offered a cyber program as an option. There were also concerns for the privacy of students who were in-person, especially those with Special Education needs.

At the October 26, 2020 questions for the School Board meeting:

4. Why wasn't a plan for virtual learning better communicated to staff, parents and students earlier than a day prior to its occurrence?

This question wasn't satisfactorily answered at the meeting and while this latest switch to virtual learning was a little better, there was still room for improvement. Please note that my issues are not about virtual learning in and of itself, but rather the appearance of not giving enough information to people so that they can ask and receive answers to their questions beforehand for a less stressful transition.

District Response: The District had this plan developed and ready for use from the beginning of the year. We apologize for any stress that we caused students or parents in not communicating this earlier.

With the current trend of rising cases and the holidays approaching, I encourage the School Board to extend virtual learning now to at least the middle of January as it is the safest option to protect our school community and allow time for families to plan accordingly.

I have heard some encouraging feedback on cyber learning and teacher interaction from K-6 parents. However, it appears our 7-12 students are not receiving anywhere near that amount of interaction from the district and are pretty much on their own. If my numbers are correct, approximately 25% of our district's children are in cyber learning, whether it is through HASD or other providers. I feel that a number of our students are on the "fringes" of the educational experience that should be available to them. Many of those students are in cyber, not because they are self-starters--which was one of the reasons families chose the option prior to the pandemic, but because parents feel it is the safest option for their families available to them.

Our family would have preferred a virtual option since they currently have no interaction with teachers or classmates in cyber. Part of learning is the exchange of ideas and questions to broaden thinking and minds. However, for our family to consider switching now, it would have to be better managed than the current hybrid/remote/virtual learning that is currently in place in the district. My husband and I have weighed the potential learning losses they have now with the current cyber program against the increased stress and frustration of the district's potential virtual learning program and have decided that it is not worth the known increased stressors to our family to switch. That's how little faith that we have that there will be a significant amount of change to make it worth making a switch if it became available to us as a full-time option. We can only hope that there will be positive

changes to the current cyber program for those students in 7-12 to help mitigate some of those learning losses many are experiencing, as well as to provide another avenue of emotional support to all our students. Through no fault of their own, most of our students in 7-12 cyber learning have been cut off from their school community and it appears they are being ignored unless they are problems for the district (attendance/grades).

The district needs to improve hybrid and cyber education to keep students from falling through the cracks.

I do not envy your position as there are a lot of factors to consider and any decisions you make will not please everybody. I do understand that. I hope that you recognize that parents are frustrated as many do not feel that their concerns are being addressed or their questions are not being answered. The district has been doing a good job with transparency about COVID-19 cases in our schools; the Board needs to extend that transparency to the families in the district as to what factors are governing the Board's decisions.

We all want what is best for our children in terms of safety and education. We cannot find a single perfect solution that will work for all, but we certainly can improve on what we have now. I ask that you begin making those improvements, sooner rather than later, and communicate it to the parents in the district.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001

1. First and foremost, I want to express sincere gratitude to the entire custodial department. Throughout the district, the custodians have done a fantastic job at responding to this crazy and stressful time we are all living in. Not only have they continued to ensure our children are learning in a clean and safe environment, they have had the added stress of ensuring the schools are properly disinfected after positive cases as information has still been developing from the CDC and state. I wholeheartedly express my gratitude and hope that everyone will join me in sending a virtual hug and a big thank you for doing such a great job!
2. Secondly, a huge thank you to the teachers and all support staff. Your love for our children is evident, and the incredible amount of work you have put into hybrid learning has not gone unnoticed by parents. I would love for the district to take this time of remote learning to develop more strategies to support the teachers during hybrid learning so that teachers have more help being present for their in-person students and accessible for their remote learners. That is a pretty impossible task and everyone would benefit from the teachers having more support. It was stated by the administration at the last board meeting that in regards to support the teachers "support one another" and that the administration reaches out on an individual basis. I think our district can do much better than this, and frankly our teachers deserve it.
3. Will there be any considerations outside of the suggested guidelines from PDE last week for returning to hybrid learning? It was stated that the county would need to be in the moderate category for two consecutive weeks before returning. Will there be any other considerations beyond those guidelines that may keep up in remote learning longer?

District Response: The Board will be discussing this tonight.

4. Will all district buildings close to activities? If so for how long?

District Response: This will be discussed and determined by the Board. At this time, this has not been determined.

5. Will we still be notified of positive cases within the district now that there is no learning in person? Any cases confirmed this week would impact children and staff who were in the buildings last week.

District Response: If the District is made aware of a positive or presumed positive case and that close contacts are identified in the school district, the District will continue to inform the community using the same means of communication as expected.

6. How will support services, as outlined in IEPs, be delivered during this time?

District Response: Almost all Special Education services will be delivered virtually. There is a small number of students whose needs are extremely complex and virtual services are not appropriate. The District is working with these families to discuss options while the District is in a virtual mode of learning. These students will be addressed individually as their needs are unique and they need multiple services and supports.

7. How will gifted enrichment be delivered during this time?

District Response: Gifted education services will be delivered virtually. The Gifted teacher will address each student as appropriate to their individual learning needs. Parents of students in gifted education should reach out to their child's Gifted teacher for more specific information.

Dr. Gavin Buxton, State Route 18, Raccoon Township

"This has been a difficult year and will continue to be challenging for everyone. While the hard work of this board and the administration is to be applauded, I want to especially thank our teachers who have put in endless hours ensuring both in-class and virtual instruction, and have been prepared to switch back and forth at a moment's notice. I know this has meant that our teachers have worked extremely long hours, and worked twice as hard to ensure the same quality education. Their dedication to our children is very much appreciated."

District Response: Thank you for your support of our Viking teachers and staff.

Teamsters Union Representatives Jerry Baggett and Kelley Lepak

The Transportation Department employees would like to hear assurance from the School Board that all will continue to be paid during the DOH mandated virtual learning of students due to excessive Covid-19 cases. Thank you in advance for addressing our concerns.

District Response: The District is working through these details and will communicate with Teamster leadership in the coming days.

Deanna Hiltz, 1045 Sweet Brier Drive

First, I'd like to say that I think the health of our kids should be top priority. Therefore, if moving to continual remote learning is the best option for ALL students, I support it. However, my concern is how will students with specially designed instruction needs be met?

I've talked with Dr. Utchell and she said she has a plan. I don't know the plan, but I can be a voice and say that IEPs were out of compliance in the spring. Instead of complaining, I think most parents stepped up and provided as much as they could on their own. Most parents with special education students were acting as special education teachers, paraprofessionals, speech therapists, etc. They were assured that despite how the school year started, they had plans for when and if they had to go remote. Mrs. Ross and Miss Cutter have gone above and beyond to prepare papers to get me organized for remote learning because my child cannot sit and learn from virtual instruction. Additionally, Mrs. Palochak has prepared biweekly lessons for me to teach my child at home so that she is exposed and learning science and social studies. Unfortunately, her instruction nor SDIs are being followed when we are remote learning.

So knowing we are remote learning, how will all her and other special education students' IEP services be met? Will the duration and time of service be followed? How will they be followed when students cannot attend to a screen for learning? Most of the students with IEPs have accommodations and adaptations that include one on one learning, explicit, direct instruction, manipulatives, clear and concise directions given within eye contact, etc. Therefore, while I support the recommendation of going remote, I am also advocating for those students who are often overlooked because they learn differently.

Please consider allowing students with various needs to still receive in person instruction and therapy. I am aware of at least two local Beaver County districts (and there may be more) that are providing in person instruction to special education students whose IEP needs cannot be fully implemented virtually. Are Hopewell students going to be given this opportunity?

District Response: Dr. Utchell, Hopewell's Special Education Director, will be contacting parents to discuss services with those who may need in-person learning. As with any student receiving IEPs, this will be individualized based on the student's specific need.

Stacie and Doug Conley, 1026 Sweet Brier Drive

Question: According to the CDC website, the classroom has not been shown to be a “driver of transmission in the community” and schools have been found to be a relatively safe place, so how will closing schools do anything other than create further deficits in their education?

District Response: At this time, the recommendation from DOH and PDE is for all schools in Beaver County to move to virtual learning due to the identification of “substantial” transmission level. The District recognizes the conflicting information that exists in regards to PA’s recommendations and guidance and the information published by the CDC.

Question: We have neighboring schools, like West Allegheny, only 9 miles away, that have been holding IN-PERSON school since August, with full size classes, 5 days a week and NO shut down - what do you believe Hopewell is doing so differently that we, as a hybrid school, have now closed several times?

District Response: The majority of cases that the District has been part of contact tracing have been through COVID spread outside of the school day. When these employees or students return to school/work asymptomatic, close contacts are then identified. The closures have been based on the time needed to contact trace, lack of staff to continue instruction and supervise students safely, or the need to disinfect the buildings. All closures have been recommended by the DOH.

Question: Why did the elementary shut down this week when the cases were at the middle and high school? Each day of school is valued.

District Response: On Friday, November 20, 2020, three schools experienced a positive case. The DOH recommended closure for 14 days for the Senior High, Junior High, and Hopewell Elementary due to these cases. The decision for all schools to move to remote on November 23 was based on 1) positive cases in three of five of our buildings with the DOH recommendation for closure for 14 days, 2) staffing concerns as each day staff members are being quarantined and the lack of substitutes to cover educator absences, 3) the increased number of students with symptoms who are sent home from school with COVID symptoms and 4) the identification of Beaver County as being in the substantial rate of transmission for 2 weeks.

Question: Were the lump group of “probable cases” that came out on Friday 11/20, diagnosed by a doctor? I want to affirm that we are closing schools on concrete medical evidence and not on an assumption.

District Response: In consultation with the Department of Health, individuals who are close contacts of an individual who tested positive for COVID and who are experiencing COVID symptoms are considered “probable cases”. Our school nurses work with DOH to determine if an individual would be considered a probable case.

Question: Has there been thought to possibly closing just the high school and middle school while the cases are up and allowing the elementary schools to continue their Hybrid learning since they are the most dependent learners?

District Response: At this time, the recommendation from DOH and PDE is for all schools in Beaver County to move to virtual learning due to the identification of “substantial” transmission level. In the future, the Board may want to consider having the building levels in different learning modes.

Question: In regards to special ed and life skill students, remote learning means NO learning in many cases, has the school taken this group into consideration into how their IEP goals are met during this time since remote isn’t an option and has it been considered to allow them to continue school at least at the hybrid level while cases are up?

District Response: Dr. Utchell, Hopewell’s Special Education Director, will be contacting parents to discuss services with those who may need in-person learning. As with any student receiving IEPs, this will be individualized based on the student’s specific need.

Mr. Winkle continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lori McKittrick, Co-Chair

MOTION #3

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Matthew Erickson, to approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendar. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve Erin Kunzmann, a student at Robert Morris University, to complete her student teaching in the spring of 2021 at Margaret Ross Elementary School, under the guidance of Mrs. Cutone. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve Tanner Yake, a student at Robert Morris University, to complete his student teaching in the spring of 2021 at Margaret Ross Elementary School, under the guidance of Mrs. Doria. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve transition to virtual learning model beginning Monday, November 23, 2020 until January 15, 2021 due to Beaver County being identified as substantial rate of transmission. MOTION carried unanimously by a roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

If Beaver County moves to the Moderate level for two consecutive weeks prior to January 15, 2021 the Board will consider the transition back to the hybrid model.

Athletics by Matthew Erickson, Co-Chair**MOTION #7**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the payment of fall coaches beyond the regular season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the updated winter sports coaches and salaries. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Erickson stated that the District is awaiting further PIAA and State guidance regarding winter athletics.

MOTION #9

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Daniel Santia, to continue winter sports through December 7, 2020. MOTION was defeated by a vote of five to two, with Messrs. Santia and Winkle voting yes.

Mr. Newberry said that he was uncomfortable continue sports while students were required to continue their education remotely. He believes, at this time, it isn't safe continue with indoor sporting events. Ms. McKittrick, Mrs. Zupsic and Mrs. Oblak agreed with Mr. Newberry.

MOTION #10

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to suspend winter sports beginning November 24, 2020 through December 7, 2020. Dr. Erickson stated that the decision regarding athletics would be revisited on December 7, 2020, at the Board's next meeting. MOTION was approved by a vote of five to two, with Messrs. Santia and Winkle voting no.

Buildings and Grounds by Darren Newberry, Chair**MOTION #11**

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request for Dave Bufalini to use the auditorium for rehearsal for BF Jones Library and Artist in Residence benefit concert. Dates to be approved by Mr. Allison, based on availability. MOTION carried by an affirmative vote of four to three, with Mrs. Zupsic, Mr. Winkle and Mrs. Oblak voting no.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair**APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS****MOTION #12**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve items (1) through (3) and to ratify item (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 \$584,845.40
2. Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of \$100,421.18
3. Capital Reserve Fund payments in the amount of \$6,364.66
4. General Fund payments in the amount of \$2,364,531.91

MOTION #13

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of John M. Newman to purchase tax parcels 66-222-0109-000 and 66-222-0110-000 located in Independence Township out of the Beaver County repository. All delinquent taxes for the 2019-2020 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Matthew Erickson, to approve the request of Thomas and Tracey Moses to purchase tax parcels 65-018-0105.000, 65-018-0106.000, and 65-018-0107.000, located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes for the 2019-2020 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the proposal from Doing Better Business (DBB) for a renewal lease purchase of 16 District copiers, financed by a 60-month municipal lease through DLL Financing, at a monthly cost of \$4,427.59. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Kathryn Oblak, Chair**MOTION #16**

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the appointment of Mrs. Dobo as District representative to the Beaver County Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the appointment of Ms. McKittrick as alternate District representative to the Beaver County Career and Technology Center Joint Operating Committee. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Hopewell Board of School Directors Reorganization meeting on December 7, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Matthew Erickson**MOTION #19**

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to accept the resignation for retirement of James Spokart, custodian, effective January 13, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Renee Dzugan, paraprofessional, effective November 20, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the change of employment status of Tamara Celeste, transportation aide, from full-time to substitute transportation aide, effective November 8, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to modify substitute rate to \$125.00 per day for the 2020-2021 school year for daily and building substitutes, effective November 24, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair

Mrs. Zupsic reported that Board Policy 829, Electronic Signatures, should be reviewed by the Board for a final review and vote on December 14, 2020.

Transportation by Lindsay Zupsic

MOTION #23

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, approved District participation in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miller wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Solicitor's Report

Frank Paganie, on behalf of John Salopek, had nothing to report.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

December 7, 2020 Reorganization Meeting, via Zoom
December 14, 2020, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom

MOTION by Lindsay Zupsic, 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 8:59 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Winkle, Board Vice President

Nancy Barber, Secretary