

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 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:

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

Members Absent  
Anitre' Bell

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; and visitors.

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

MOTION #1

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

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. Agreement with Pressley Ridge Day School Autism for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Beltz explained this is for one student with special needs who recently moved into the District.

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

1. Resignation of Michael White, bus driver, effective January 22, 2024.
2. Resignation of Kimberly Yaria, bus driver, effective February 12, 2024. Ms. Yaria would like to be placed on the substitute bus roster.
3. Unpaid leave of absence for Sayra Frausto-Marquez, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024.
4. Employment of Shanna Hawthorne, transportation aide, effective February 5, 2024.
5. Request of Taylor George, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 25, 2024 for a period not to exceed eight weeks or no later than March 21, 2024.
6. Resignation of Sandra Stewart, paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective February 19, 2024.
7. Employment of Sandra Stewart, transportation aide, effective February 20, 2024.
8. Intermittent unpaid leave of absence for Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, for the month of February 2024. Ms. Steinmetz will work Monday through Wednesday and be off Thursdays and Fridays. Ms. Steinmetz is responsible for reimbursement of the healthcare premium, prorated for February 2024.
9. Appointment of Kerry Wilson, Music department chair, effective February 14, 2024.

Mrs. Buxton asked what the current staffing situation was in the transportation department.

Dr. Beltz explained that there remains a shortage of drivers and that Mr. Platko and Mrs. Lutz are needed to drive most days. The District continues to offer CDL classes for anyone wishing to become a bus driver.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the February 27, 2024 Business meeting.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. School calendar for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Dr. Beltz stated that he continues to work with principals, the HEA and county superintendents on final details of the 2024-2025 calendar.

2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Hopewell Area School District and Flourish Beaver County for the launch of the Beaver County Education Initiative to foster educational opportunities for our students and the coordination of a post-secondary scholarship.
3. Review of the District's Health and Safety Plan, pursuant to ESSER requirements. At this time, there are no recommended changes to the Plan.
4. Staffing Agreement with STAT Staffing for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

1. Request of Hopewell Youth Football cheerleaders to use the Junior and Senior High School buildings on the following dates and times:
  - a. Gym A at the Junior High School April 23-25, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
  - b. Gym A at the Junior High School April 27, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.
  - c. Gym A at the Junior High School April 30, 2024 through May 24, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
  - d. The Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on September 22, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Spring coaches and salaries. (Attachment)
2. Employment of Amanda Brunton, substitute nurse, effective February 28, 2024.
3. Jennifer Hull as a substitute breakfast monitor, at Margaret Ross Elementary School.

**Policy/Planning:** Mrs. Klessner, Chair; Ms. Bell, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Policy 246 – Wellness (First Reading/Review)

Dr. Beltz explained that PSBA recommended additions to the policy, which included new federal regulations. Dr. Beltz felt that the District needed to incorporate these changes to their policy.

### 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.

Nate Carver

Mr. Carver wanted to know if the rumor was true that the District planned to close schools and move students.

Dr. Beltz explained that it was the Board's decision that there would be no building reconfiguration for the 2024-2025 school year. He stated that the District is in the process of a district-wide feasibility study to determine the most effective and efficient way to education students. That being said, this process may determine that the best way to move forward is to consolidate buildings.

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

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

**MOTION #2**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Agreement with Pressley Ridge Day School Autism for the 2023-2024 school year. 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, accepted the resignation of Michael White, bus driver, effective January 22, 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 Kimberly Yaria, bus driver, effective February 12, 2024. Ms. Yaria would like to be placed on the substitute bus roster. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the unpaid leave of absence for Sayra Frausto-Marquez, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the employment of Shanna Hawthorne, transportation aide, effective February 5, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Taylor George, bus driver, for an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 25, 2024 for a period not to exceed eight weeks or no later than March 21, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Sandra Stewart, paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective February 19, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the employment of Sandra Stewart, transportation aide, effective February 20, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, approved the intermittent unpaid leave of absence for Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, for the month of February 2024. Ms. Steinmetz will work Monday through Wednesday and be off Thursdays and Fridays. Ms. Steinmetz is responsible for reimbursement of the healthcare premium, prorated for February 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the appointment of Kerry Wilson, Music department chair, effective February 14, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

DRAW Collective will facilitate a community meeting regarding the 2024 Facility Master Plan on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior High School Cafeteria.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

February 27, 2024, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

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

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary