

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 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

Members Absent  
Lindsay Zupsic

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Dr. Rob Kartychak, principal; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

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

MOTION #1

By Anissa Klessner, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve the agenda as written. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dan Engen and Jackie Cowan from DRAW Collective presented the questions and concerns stated by community members during the District-wide feasibility study community planning session that was held on February 20, 2024, as well as proposed options being discussed.

Cheryl Hodnicki, stated that she was excited about the potential reorganization and rebuilding of the District but was concerned about the appropriate grade configuration in each building. She stated from past experience that grouping students in grades 8-12 worked well, but that caution should be used when younger children are in the same building and using the same

bus schedule as older students. She was troubled with the thought of Independence Elementary School closing and wanted to make sure that the District made transportation a priority.

Mr. Santia thanked her for her comments and assured her that they are aware that transportation is a concern for many families and that the Board is committed to consider all options.

Beverly Galzerano and Sarah Kaminski thought that the District needed to make more of an effort to make the community aware of all meetings regarding the District feasibility plan.

Dr. Beltz, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Gill, and Ms. Bell all explained what the District was doing to keep the community informed of all meetings and discussions and that they will continue to research new ways to advertise such events.

Kathryn Oblak, a former District Board member, stated that the costs associated with any building or renovation plan are a major concern for her and her neighbors.

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

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. E-Rate Category 1 services for Fiber WAN replacement through Crowncastle in the amount of \$1,400.00 per month for 60 months.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Extend the unpaid leave of absence for Crystal Hough, transportation aide, effective March 7, 2024 through April 3, 2024.
2. Request by Emily Steinmetz to extend her unpaid leave of absence from March 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024. Ms. Steinmetz will work three days a week with the remaining days being considered approved uncompensated absences. The employee is responsible for a prorated payment of medical and associated benefits while on approved unpaid leave.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the March 26, 2024 Business meeting.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Letter Agreement with Pressley Ridge to provide support services to children and families during the 2024-2025 school year.

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

1. Request of Hopewell Baseball Boosters to place sponsorship banners on the outfield fence and on the home fan bleachers fence.
2. Request of Hopewell Football Boosters to place sponsorship banners on the stadium fence during the 2024 football season.
3. Request of Hopewell Football Boosters to conduct a 50/50 raffle at all home football games during the 2024 season.
4. Request of the Hopewell Football Boosters to place a 5x8 removeable storage bin behind the concession stand for four months. This will be sponsored by U-Haul and will be removed after the last game.
5. Request of Jeff Brunton, head varsity track coach, to use Tony Dorsett Stadium for a Junior High School track meet on April 26, 2024 beginning at 4:30 p.m.
6. Request of Lady Viking Basketball boosters to use the football parking lot at Tony Dorsett Stadium on October 1, 2024 beginning at 3:00 p.m. for a Food Truck event.
7. Request of Brenna Wandel, varsity girls tennis coach, to use the varsity tennis courts May 13-17, 2024 from 3:30 p.m. until 5:40 p.m. to conduct a youth tennis clinic for students in grades 5 through 12.
8. Request of Mark D'Alessandris, varsity basketball coach, to conduct basketball camp for students in grades 2 through 8 at the Senior High School on June 10-13, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. 2024-2025 Pay Schedule, as presented (**Attachment**)

2. 2024-2025 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit general operating budget in the amount of \$2,313,189.00. (**Attachment**)  
  
Dr. Beltz discussed the BVIU's plan for expanding their services, including a second New Horizon School starting in the 2024-2025 school year and an outpatient treatment facility in Rochester.
3. Exoneration of the following property tax collectors for uncollected 2023 taxes: Diane Palsa, Hopewell; Debra Shaffer, Independence; and Linda McCoy, Raccoon Township.
4. Request of Keith Kavalir to purchase parcel 65-184-0110.001-01-1 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. (**Roll Call**)
5. One-year contract extension with Questeq beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$385,278.00.
6. One-year contract with Facilities Management Systems, Inc., effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with the District option for a second year, at a cost of \$125,386.00.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Payment of winter coaches beyond the regular season.
2. Resignation for retirement of Michael Allison, Senior High School principal, effective July 30, 2024.
3. Resignation of Christina Varner, transportation aide, effective February 28, 2024.

### 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.

At this time, Mr. Santia returned to Finance and Budget

**Finance and Budget by Jeanette Miller**

**MOTION #2**

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved E-Rate Category 1 services for Fiber WAN replacement through Crowncastle in the amount of \$1,400.00 per month for 60 months. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Bethany Pistorius**

**MOTION #3**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the extension of the unpaid leave of absence for Crystal Hough, transportation aide, effective March 7, 2024 through April 3, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request by Emily Steinmetz to extend her unpaid leave of absence from March 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024. Ms. Steinmetz will work three days a week with the remaining days being considered approved uncompensated absences. The employee is responsible for a prorated payment of medical and associated benefits while on approved unpaid leave. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Other Business**

There was no additional business to discuss.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

March 26, 2024, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

MOTION by Victoria Gill, 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 8:02 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary