

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MARCH 22, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021. 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 7:02 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board President.

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

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

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, and Gary Hutsler, Dr. Lynn Utchell, Director of Special Education; Principals; and visitors.

"Good News" reports were presented by Mr. Allison and Dr. Miller on behalf of the Junior High School and the elementary schools. Copies of each report are attached to these minutes.

Dr. Miller discussed the District's plan to return to full day, in class instruction. Students in grades kindergarten through 6 will return on March 29, 2021 and students in grades 7 through 12 will return on April 6, 2021. Dr. Miller reported that all school employees have had the opportunity to receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccine through the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit or other vaccines through additional providers. Safety protocols and procedures will continue to be followed. Students will have partitions in classrooms and the cafeteria. Teachers will be asked to keep windows open to increase ventilation in exterior classrooms or non-air-conditioned classrooms. Water fountains will remain shut off, but students may use the available water bottle refill stations. Teachers will be encouraged to take students outside for instruction.

Parents had until March 19, 2021 to decide whether their child will return to in-school instruction or transfer to or remain in cyber. Due to the increase in in-class instruction, classes

have been added to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades at Independence Elementary School and 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Margaret Ross Elementary School. Teachers in grades K-12 will continue to post assignments and learning materials on the learning management system for students/parents each day.

Dr. Lynn Utchell, Director of Special Education discussed the District proposed plan for Extended School Year (ESY) and Covid Compensatory Services (CCS). ESY is mandated by the state and will run for 6 weeks from June 21, 2021 through July 29, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Junior High School. ESY is offered to students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) who demonstrate a regression of skills during extended breaks.

Districts are also mandated to provide services to students with IEPs who have shown loss or lack of progress in response to extended school closures due to the pandemic. Eligibility will be determined during the IEP meetings based on student data and recommendations by the IEP team. This program will also run from June 21, 2021 through July 29, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

K-6 Hopewell Pride Academy is being offered in response to academic needs of students who have experienced educational challenges during the pandemic school closure. Initial eligibility will be offered to students who have demonstrated a need for support based on current data, such as MTSS, Title 1, DIBELS, NWEA, and grades. Additional seats for this program will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

All three programs will run simultaneously and will be staffed by District teachers, with the support of outside related services providers.

Mr. Winkle asked for approval of minutes.

#### MOTION #1

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the February 22, 2021 and March 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

#### APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

#### MOTION #2

By Lesia Dobo, 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 February, 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 February, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of February 2021, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Effective January 1, 2021, community members have the ability to sign up to be recognized during the Visitor's Section of a live Zoom meeting. The individual must also have a device that specifically states his/her name in order to be recognized. Written questions will no longer be accepted. When recognized, the individual will need to state his/her name and address and will have 3 minutes to make a statement and/or ask a question to the Board. The time will begin when the individual begins speaking. This time limit will include a possible response by the Board.

A response may be given during the meeting, however, it is also possible that no response be provided during the virtual 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.

Additionally, if a community member wishes to speak during this additional time, the community member must request to speak in the chat box. The Board President will ask for comments in the order in which the community member requested to speak. The individual must have a device that specifically states his/her name in order to be recognized. When recognized, the individual will have 3 minutes to make a statement and/or ask a question to the Board. The time will begin when the individual begins speaking. This time limit will include a possible response by the Board. A maximum of thirty minutes total will be reserved during the meeting for community members who request to speak in the chat room.

Time was allotted for requests to speak from the "chat room" at the end of the meeting.

**Bethany Pistorius, 2008 S. Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA**

Mrs. Pistorius discussed her frustration with the current administration. She believes that the District would be better if all stakeholders worked together. She would like to see the return of teacher/board liaison meetings, as she has heard that staff has been discouraged to discuss issues directly with the Board. She feels that the Board should have more oversight on the day-to-day operations of the school and administration.

**Vivian Lombard, 2867 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA**

Ms. Lombard asked what the plans were for summer school for students in grades 7 through 12.

Dr. Miller said that principals were still looking into course recovery options and that this information will be discussed in April.

Mr. Winkle continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

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

**MOTION #3**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the 2021-2022 Senior High School Curriculum Guide. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #5**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the 2021-2022 Junior High School Curriculum Guide. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 2020-2021 Senior High School Final Exam schedule. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 2020-2021 updated School Calendar: Move of May 14 Act 80 Day to May 7 due to change of prom date. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve Dana Maule, a student at Point Park University, to complete her practicum hours for her reading certification at Hopewell Elementary School April and May, 2021, under the guidance of Lauren Opalanko. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair****MOTION #9**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the revision to Girls' Softball coaches and salaries to include Sean Veights, at a stipend of \$800.00, subject to completion of the season and proration of the salary in the event that the spring sports season is shortened. The stipend for Holly Baughman, 3<sup>rd</sup> assistant coach is reduced to \$1,200.00, subject to completion of the season and proration of the salary in the event that the spring sports season is shortened. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Darren Newberry, Chair****MOTION #10**

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Football League cheerleaders to use Gym A at the Junior High School beginning April 27, 2021 through May 31, 2021, for cheer camp and tryouts. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #11**

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request from Hopewell Soccer Club to use Tony Dorsett Stadium on Sunday afternoons starting April 11, 2021 through June 6, 2021 for games, pending availability. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Notice was given that the track will be closed to the public between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. while school is in session in order for physical education classes to have classes on the track and field.

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

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 payments in the amount of \$386,867.46
2. Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of \$95,528.45
3. General Fund payments in the amount of \$769,915.85

MOTION #13

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the 2021-2022 Pay Schedule, as presented. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 2021-2022 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit general operating budget in the amount of \$1,490,231.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the request of Take Hold PA Acquisition IV, LLC, to purchase parcel 65-184-0103.000 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 #16

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the advertisement for receipt of bids for supplies and/or equipment for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the disposal of approximately 130 wireless access points to Teksavers, Inc. at a price of \$1,200.00, less shipping. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the revision to the HP Chromebook cost by an additional \$1,130.00 for a total of \$69,530.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mrs. Conrad reported that the 2021-2022 General Fund budget was currently being drafted and reviewed. She stated that she will provide detailed information in the coming weeks.

**Personnel by Matthew Erickson**

MOTION #19

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the contract with Michelle Miller, Ed.D., Superintendent, for a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2021. MOTION carried by a vote of six to three, with Ms. McKittrick, Mr. Santia and Mrs. Zupsic voting no.

MOTION #20

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of David Woolsey, substitute custodian, effective March 23, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Shawn Friend, substitute custodian, effective upon receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Jackie Carroll, substitute custodian, effective upon receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Malcolm Meredith as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Boys Volleyball coach at a stipend of \$2,500.00, effective March 23, 2021, subject to completion of the season and proration of the salary in the event that the spring sports season is shortened. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Tammy Simmons, substitute bus driver, effective March 13, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to accept the resignation of JoAnn Shaffer, school nurse, effective June 8, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to accept the resignation of Raymon Smith and Dean Nelson as sponsors of the Class of 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the accept the appointment of Nancy Barber as the District's Right to Know Officer. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the change of employment status for Brenda Vebelun from substitute bus driver to full time bus driver, effective March 9, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Holly MacBeth, long-term substitute teacher in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Independence Elementary School, effective March 26, 2021 through the end of the school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Austin Alamendarez, long-term substitute teacher in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective March 26, 2021 through the end of the school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #31

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Vittoria Crivelli, long-term substitute teacher in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Independence Elementary School, effective March 26, 2021 through the end of the school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miller thanked the Board for their support in the renewal of her contract.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Nothing to report.



Upcoming School Board Meetings

April 12, 2021 Regular Work Meeting, via Zoom and in person

April 26, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom and in person

MOTION by Matthew Erickson, 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 8:02 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary