

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Board Secretary, Nancy Barber.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Santia.

Roll call by the secretary followed. Those Directors in attendance were:

Anitre' Bell (participated via video conference)

Carla Buxton

Daniel Caton

Victoria Gill

Anissa Klessner

Jeanette Miller

Bethany Pistorius

Daniel Santia

Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, Deborah Engelman, Business Administrator; John Salopek, Solicitor; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Lou Ceccarelli, and Jim Cassell, Principals; and visitors.

Good News in our Schools reports were presented by Dr. Kartychak, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mr. Cassell. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

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

MOTION #1

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the agenda as written.

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the February 27, 2024 Business meeting and the March 12, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Financial Reports consisting of the Tax Collection, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements, for September through December, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

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.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #4

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Letter Agreement with Pressley Ridge to provide support services to children and families during the 2024-2025 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) to secure CCBC as a reunification location option in the event of an evacuation emergency. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

It was announced that the District will host the PMEA District 5 Elementary Chorus Fest on Friday, March 28, 2025 in the Senior High School Auditorium

**Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair**

**MOTION #6**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of Hopewell Baseball Boosters to place sponsorship banners on the outfield fence and on the home fan bleachers fence. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #7**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Football Boosters to place sponsorship banners on the stadium fence during the 2024 football season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #8**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of Hopewell Football Boosters to conduct a 50/50 raffle at all home football games during the 2024 season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #9**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #10**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the 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 3:30 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #11**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of Hopewell Area Aqua Club to use the pool beginning June 10, 2024 through August 16, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #14

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller approved 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 by an affirmative roll call vote of five Directors. It should be noted that Mrs. Buxton attended the meeting virtually, but did not respond when called upon for her vote.

1. General Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$860,603.61
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$54,905.73
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$814,307.45

MOTION #15

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the 2024-2025 Pay Schedule, as presented. MOTION carried by an affirmative roll call vote of five Directors. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the 2024-2025 Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit general operating budget in the amount of \$2,313,189.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the exoneration of the following property tax collectors for uncollected 2023 taxes: Diane Palsa, Hopewell; Debra Shaffer, Independence; and Linda McCoy, Raccoon Township. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the one-year contract extension with Questeq beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$385,278.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Bethany Pistorius, Chair**

MOTION #21

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, to approve payment of winter coaches beyond the regular season. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Anissa Klessner, accepted the resignation for retirement of Michael Allison, Senior High School principal, effective July 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, accepted the resignation of Christina Varner, transportation aide, effective February 28, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Robert West, transportation aide and van driver, effective March 13, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Susan Selinsky, cafeteria substitute, effective March 22, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Employment of Aiden Fattore, assistant middle school baseball coach, at a stipend of \$1,000.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Other Business

Mrs. Gill commended Jacob Zupsic for his thoughtful campaign to raise money for his bus driver, who is battling cancer. Jacob did a great job selling t-shirts to staff and students.

Mrs. Klessner reminded everyone that bus driver appreciation day is April 23, 2024.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz wished Mr. Allison a happy retirement and thanked him for his many years of service to the entire Hopewell community.

Dr. Beltz stated that the Beaver County Times recently did an article about the District feasibility study. This article, and all updated information, has been placed on the District website.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Board Meetings

April 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

April 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

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 7:36 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary