

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
APRIL 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Monday, April 12, 2021, in the Senior High School Auditorium as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel. 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 7:01 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board President.

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

Daniel Caton
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Lesia Dobo
Matthew Erickson

Also present were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Venanzio Pelino, Director of Buildings and Grounds; and visitors.

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

Personnel: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Resignation of Mary Gerard, Senior High School cafeteria, effective April 9, 2021.
2. A three-year Employment Contract with Brooke Baker as the District Business Administrator, effective July 1, 2021.
3. Creation of the Curriculum Director position, effective July 1, 2021.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Summer school for students in grades K-6, as presented.

At this time, Dr. Miller began her review of those items that would be voted on at the April 26, 2021 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Mr. Winkle, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Awarding 148 high school diplomas to Hopewell High School Senior Class of 2021. Further, awarding of said diplomas is contingent upon student completion of all graduation requirements. (Copy in Superintendent's Office).

Dr. Miller stated that graduation would be held on June 8, 2021 and would be held outside in Tony Dorsett Stadium.

2. Melissa Law, a student at Geneva College, to complete her student teaching during the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year under the direction of Amanda Erwin and Sarah Bober.
3. Allysa Reinhart, a student at Robert Morris University, to complete her pre-student teaching from August 2021 through December 2021 and her student teaching from January 2022 through April 2022, at Hopewell High School under the direction of Nichole Baker.
4. George Souders, a student at Robert Morris University, to complete his student teaching from January 2022 through April 2022, at Hopewell High School under the direction of Jeff Homziak.
5. Emily Shuttleworth, a student at Geneva College, to complete her student teaching from January 2022 through April 2022, at Hopewell High School under the direction of Erin Caputo.
6. Senior High School clubs, as presented.
7. Resolution approving the withdrawal of Midland Borough School District from membership in the Beaver County Career and Technology Center.

Dr. Miller stated that Midland Borough School is only kindergarten through 8th grade. Students in grades 9 through 12 typically attend Beaver Area School District. Beaver Area School District is a member district of the Beaver County Career and Technology Center.

8. Instructional Model Update: Return to Five Days In-Person Instruction

Dr. Miller reported that the transition to school 5 days per week has gone extremely well. However, if Beaver County has over a 10% transmission rate of Covid-19 for two consecutive weeks, the District would return to the hybrid learning model. With new CDC and DOH guidance, the Board will receive these updates in order to make necessary decisions.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Newberry, Chair; Mr. Santia, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Discussion: Junior High Boiler Replacement - Mr. Venanzio Pelino

Mr. Pelino reported that the Junior High School currently has 6 boilers that are approximately 21 years old. Presently, only 2.5 boilers are running, and if are not replaced, the Junior High School will not have heat next winter. Mr. Pelino received bids from Tudi Mechanical Systems and Renick Brothers Mechanical. Mr. Pelino made the recommendation to accept the Tudi proposal for approximately \$330,000.00 for 6 boilers and 1 bypass.

2. Request of Hopewell Youth Football to use Tony Dorsett Stadium for a youth football camp on May 8, 2021 (rain date May 9, 2021).
3. Request of Hopewell Youth Football to use the Junior High School field for a skills and development camp from June 15, 2021 through June 17, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
4. Request of Erin Caputo to use the District's tennis courts to conduct tennis camp's for children ten and under from June through August, 2021.

Finance: Ms. McKittrick, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair

1. Budget update – Mrs. Jennifer Conrad

Mrs. Conrad reminded the Board of the proposed budget timeline, with a proposed budget ready for the May 14, 2021 Board meeting and a final adoption on June 14, 2021. In January 2021, the Board adopted Resolution 1-2021, a resolution not to raise taxes above the Index, which is 3.9 percent. She said that the federal government has provided stimulus funds through ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief). The District has already received some additional funding and should receive additional ESSER 1 funds within the next month. Additional ESSER 2 and ESSER 3 funding can be used through the 2024 school year.

2. Exoneration of the following property tax collectors from uncollected 2020 taxes: Mary Ellen Oros, Independence Township; Diane Palsa, Hopewell Township; and Sandra Cain, Raccoon Township.
3. Transfer of maturing Wesbanco CD -6918 to the Wesbanco Investment Checking account in the amount of \$1,085,073.77, effective March 29, 2021.
4. Resolution approving the Beaver County Career and Technical School budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$6,234,249.

Nutrition & Food Services: Mrs. Dobo, Chair; Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair

1. Contract with Nutrition, Inc. to provide management services for the 2021-2022 school year. This is Year 2 of four (4) renewal periods under the food service management company bid effective July 1, 2019.

Personnel: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Unpaid leave of absence for Sharon Shick, cafeteria, from May 4, 2021 through May 20, 2021.
2. Informational Item: District's new Technology Director, Mr. Casey Kaiser will start on April 13, 2021.

Policy/Planning: Lindsay Zupsic, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. Policy 006.1 Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications.

Mr. Salopek reported that he attended the PSBA Spring Roundtable. At that meeting there was a discussion regarding attendance at Board meetings via electronic communications and that the District currently does not have a policy. Mr. Salopek suggested the District approve Policy 006.1 with the following recommendations:

- a. A decision to participate can be for any reason;
 - b. If participating via electronic communication, notify the Board President prior to the meeting;
 - c. Participant makes every attempt to attend entire meeting; and
 - d. An in-person quorum is not needed to have members use electronic communication.
2. Discussion: Format for future Board meetings.

Mr. Winkle suggested that since students have reported back to school full time, that this might be an opportunity for the Board to eliminate the virtual component of the meeting and only have in person meetings. Another suggestion was to continue the Zoom meetings, but have no live interaction with virtual participants.

Ms. McKittrick and Mr. Caton wanted to continue Zoom meetings since Beaver County is in the substantial rate of transmission for Covid-19.

Mr. Winkle agreed and wanted to continue the discussion at a later date.

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.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive

Mrs. Pistorius had the following questions:

1. She asked for an update on the HVAC systems, since the feasibility study found that they were at end of life;
2. She asked why the Board would consider elimination of the Zoom component of Board meetings;
3. She asked what criteria would need to be met for school to close;
4. She wanted to know how the 10% positivity rate for two consecutive weeks would affect prom; and

Dr. Miller said that the 10% positivity rate would not affect prom. The only adaptations that would be needed were if the venue needed to adjust their regulations.

5. She wanted to know was the new Curriculum Director position in addition to the Assistant Superintendent or was that position eliminated.

Mr. Newberry said that Dr. Maslyk's contract had not been renewed. The Curriculum Director position is new and would be located at one of the elementary schools.

Dr. Miller said that she would respond to Mrs. Pistorius' other questions later this week.

At this time, Mr. Winkle returned to Personnel

Personnel by Mrs. Oblak, Co-Chair

MOTION #1

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Mary Gerard, Senior High School cafeteria, effective April 9, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #2

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve a three-year employment contract with Brooke Baker as the District Business Administrator, effective July 1, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the creation of the Curriculum Director position, effective July 1, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Ms. McKittrick

MOTION #4

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve summer school for students in grades K-6, as presented. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Winkle congratulated Dr. Miller on winning the 2020 Dr. Jean E. Winsand Distinguished Woman in Education award.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

April 26, 2021, Regular Business Meeting will be in person and held virtually.

MOTION by Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeffrey Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary