

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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  
Daniel Caton  
Matthew Erickson (Participated via Zoom)  
Victoria Gill  
Lori McKittrick  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Daniel Santia  
Lindsay Zupsic

Also in attendance were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Louis Ceccarelli, Gary Hutsler, and Donna Steff, principals; Dr. Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and visitors.

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

MOTION #1

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

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

Mr. Santia asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Victoria Gill, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the March 28, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

There was no quorum for the April 18, 2023 Board meeting. Pursuant to a report by the Board Secretary, the following items were discussed. No action was taken.

- Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent and Chief Donald Sedlacek, Hopewell Township Police Department, discussed the swatting incident and the subsequent lockdown of the District on March 29, 2023. Both individuals believe that all parties, including students, staff and first responders were swift in their response, prepared for what to expect and handled what could have been a tragic event extremely well. Both Dr. Beltz and Chief Sedlacek have received criticism regarding the lack of communication to parents and the community. They understand that communication procedures could have been handled differently and will work to find a solution.
- Ashley Elias presented the Board with a petition with approximately 720 signatures in support of a school resource officer in every building. She has also scheduled a meeting with Representative Josh Kail to discuss possible help with funding. Keith Cunningham also spoke in support of Mrs. Elias request.
- Dr. Beltz and Ed West, Director of Buildings and Grounds, discussed the possible replacement of the dehumidification equipment for the pool at the Junior High School. As the current PoolPak has passed life expectancy, the decision needs to be made whether to continue to repair the PoolPak or replacement at an approximate cost of \$200,000.00.

#### APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

#### MOTION #3

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, 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 March 2023, 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 March 2023 presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

#### Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of March 2023, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

Mrs. Robb have an update on the proposed 2023-2024 General Fund Budget.

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.

**Margie Patton**

Mrs. Patton is a former elementary teacher with the District and spoke in support of the teachers receiving a fair contract. She spoke of the teachers and staff supporting students during the traumatic lockdown on March 29, 2023.

**Becky Adams**

Mrs. Adams also spoke in support of the teachers receiving a fair contract. She also thanked Dr. Beltz for all that he has done since starting with the District six months ago. She understands that it has been difficult at times and appreciates all that he has done.

**Crystal Borrer**

Mrs. Borrer also spoke in support of the teachers and their receiving a fair contract.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius, Co-Chair**MOTION #4

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, approved Brittany Covalt and six AP Physics students to attend the 2023 National KidWind Challenge at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado on May 14 - May 17, 2023. Per policy, the district will contribute \$2500.00

towards the expense of the trip with families contributing the remainder of the balance. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lori McKittrick, approved the three-year agreement with Jostens to provide school pictures, effective July 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved five-year contract with the SAVVAS Learning Company (Quote #: 186961-9) for the purchase of K-5 English Language Arts core instructional materials at a total cost of \$151,146.42 using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the Addendum to July 27, 2022 Stat Staff Agreement to include staffing rates for a Special Nurse II at a rate of \$74.88 per hour on an as needed basis. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the Renewal Agreement with AOT, Inc. to provide occupational and physical services on an as needed basis. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the request of the Senior Class to hold baccalaureate on May 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved free school privileges for Sa'vion Goerman to attend Hopewell Area School District for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and beyond. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair****MOTION #11**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Rob Orie and Beaver County Flag Football to use Tony Dorsett Stadium on Saturdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. beginning March 21, 2023 through May 27, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #12**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Hopewell Township to use the parking lots at Hopewell and Margaret Ross Elementary Schools for parking during Park Fest, July 8, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #13**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lori McKittrick, approved the request of Mark D'Alessandris, varsity basketball coach, to conduct basketball camp at the Senior High School on June 5, 2023 through June 8, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #14**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, approved the request of the Hopewell Viking Football Boosters to conduct 50/50 raffles at each of the varsity, junior varsity and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade football games. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #15**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of the Hopewell Viking Football Boosters to use the Senior High School cafeteria on Thursday evenings from 4:45 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. during football season to provide dinner for players and coaches. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #16**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of the Hopewell Viking Football Boosters to use the Senior High School cafeteria to serve lunch during football camp, August 14, 2023 through August 18, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #17**

By Dan Caton, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the request of the Hopewell Viking Football Boosters to use the Senior High School cafeteria on the evening of August 17, 2023 to

serve dinner, as football practice will continue into the evening. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

By Dan Caton, tabled the recommendation to approve the request of the Hopewell Viking Football Boosters to host a pep rally on Thursday immediately following the homecoming parade at Tony Dorsett Stadium. All fall sports would be recognized during the pep rally. Permission has also been requested to have fireworks at the conclusion of the pep rally. The Boosters would coordinate this with the Hopewell Township police, fire department and township manager.

#### MOTION #18

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Terry Borkovic to use Gym A at the Junior High School to conduct a skills camp June 5 through June 9, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

#### MOTION #19

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of the Hopewell Viking Football Boosters to use the stadium and practice fields at the Senior High School on July 29, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for a 7 v 7 passing tournament. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

### **Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Co-Chair**

#### MOTION #20

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, 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 List of Bills in the amount of \$685,786.10
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$142,151.49
3. Payments to be ratified in the amount of \$3,778,079.39

#### MOTION #21

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the 2023-2024 Beaver County Career and Technology Center General Fund Budget in the amount of \$6,915,699.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

#### MOTION #22

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the increase in the hourly rate for Maiello Brungo & Maiello, special counsel to the District, to \$150.00 per hour. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Aliquippa Bucktails to purchase parcels 65-011-1216-000 and 65-011-1219-000 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.

**Legislative by Jeanette Miller, Chair**MOTION #24

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the appointment of Jeanette Miller and Carla Buxton as Hopewell Area SD School Board voting delegates to represent HASD at the PSBA 2023 Delegate Assembly event being held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at PSBA Headquarters in Mechanicsburg, PA. Voting delegates may attend the meeting either in person or virtually. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved, pursuant to Policy No. 005, to create and establish an ad hoc Communications Committee for the purpose of advising the Board regarding communications from the Board. MOTION carried by a vote of eight to one, with Mrs. Pistorius voting no.

**Nutrition and Food Service by Bethany Pistorius**MOTION #26

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the contract with Nutrition, Inc. to provide management services for the 2023-2024 school year. This is Year 4 of four (4) renewal periods under the food service management company bid effective July 1, 2019. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Lindsay Zupsic, Chair**MOTION #27

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the change of employment status for Melissa Troy from cafeteria substitute to server at the Junior High School, effective April 3, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the appointment of Tara Gologram, volunteer track coach, effective April 19, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation for retirement of Tammy Slaiman, paraprofessional at the Junior High School, effective August 17, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation for retirement of Shelly Ruud, paraprofessional at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective June 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #31

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Stephany Richards, Transportation Director, effective June 2, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #32

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the employment of Victor Ndinyah, varsity girls head soccer coach, effective April 26, 2023, at a stipend of \$5,092.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #33

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved the change of employment status for Greg Barlion from regular bus driver to substitute driver, effective May 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #34

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. MOTION carried by a vote of seven to two, with Mrs. Miller and Mr. Santia voting no.



**Policy and Planning by Carla Buxton, Chair****MOTION #36**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved Board Policy 200 – Bullying/Cyberbullying. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Transportation by Bethany Pistorius, Chair****MOTION #37**

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Hopewell Township to use District buses and drivers for Park Fest, July 8, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Other Business**

Mrs. Gill thanked Janet Myers for her work at the Hopewell Community Park, from its inception when she was a student at Hopewell through her continued support to this day. Mrs. Gill's son recently participated in Earth Day activities at the Park sponsored by Ms. Myers and had a wonderful time.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Beltz thanked Mrs. Slaiman and Mrs. Ruud for their many years of service to the students of the District as paraprofessionals. He also thanks Ms. Richard, Transportation for her work with the District. Dr. Beltz reported that PSSA's started this week and that the District would have an in-service day on Friday, which is the Senior High School Prom.

**Solicitor's Report**

Nothing to Report

Upcoming School Board Meetings

May 9, 2023, Regular Work Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Board Room and Virtual

May 23, 2023, Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Board Room and Virtual.

MOTION by Victoria Gill, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, that the meeting be adjourned.  
MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary