

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 26, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Monday, April 26, 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 7:07 p.m. by Darren Newberry, Board Vice President.

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

Daniel Caton
Lesia Dobo
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia

Members Absent
Matthew Erickson
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Jennifer Conrad, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; and visitors.

"Good News" reports were presented by Dr. Kartychak, Mr. Katkich and Mr. Hutsler. Copies of each report are attached to these minutes.

Kim Cassidy from the Nutrition Group, Inc. presented the food services budget for the 2021-2022 school year. She also reported that this school year presented its challenges, but that everyone on the cafeteria staff did an extraordinary job preparing food and getting it out to those in need. Mr. Newberry complimented Rosann Russell and Casey Kline for their hard work and dedication to the families in the District.

Mr. Newberry asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #1

By Dan Caton, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the March 22, 2021 and April 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPEd ITEMS

MOTION #2

By Dan Santia, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, 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, 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 March, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of March 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 had a few questions.

1. As discussed at the previous meeting, why would the Board consider getting rid of the virtual component of Board meetings.

Mr. Newberry understood the concern by many, and said that he didn't believe that the District would eliminate the virtual participation option.

2. Mrs. Pistorius stated that she believes that the host and co-host of a Zoom meeting can control the sound. She was concerned about the incident of inappropriate language by a spectator at the last meeting.
3. Mrs. Pistorius asked how many tickets would families get for graduation and what plans were being made in case of rain.

Dr. Miller said that Mr. Allison will provide information to students and families after May 5, 2021.

4. Mrs. Pistorius asked for an update on the HVAC systems.

Mr. Newberry said that the District continues to review their options and the Board was considering using ESSER funds for that project.

5. Mrs. Pistorius asked if the District would definitely return to the hybrid learning module should Beaver County have a 10% Covid positivity rate for two consecutive weeks. She said that she had reviewed District documents and Board minutes but couldn't find where that was stated or written.

Marla Barckhoff, 3878 Green Garden Road

Ms. Barckhoff has a son at the Senior High School. He has expressed to her that she needs to do everything that she can so that the District continues full-time in-person learning. She said that her son had struggled while working remotely but is doing better in the full-time, in-person learning model.

Mr. Newberry continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lori McKittrick, Co-Chair**MOTION #3**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the awarding of 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). MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS**MOTION #6**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, 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.

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. Breann Dickton, at student at Robert Morris University, to complete her pre-student teaching in the fall of 2021.

MOTION #7

By Lori McKittrick to table Resolution 5-2021, a Resolution approving the withdrawal of Midland Borough School District from membership in the Beaver County Career and Technology Center. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Addendum to the 2020-21 STAT staffing agreement for inclusion of Special Assignment Nurse to only be utilized for nursing services for out of district students at Pediatric Specialty Care who have acknowledgement of guarantor of payment. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Miller took this opportunity to inform the Board that the Federal government provided a waiver last week so that public school districts did not have to complete standardized testing. However, Pennsylvania did not accept the waiver, so PSSA and Keystone testing is being completed at this time. Principals have reported that testing is going well. Students participating in our cyber program have been coming to school this week to complete their testing.

Special Olympics will be held April 28, 2021. The District has over 30 athletes competing in the various events. Students from the Junior and Senior High Schools are helping the athletes and to run events. The band and cheerleaders will be involved as well. Good luck to all of our athletes.

Godspell will be performed this coming weekend at the Senior High School. The production will also be filmed. DJ Spang has been nominated for Best Actor for the Henry Mancini Awards. DJ will perform as Jesus.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Santia, Co-Chair

MOTION #9

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Football to use Tony Dorsett Stadium for a youth football camp on May 8, 2021 (rain date May 9, 2021). MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the 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. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the 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. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, ChairAPPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #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 \$392,583.14
2. Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of \$107,941.80
3. General Fund payments in the amount of \$4,339,660.51

MOTION #13

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the transfer of maturing Wesbanco CD -6918 to the Wesbanco Investment Checking account in the amount of \$1,085,073.77, effective March 29, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve Resolution 5-2021 approving the Beaver County Career and Technical School budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$6,234,249.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Kathryn Oblak

At this time Mrs. Oblak gave an update on House Bill 272, charter school reform. This bill addresses transparency, funding and accountability issues. Currently this bill is in the House Education Committee for consideration.

Nutrition & Food Services by Lesia DoboMOTION #16

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Kathryn OblakMOTION #17

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the unpaid leave of absence for Sharon Shick, cafeteria, from May 4, 2021 through May 28, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the return of Brittany Story, previously on unpaid leave of absence, effective April 6, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the change of employment status for Beth Butter, substitute cafeteria, to full-time cafeteria at the Junior High School, effective April 19, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Elizabeth Tharp, substitute nurse, effective April 26, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Policy and Planning by Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

MOTION #21

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve Policy 006.1, Attendance at Board Meetings via Electronic Communications. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Salopek provided a review of this policy prior to the vote.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miller reported that she and the administration are still working on secondary credit recovery options. She also reported that she participated in PASA Advocacy Day, which gave her the opportunity to meet and discuss current educational issues with three legislators.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 S. Trillium Drive

Mrs. Pistorius had additional questions for the Board. She asked how the Resource Officer would be paid in the coming year. She also stated again that she was not able to find where the Board approved the move to the hybrid learning module, should Beaver County have a 10% positivity rate for Covid 19 for two consecutive weeks.

Dr. Miller said that the Resource Office grant ended this year and that they would be apply for it again to offset the cost to the District.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

May 10, 2021 Regular Work Meeting, via Zoom and in person

May 24, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom and in person

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

Mr. Newberry adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Darren Newberry, Board Vice President

Nancy Barber, Secretary