

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
MAY 10, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Monday, May 10, 2021, in the Senior High School Library 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 7:03 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:

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

Member's Absent
Daniel Caton

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

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

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

1. Credit recovery summer program for students in grades 7-12, as presented.

The credit recovery summer program is for any student in grades 7 through 12 who have failed a core course. Seniors will also have the option to include physical education and electives, if needed for graduation. Courses are virtual through Edgenuity. Students may enroll in a maximum of two courses, which must be completed by July 29, 2021. Students must earn a 60% in order to receive credit.

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

1. Stipulation and Agreement between Hopewell Area School District, Independence Township, South Side Area School District and Hanover Township regarding the settlement of the Mandamus Action filed at Beaver County No. 10206-2019 regarding the assessments of the land and mobile homes located in Independence Park being Tax Parcel No. 66-232-0107.002.
2. Request of Conway 2020, to purchase parcel 65-193-0280.954 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County repository. All delinquent taxes for the 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated.
3. Technical Services Agreement from Tower Engineering to complete a Request for Proposal for the Junior High School boiler replacement.

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

1. Deployment for Active Military Duty and pro-rated salary of Gary Hutsler, Elementary Assistant Principal, from at or around May 13, 2021 through September 20, 2021, as presented.

Mr. Hutsler serves with the Air National Guard and will be deployed overseas. When possible, Mr. Hutsler will do work for the District and will be compensated on a pro-rated basis. The Board wishes him well and looks forward to his safe return.

2. Retirement of the following individuals who have accepted the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program, effective June 10, 2021.
 - a. Kathleen Boranko
 - b. Harry DeNome
 - c. John Erath
 - d. Susan Harcar
 - e. Joanne Herda
 - f. Christine Pantone
 - g. Christina Signorelli
 - h. William Smith
 - i. Sharon Welsh

These teachers have a wealth of knowledge and represent the best of the District. The Board wishes them health and happiness in their retirement.

3. Employment of additional temporary summer cleaning staff from approximately June 14, 2021 through August 20, 2021, at a rate of \$10.00/hour.

Dr. Miller said that this represents a \$1.00 increase from last year.

4. Employment of Brittany Enders, payroll and benefits coordinator at a salary of \$39,000.00, effective May 11, 2021.

Transportation: Dan Santia, Chair; Dan Caton, Co-Chair

1. Authorization to solicit bids for 4 or 5 2017 or newer 72-passenger school buses for delivery on or before August 1, 2021, and 2 or 3 new 72-passenger school buses for delivery on or before October 15, 2021. Bid opening date will be June 3, 2021.

Ms. McKittrick asked about the size of the buses and Mrs. Oblak asked about the age of the buses. Mrs. Conrad stated that they would all be 72 passenger and the buses being replaced are from 2009-2015.

Ms. McKittrick asked about cost and Mrs. Conrad stated the following as approximate costs: \$64,000-\$66,000 for used and \$85,000-\$90,000 for new buses.

Mr. Santia and Ms. McKittrick questioned the need for the number of buses and the timing of receiving information on this topic. Both Mr. Santia and Ms. McKittrick did not recall needing this number of buses.

Mrs. Conrad explained that Mr. Frye, Transportation Director, informed her on Thursday that the District would need five to eight 72-passenger buses to begin the next school year. Two additional were added this past week due to engine failure. Mrs. Conrad is looking to replace up to five of the buses with used buses, if possible. Funds would come for Capital Reserve. New buses would not arrive until October.

Mrs. Zupsic asked what the District would do at the start of the school year without the new buses.

Mrs. Conrad explained that the mechanics would fix would they could, transportation routes would be combined and we would likely need to borrow from other transportation companies.

Mr. Newberry asked if the Board could meet with Mr. Frye so that he could explain exactly what was needed. He also asked that the Board proceed with the solicitation of bids. Mrs. Conrad explained that the bid process doesn't lock the District into any purchase, but would keep us on schedule if the Board decided to move forward with the purchase.

At this time, Dr. Miller began her review of those items that would be voted on at the May 24, 2021 Business meeting.

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

1. Agreement for Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. to conduct one Head Start Classroom at Hopewell Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year, subject to PIC receiving appropriate funding.
2. Continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Online Education for the 2021-2022 School Year.
3. Continuation of Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Family Behavioral Resources.
4. Letter of Intent with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to participate in the Technology Pool Counsel Consortium for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. Agreement with Adelphoi Education Services to provide emotional supports services to students on an as needed basis for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. Agreement with Beacon Light Behavior Health System (Custer City Private School) to provide educational services while students are placed at the Beacon Light facility for the 2020-2021 school year.
7. Letter Agreement with Pressley Ridge to provide support services to children and families during the 2021-2022 school year.
8. Contract renewal for the 2021-2022 school year with AOT, Inc., providers of the District's occupational and physical therapy services, as well as speech therapy services on an as needed basis.

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

1. Request of the Hopewell Area Aqua Club to use the pool and Gym B at the Junior High School for summer conditioning beginning approximately June 28, 2021 through August 20, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.
2. Request of the Hopewell Quarterbacks and Football Boosters to use the Senior High School cafeteria to serve lunch during football camp, August 16, 2021 through August 20, 2021.
3. Request of the Hopewell Quarterbacks and Football Boosters to conduct 50/50 raffles at each of the varsity, junior varsity and 7th-8th grade football games.

4. Request of the Hopewell Quarterbacks and Football Boosters to use the concession stand and spirit shop at Tony Dorsett Stadium during the following events:
 - a. All Home Varsity, Junior Varsity and 7th and 8th grade games; and
 - b. Thursday evenings during football season to provide dinner for players and coaches.
5. Request of Hopewell Youth Basketball to use the Senior High School Main and Auxiliary gyms for a Summer Skills Camp from August 2, 2021 through August 5, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
6. Request from Hopewell Township to use the parking lots at Hopewell and Margaret Ross Elementary Schools for parking during Park Fest, July 10, 2021.
7. Agreement with Garaventa USA, Inc. to install an incline platform lift at Hopewell Senior High School in the amount of \$18,900.00.
8. San Rocco band to use the Senior High School facilities for rehearsal on August 11 and 12, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

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

1. Adoption of the Hopewell Area School District proposed 2021-2022 General Fund budget, which projects revenues of \$_____ and appropriations of \$_____. The difference of \$_____ will come from the Fund Balance.

Mrs. Conrad updated the Board on the 2021-2022 proposed budget. She asked for direction from the Board as to a tax increase and will ask for an adopted proposed final budget on May 24, 2021. She continues to tweak District expenditures and said that there is no way to tax ourselves out of our projected deficit.

Mr. Winkle said that what was reported was not great news, but wasn't surprised, based on fixed costs. He believes that Mrs. Conrad will do her best to present the best budget possible.

2. Supply bids for the 2021-2022 school year for the following departments:
 - a. Athletics
 - b. Art
 - c. Custodial
 - d. Industrial Arts
 - e. Physical Education
 - f. Science

3. Agreement with Medic Rescue to provide emergency medical transport for the 2021-2022 school year, at a cost of \$3,400.
4. Approve the request of Aliquippa Buck Tails League to purchase parcel 65-011-1324-001 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County repository. All delinquent taxes for the 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated.

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

1. Reappointment of John F. Salopek, Esquire, Solicitor, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
2. Appointment of Brooke Baker, Board Treasurer, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
3. Reaffirm the District's Non-Discrimination Policy as required by Title VI and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1975. Further, said policy to be advertised in the Beaver County Times.
4. Change of employment status for Elizabeth Tharp from substitute nurse to full-time Health Suite Assistant, as part of the Secretary and Paraprofessional Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective August 23, 2021.
5. Resignation for retirement of Glenda Heibert, paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective June 9, 2021.

Transportation: Dan Santia, Chair; Dan Caton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Request of Hopewell Township to use District buses and drivers for Park Fest, July 10, 2021.

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.

Prior to the Visitor's section, Mr. Newberry made a statement regarding comments made at the meeting on April 26, 2021. Mr. Newberry stated that during the visitor section of the April 26, 2021 meeting, a parent stated that her son was struggling with virtual education. She stated that her son wanted her to tell the District that he had a disability so that he could attend school 5 days per week. Mr. Newberry acknowledged that even though the parent did not intend them to be, the statements were hurtful to a number of Hopewell families and do not represent the District's commitment to making Hopewell inclusive and welcoming to all students. Mr. Newberry apologized for not taking the opportunity to address the comments during the April 26, 2021 Board meeting, as he was leading that meeting.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive

Mrs. Pistorius had the following questions:

1. She asked for clarification of the credit recovery program.

Dr. Miller stated that students could take 2 classes, except for seniors, who could take core classes, electives and physical education, if they needed the credits to graduate. Eligibility projections were based on grades as of the mid-point of the 4th nine weeks.

2. She asked how families got information about the credit recovery program.

Dr. Miller said that the District would provide information in the coming weeks, but families could also reach out to principals and guidance counselors.

3. She asked why the District, all of a sudden, needed so many buses. She felt there was an ongoing trend that Administration reported the need to purchase expensive items with little or no time for discussion.

Mr. Winkle agreed that the Board and Administration needed to work on that.

Amy Kelly, 1203 Connecticut Street

Mrs. Kelly said that the District has had a strong and supportive special education department for many years. She believes that Mr. Newberry should have addressed the hurtful comments made about students with disabilities at the last Board meeting. She appreciated Mr. Newberry's statement, but felt it should have been made before this evening.

David Bufalini, 4027 Forest Drive

Mr. Bufalini asked if the Transportation Director was looking at all options of repairing buses rather than replacing them.

Mr. Santia and Ms. McKittrick said that they would be looking into what parts are needed and if the District has any remaining spare parts.

Mr. Bufalini also reported that this past year's virtual Christmas Concert went extremely well and brought in more money than in past years. He said that over the years, he has brought in approximately \$35,000.00 to support Hopewell's music program. He said that this year's concert is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2021. Currently Mr. Bufalini and some Hopewell alumni are working on a two song CD. The group will ask for donations to purchase the CD, with proceeds being given to the Artist in Residence program.

At this time, Mr. Winkle returned to Education/Curriculum/Instruction.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Dr. Erickson, Chair**MOTION #1**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the credit recovery summer program for students in grades 7-12, as presented. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Ms. McKittrick**MOTION #2**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve Stipulation and Agreement between Hopewell Area School District, Independence Township, South Side Area School District and Hanover Township regarding the settlement of the Mandamus Action filed at Beaver County No. 10206-2019 regarding the assessments of the land and mobile homes located in Independence Park being Tax Parcel No. 66-232-0107.002. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the request of Conway 2020, to purchase parcel 65-193-0280.954 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County repository. All delinquent taxes for the 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the Technical Services Agreement from Tower Engineering to complete a Request for Proposal for the Junior High School boiler replacement. MOTION carried by a vote of seven to one, with Mr. Santia voting No.

Personnel by Dr. EricksonMOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the deployment for Active Military Duty and pro-rated salary of Gary Hutsler, Elementary Assistant Principal, from at or around May 13, 2021 through September 20, 2021, as presented. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the retirement of the following individuals who have accepted the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program, effective June 10, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Kathleen Boranko
- b. Harry DeNome
- c. John Erath
- d. Susan Harcar
- e. Joanne Herda
- f. Christine Pantone
- g. Christina Signorelli
- h. William Smith
- i. Sharon Welsh

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve employment of additional temporary summer cleaning staff from approximately June 14, 2021 through August 20, 2021, at a rate of \$10.00/hour. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Brittany Enders, payroll and benefits coordinator at a salary of \$39,000.00, effective May 11, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Mr. Santia

MOTION #9

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the authorization to solicit bids for 4 or 5 2017 or newer 72-passenger school buses for delivery on or before August 1, 2021, and 2 or 3 new 72-passenger school buses for delivery on or before October 15, 2021. Bid opening date will be June 3, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Unfinished Business

As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Miller received wonderful feedback from teachers with positive reflections and some knowledge they have gained over the past year. She also reported that Jared Roger, District Resource Officer, will receive the Guy “Tippy” Tyler Award from the Beaver County District Attorney’s office. This award is given to an officer that has shown exemplary efforts in juvenile justice enforcement and education.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

May 24, 2021, Regular Business Meeting will be in person and held virtually.

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

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeffrey Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary