

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MAY 24, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Monday, May 24, 2021. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held, Thursday, May 14, 2021 and 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 7:03 p.m. by Darren Newberry, Board Vice President.

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

Daniel Caton  
Matthew Erickson  
Lori McKittrick  
Darren Newberry  
Kathryn Oblak  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent  
Lesia Dobo  
Daniel Santia  
Jeffrey Winkle

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 and Mr. Katkich. Copies of each report, including a report from the elementary schools, are attached to these minutes.

Dr. Miller gave a Wellness Policy update.

Mr. Newberry asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #1

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the April 26, 2021 and May 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #2

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Matt Erickson, 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 April, 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 April, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of April 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.

**Bethany Pistorius, 2008 S. Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA**

Mrs. Pistorius had the following questions:

1. After listening to the Wellness report, Mrs. Pistorius wanted to know why more students and medical personnel weren't on the committee.

Dr. Miller said that meetings are conducted during the day, and the Committee thought it best to limit disruption of student's schedules, but that additional students could be included in the future.

2. Mrs. Pistorius asked for the timeline for receiving bus bids.

Mr. Newberry said that bids will be received the first week of June and will be reviewed at the Board meeting on June 14, 2021.

3. Mrs. Pistorius asked for clarification on school and organization athletes wearing masks.

Dr. Miller said that if students are outside and can socially distance, masks do not have to be worn. She said that athletes on the sidelines or not actively engaged in competition or practice should continue to wear masks. Also, students participating in rigorous physical activity, do not have to wear masks. Additionally, any non-school organizations follow their own protocols.

4. She asked for an explanation of the services provided by Adelphoi Education Services and Pressley Ridge. She believed them to provide duplicate services.

Dr. Miller said that individual outside healthcare providers place students in these facilities. The District would coordinate services while a student was placed there.

5. Mrs. Pistorius said that recent election results indicated that the community voted for change. She believes that the District needs to be more fiscally responsible, especially in light of the 2 mill increase, which is proposed for next year. She feels that the time has come to try to repair the relationship between the Board and the community.

Mr. Newberry asked Mrs. Pistorius what changes she would like to see.

Mrs. Pistorius stated that transparency by the Board is important. She is uncomfortable with the District moving to contracted services rather than in-house employees and feels that the community is not totally aware of all District expenses.

**Michael Murray, 1007 Lexington Drive, Aliquippa, PA**

As a former teacher, Mr. Murray shared that he is familiar with how school districts work and the difficulties they face. Recent discussions about the purchase of 5-7 buses is a concern for the community. As stated by Mrs. Conrad at the last meeting, lack of funding by the State is causing funding deficits by school districts. He believes that the District's increased PSERS contributions make it necessary to consider contracted services, hence decreasing the number of District employees and reducing the District's PSERS contribution. Mr. Murray believes that the transition to Frye Transportation to manage that Department is a positive step. He does not believe that the District is dysfunctional, but thinks that any further divide among Board members will distract from student achievement.

Mr. Newberry continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

**Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Matthew Erickson, Chair****MOTION #3**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the 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 (Copy in Superintendent's Office). MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

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

**MOTION #5**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the continuation of Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Hopewell Area School District and the Hopewell Education Association with respect to Family Behavioral Resources. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #6**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Letter of Intent with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to participate in the Technology Pool Counsel Consortium for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Agreement with Adelphoi Education Services to provide emotional supports services to students on an as needed basis for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Erickson asked if this was a retroactive agreement. Dr. Miller stated yes.

MOTION #9

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Letter Agreement with Pressley Ridge to provide support services to children and families during the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

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

MOTION #11

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to establish a Title III Consortium. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mrs. Oblak asked for an explanation of Title III.

Dr. Miller explained that the purpose of Title III is to help ensure that English learners (ELs) attain English language proficiency and meet state academic standards. Federal funding is provided through various grant programs to assist state education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) in accomplishing this. The District would use these funds for training purposes.

MOTION #12

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve Claire Whaples, a student at California State University, to complete her field experience during elementary summer session. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Buildings and Grounds by Daniel Caton**APPROVAL OF GROUPEd ITEMSMOTION #13

By Dan Caton, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve items (1) through (6) 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. 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 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

MOTION #14

By Dan Caton, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Agreement with Garaventa USA, Inc. to install an incline platform lift at Hopewell Senior High School in the amount of \$18,900.00. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Miller shared that during the 2021-2022 school year there will be a student at the Senior High School who will require the lift and it is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

MOTION #15

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

MOTION #16

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the request of David Bufalini to use Hopewell Junior High School lawn and Memorial for Memorial Day Service on May 31, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Dan Santia, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of Joe Sullivan to use the Junior High School band room from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. every Wednesday beginning June 2, 2021 through the end of August. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair**

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

MOTION #18

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Caton, 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 \$292,573.69
2. Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of \$106,657.40
3. General Fund payments in the amount of \$2,296,880.70

At this time Mrs. Conrad gave an update on the proposed 2021-2022 General Fund budget and timeline for adoption.

MOTION #19

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the adoption of the Hopewell Area School District proposed 2021-2022 General Fund budget, which projects revenues of \$41,553,798.00 and appropriations of \$43,321,783.00. The difference of \$1,767,985.00 will come from the Fund Balance. MOTION carried by a vote of five to one, with Ms. McKittrick voting No. Mrs. Zupsic voted yes, but would like to see continued cuts so that there would be a balanced budget.

Mr. Newberry asked where Mrs. Zupsic believed cuts could be made.

Mrs. Zupsic stated she felt technology and Junior High School and Senior High School program alignment would be a good place to start.

Mrs. Oblak agreed that there may still be room for additional cuts, but wanted to make sure that education programs and student interventions were left intact.

Mrs. Conrad reiterated that this is the “proposed” budget and can be changed prior to final approval. Community members may review the budget on the District website and in the Business Office.

Mrs. Oblak thanked Mrs. Conrad for her hard work and diligence working on the budget.

MOTION #20

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Agreement with Medic Rescue to provide emergency medical transport for the 2021-2022 school year, at a cost of \$3,400. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

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



MOTION #22

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the supply bids for the 2021-2022 school year for the following departments. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance

a.	Athletics	\$6,936.95
b.	Art	\$13,364.14
c.	Custodial	\$27,309.68
d.	Industrial Arts	\$336.26
e.	Physical Education	\$1,634.56
f.	Science	\$735.58
g.	Reprographics	\$7,223.73

**Personnel by Matthew Erickson, Chair**

MOTION #23

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the reappointment of John F. Salopek, Esquire, Solicitor, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. MOTION carried with a vote of five to one, with Ms. McKittrick voting No.

MOTION #24

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the appointment of Brooke Baker, Board Treasurer, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

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

MOTION #27

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept resignation for retirement of Glenda Heibert, paraprofessional at Independence Elementary School, effective June 9, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of Debora Perrine, custodian, for an unpaid leave of absence from May 3, 2021 through June 6, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve Elizabeth Tharp, substitute nurse, for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year as well as summer school at a rate of \$25.00 per hour. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept the resignation for retirement of Harvey Kanarr, bus driver, effective July 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #31

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the elimination of the following positions due to enrollment effective for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Kindergarten at Independence Elementary School
- b. Kindergarten at Hopewell Elementary School
- c. Grade 3 teacher at Hopewell Elementary School
- d. Grade 5 teacher at Hopewell Junior High School
- e. Grade 1 teacher at Independence Elementary School

Mr. Newberry confirmed with Dr. Miller that the eliminations are based on class size. Dr. Miller also stated that Kindergarten enrollment for next year was low.

MOTION #32

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the creation of the following positions due to enrollment effective for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Grade 3 at Independence Elementary School
- b. K-6 Cyber Teacher

MOTION #33

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the employment of the following K-6 Summer School teachers at the extended rate, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Anne Beitler
- b. Leslie Dennis
- c. Krissy Frioni
- d. Jamie Humbert (substitute)
- e. Lisa Morrell
- f. Kelly Pratte
- g. Katie Snyder
- h. Mike Sundy
- i. Monique Urick (substitute)
- j. Olivia Veights (substitute)
- k. Dawn Gailey

MOTION #34

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the Staff for Extended School Year and Compensatory Education Services provided to identified students from June 21-July 29, 2021. Final staff assignments and needs will be finalized by the end of the school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Educators:

- a. Arleen Tierney
- b. Vittoria Crivelli
- c. Danielle Thompson
- d. Erin Kunzmann
- e. Emily Collins

Paraprofessionals:

- a. Kristine Stickler
- b. Kristyn Stowers
- c. Kerri McShane
- d. Sandra Stewart
- e. Karen Sovich
- f. Marilyn Gray
- g. Karen Langton
- h. Stephanie Keebler
- i. Amy Carl

**Transportation by Daniel Caton, Co-Chair**

MOTION #35

By Dan Caton, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of Hopewell Township to use District buses and drivers for Park Fest, July 10, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miller read Mr. Hutsler's Good News from the Elementary Schools, as he had sound issues during the Good News report earlier in the meeting.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Salopek thanked the Board for their continued support as District Solicitor.

Unfinished Business

None

Upcoming School Board Meetings

June 14, 2021 Regular Work Meeting, via Zoom and in person

June 28, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom and in person

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

Mr. Newberry adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Darren Newberry, Board Vice President

Nancy Barber, Secretary