

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 19, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel, collective bargaining and litigation 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 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:

Daniel Caton
Lesia Dobo
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Michelle Miller, Superintendent, Mr. John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison and Robert Kartychak, Principal; and visitors.

Mr. Winkle asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #1

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the June 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

MOTION #2

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Darren Newberry, 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 June, 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 June, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of June 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 comments and/or questions:

1. Mrs. Pistorius said that several parents were asking for new supply lists for the upcoming school year. Current lists on the website were a couple of years old.
2. She asked for clarification on the bus lease. She understood that the loan would be interest free for 11 months. Mrs. Baker and Mr. Frye clarified that there would be no payments for eleven months.
3. Mrs. Pistorius asked for a timeline for the Superintendent search. Mr. Winkle reported that Dr. Rosendale of the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit, who would be conducting the search, had started the process and will be in contact with the Board to lay out the timeline.
4. Mrs. Pistorius asked if the District would require masks at the start of school. However, she understood that the requirements are ever changing. She wanted to know if the District had a mask requirement, would families have the option to choose the District's cyber program even after the July 26, 2021 deadline. Dr. Miller said that if parents should inquire about the cyber program after the deadline, if there is room, students will be able to choose that option. Parents would need to contact the building principal for availability.

Mr. Winkle continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Matthew Erickson, Chair

MOTION #3

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the District and the Educational Support Personnel Association with respect to Grievance 2018-19 #3 with respect to custodial overtime. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan for opening of school, per PDE requirement for school districts. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Kartychak reviewed the preliminary plan for opening school in the fall. The District, again, will continue to review CDC and Department of Health guidelines. A summary of the Plan is attached to the minutes.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Agreement for Educational Services with the Bradley Center for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the contract with Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children Outreach Program to provide vision and/or orientation and mobility services 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 Lindsey Zupsic, to approve Marco Fiorante, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, to complete student teaching at Hopewell High School, under the supervision of Lisa Cedro. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the appointment of Dr. Robert Kartychak as the District's Pandemic Coordinator, effective August 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the appointment of Dr. Robert Kartychak as the District's Safety and Security Coordinator, effective August 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

At this time Dr. Miller and Dr. Kartychak discussed the District's Substitute Plan for the coming school year. The recommendation is to increase the daily rate of pay for day-to-day substitutes to \$100.00. In addition, Dr. Miller would like to increase the number of building subs to three for each building. Their rate of pay would continue to be \$125.00 per day. With this increase, it is believed that there would be less need for day-to-day substitutes.

MOTION #10

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the pilot of SHOUT (Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment) club at Hopewell High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Kartychak briefly explained the goals and objectives of this organization. He said that students would create a diverse, inclusive and equitable school environment ensuring the

establishment of culturally responsive safe spaces and promoting an accepting environment for all students. With other nearby districts developing SHOUT chapters, it is the hope of our students to collaborate with them to create a more inclusive community.

Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #11

By Dan Caton, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the girls' gymnastics co-op agreement with South Side Area School District from the 2021 school year through the 2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the fall coaches and salaries for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented, with the exception of Nate Musselman and Gabriella Marra, girls soccer coaches. These individuals resigned prior to the start of the meeting due to work commitments. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Darren Newberry, Chair

MOTION #13

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the request of the American Serbian Club to use the Junior High School baseball field on Saturday, July 31, 2021 for their annual softball tournament. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair

MOTION #14

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 \$224,895.90
2. Cafeteria Fund payments in the amount of \$89,681.46
3. General Fund payments in the amount of \$4,387,739.61

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve United States Fire Insurance Co. through Andrew J. Benedict Insurance Agency Student Accident/Athletic Policy at a cost of \$14,400.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve Resolution #16-2021, for a 48-month lease with Wesbanco for \$445,500.00 with annual payments of \$115,642.00 at an interest rate of 1.50% for 5 buses (bids accepted June 3, 2021). Total repayment from the capital reserve account will be \$463,378.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Matthew Erickson, Chair

MOTION #17

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Jennifer Restaneo, long-term substitute Family and Consumer Science teacher at Hopewell High School, effective August 23, 2021 through on or about October 28, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance

MOTION #18

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Melinda Suprak, Special Education teacher at the Junior High School, effective August 4, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to accept the resignation for retirement of Sharon Shick, head cook at Margaret Ross Elementary School, effective July 20, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of the following individuals for Extended School Year and Compensatory Education Services provided from June 21, 2021 through July 29, 2021. Payment is retroactive to June 21, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Lauran Macon
- b. Jaymee Humbert (Substitute)
- c. Tanner Yake (Substitute)
- d. Michael Marchetti (Substitute)
- e. Lisa Morrell (Substitute after July 9, 2021)

MOTION #21

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Marilyn Gray as a summer cleaner at \$12.00 per hour, effective June 10, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the employment of Shelly Kibby as Transportation Director at a salary of \$65,000.00, beginning on or around August 4, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to approve the employment of Amy Shaddick, Special Education teacher at the Junior High School, at Step 1 of the Bachelors scale, effective August 23, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to approve the employment of Amanda Scott, Autistic Support teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, at Step 1 of the Masters scale, effective August 23, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the employment of Shannon Casillas, Special Education teacher at the Junior High School, at Step 1 of the Masters scale, effective August 23, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the employment of Earlene Nale, substitute cafeteria, effective August 26, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Nothing to report.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Unfinished BusinessMOTION #27

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to appoint David Bufalini to the Superintendent search committee. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Although the Motion carried unanimously, there was discussion prior to the vote regarding the timing and appropriateness of the Motion. Ms. McKittrick explained that Mr. Bufalini will be a new Board member beginning in December and had participated in prior superintendent searches as a previous Board member. She felt his knowledge would be an asset to the discussion.

Jeanette Miller, a newly nominated Board member from Region 1, spoke up that she believed that only current members of the Board should be on the search committee. She did not feel it was appropriate for non-members to participate in the process. She stated that if Mr. Bufalini was going to be a part of the search process, she would also like to be a part of the process.

MOTION #28

By Darren Newberry, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to appoint Jeanette Miller to the Superintendent search committee. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

June Wulff, 1504 Maratta Road, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Wulff participated via Zoom. Ms. Wulff was concerned about community members being appointed to the Superintendent search committee. She asked what the rules were for creating such a committee. It is her belief that only sitting members of the Board should participate in the process. Mr. Newberry agreed with her and stated that he wished that the Board had discussed the matter prior to the vote this evening.

Barb Reda, 1780 Clark Boulevard, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Reda asked if the District taught the 1619 Project or Critical Race Theory. Dr. Miller explained that the District only teaches Pennsylvania State Standards and those topics are not a part of the curriculum.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

August 9, 2021, Regular Work Meeting, via Zoom and in person

August 23, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom and in person.

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

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary