

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 19, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by David Bufalini, Board President.

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

David Bufalini
Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Daniel Santia

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent, Frank Paganie, Solicitor; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; and visitors.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the agenda as written.

An Executive Session was held on June 28, 2022 and July 11, 2022 to discuss the superintendent search and prior to this 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

Mr. Bufalini asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Jeanette Miller, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the June 28, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMSMOTION #3

By Bethany Pistorius, 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 June, 2022, 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, 2022, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of June, 2022, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

Dr. Kartychak introduced Kenzie Mawhinney, this year's Hopewell valedictorian and the recipient of the Shell Beaver County Student of the Year. Kenzie's future plans include attending Grove City College to study marketing.

At the Shell/Pro Football Alumni banquet, which honored Tony Dorsett, proceeds from the banquet in the amount of \$10,000.00 were donated by Mr. Dorsett to the Hopewell Athletics Department.

Stephany Richards, Director of Transportation, gave a status report for Transportation:

- a. 21 drivers
- b. 4 sub drivers
- c. 22 routes
- d. 24 schools
- e. Average route time is 5 hours and 45 minutes
- f. Postcards for bus runs will go out August 15

Stephany said that she is actively trying to recruit new drivers and has 3 new applications. She stated that she will continue to tweak bus runs up until the start of school.

Mrs. Miller was appreciative of the fact that bus run times improved last year. She asked how long Senior and Junior High bus times would be this year. Ms. Richards stated as of now, run times are approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Mrs. Pistorius appreciated that the District was able to provide transportation to and from daycare centers.

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.

Megan Smith was concerned for the safety of students and staff should there be an active shooter, intrusion or emergency event. She asked if there was any safety gear should could supply her children with while they are in school. She also asked if the District planned to provide school-age trauma training. Ms. Smith suggested that the District supply classrooms with small pieces of fire hose that goes over door hinges to prevent entrance to a classroom.

Dr. Kartychak told Ms. Smith that Mr. Caton, through his connection with the Hopewell Fire Department, had provided enough fire hose for each classroom. He also reported that each classroom was fitted with jam locks. He explained to her that 75% of staff had been trained in "Stop the Bleed" and that training would continue. He said that the District, along with many police, safety and community members, participated in an active shooter drill recently which provided invaluable training to all who participated.

Rico Elmore said that he was there to get a feel for the community. Mr. Elmore is running for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 16th District in November 2022. He complimented the District on the active shooter drill and the steps the District has taken to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Mr. Bufalini continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Matthew Erickson, Chair**MOTION #4**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Senior High School exam schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the Educational Services Agreement with the Bradley Center for the 2022-2023 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 Service Agreement with Class Academy for two seats for the 2022-2023 school year at a cost of \$17,880.00 for the first seat and \$17,280.00 for the second seat. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Erickson asked if the District was required to pay for the second seat if it is not used. Dr. Kartychak explained that we do pay for the second seat, as this is more cost effective than having to pay the daily rate. The cost of both seats is spread over ten months.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the Service Agreement with the Watson Institute for the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the Education Services Agreement with Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems, which operates Custer City Private School for the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the Viking Connect Student Handbook for students in grade K-12. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the request from Mike Allison to eliminate the Thespian, French and Latin clubs from Hopewell High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request from Mike Allison to add the following clubs at Hopewell High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Ultimate Frisbee
- b. Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America

MOTION #12

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the Hopewell Area School District Comprehensive Plan for September 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the Hopewell Area School District Special Education Plan for July 30, 2022 to June 30, 2024. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Affiliation Agreement with Duquesne University for the placement of students for field experience, student teaching and internships. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Athletics by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #15

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the pay scale for officials for the 2022-2023 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mrs. Miller asked who sets the official pay scale. Dr. Kartychak explained that Mr. Short sets the pay scale based on competitive wages of other local districts.

Buildings and Grounds by Carla Buxton**MOTION #16**

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the Service Agreement with Hadfield Elevator for the 2022-2023 school year for the lift at Margaret Ross Elementary School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the proposal from Gary Mercadante to remove existing wood railings, fabricate and install two new steel railings at the Hopewell High School parking lot at a cost of \$5,850.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the proposal from Gary Mercadante to remove and replace railings from the locker room steps next to backup generator at the Junior High School in the amount of \$4,400.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #19

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve the proposal from Scherer Outdoor Lighting, Crane Service & Excavating, LLC to excavate and install new conduit and wires at Hopewell High School in the amount of \$2,950.00, including an additional \$5,125.00 to repair the parking lot surface with asphalt for a total of \$8,075.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Carla Buxton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the disposal of the following exercise equipment at the Junior High School. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. 3 stationary bikes (serial numbers: 06082, 06086, and 06084)
- b. 1 stepper (no serial number)
- c. 1 stationary bike (no serial number)

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair**MOTION #21**

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 List of Bills in the amount of \$539,244.38
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$82,708.25
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$4,272,894.67

Personnel by Matthew Erickson, Chair**MOTION #22**

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

MOTION #23

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to accept the resignation of Dr. Lauren Werner, special education teacher at the Senior High School, effective July 20, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #24

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to accept the resignation for retirement of Jennifer Henry, math teacher at the Senior High School, effective July 15, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #25

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to accept the resignation of Ashley Franz, 4.25 cafeteria position at Independence Elementary School, effective July 20, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #26

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the employment of Laura Davis, substitute cafeteria, effective August 25, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #27

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the change of employment status for Taylor George from temporary summer cleaning person to permanent transportation monitor, effective August 1, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #28

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve the change of employment status for John Prince from bus driver to substitute bus driver, effective July 20, 2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #29

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the employment of Sarah Ambrose as Extended School Year Substitute Nurse effective July 11, 2022. Compensation will be per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #30

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve the creation of Student Services Coordinator/Assistant Elementary Principal position. MOTION carried by a vote of 7 to 1, with Mrs. Zupsic voting no.

MOTION #31

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the Student Services Coordinator/Assistant Elementary Principal job description. MOTION carried by a vote of 7 to 1, with Mrs. Zupsic voting no.

Policy and Planning by Lori McKittrick, Chair

MOTION #32

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, to approve revised Board Policy 237 – Electronic Devices. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #33

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Matt Erickson, to approve revised Board Policy 815 – Acceptable Use. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Transportation by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #34

By Dan Caton, seconded by Jeanette Miller, to approve the following buses to be sold for scrap. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

50	72	2014	International	I.C.	SC88881	4DRBUAANXEB418876
52	72	2015	International	I.C.	SC70721	4DRBUAAN4FB708399

Mr. Caton asked if the buses were parted out before they were sold for scrap. Dr. Kartychak confirmed that these buses have sat on the lot for about a year and that the mechanics have taken all useful parts from them.

Other Business

None

Superintendents Report

Dr. Kartychak thanked Dr. Roth and Dr. Utchell for their work on the Comprehensive Plan and the Special Education Plan. This process takes about a year to complete and they did an excellent job.

Dr. Kartychak thanked Mrs. Henry for her 30 years of service to the District and wished her health and happiness in her retirement. She has been an excellent teacher and will be missed by many students and colleagues. He also wished Dr. Werner well with her new job at Fairmont State University in West Virginia. Dr. Werner has been with the District for five years and has always been a strong advocate for her students.

Dr. Kartychak reported that summer cleaning is going very well and that schools will be ready for teachers to return in early August.

Solicitor’s Report

None

Upcoming School Board Meetings

- August 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual
- August 23, 2022, 7:00 p.m. – Board Room and Virtual

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

Mr. Bufalini adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

David Bufalini, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary