

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 20, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in the Senior High School Auditorium on Monday, July 20, 2020. Visitors participated in the meeting via Zoom. This meeting was filmed for posting on the District website.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel issues. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended. Executive Sessions of the Board were also held on July 1, 2020 and July 13, 2020 to discuss personnel issues.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Lesia Dobo, Board 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
Matthew Erickson
Lori McKittrick
Darren Newberry
Kathryn Oblak
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Daniel Santia

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

Dr. Miller presented the District re-opening plan for the 2020-2021 School Year. Due to concerns regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the District will start school in September in the "Yellow" phase. Students will attend school two days per week and alternating Mondays. Remote learning will occur on the day's students are not in school. This presentation can be found on the District website.

Mrs. Dobo asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #1

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Jeff Winkle, to approve the June 22, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS

MOTION #2

By Dan Caton, 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 June, 2020, 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, 2020, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of June, 2020, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Since this was a virtual meeting for visitors, they were asked to submit their questions by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020. Dr. Miller responded to the following questions.

Will plastic face shields be acceptable as face covering, instead of cloth masks? These may be more tolerable for students to wear for an entire school day.

What does the online curriculum look like should we have to go virtual?

Has there been any word from the state around their willingness to postpone PSSA? Are face masks required for students or are they optional? How specifically will the classroom be setup to safely social distance? How is social distancing being accommodated on buses? How will students' temperatures be confirmed if they are taken at home? Some people do not take this seriously & I would not put my trust in the honor system. How will staff be

protected from being transmitted to or from? What is being done to improve the air quality & circulation knowing this is an airborne virus?

If it is not safe to have an in person board meeting, or more than 25 people inside a building, how are we supposed to be comfortable with the kids being sent back in school?

Has the district determined the amount of physical distance possible in each classroom and if minimum requirements are not able to be reached, would a hybrid model, where students rotate in-school days be considered? Will the district require/strongly recommend masks and/or face shields for all students and staff and how will they promote or enforce mask wearing? Will the district consider providing Plexiglas dividers for students and staff who are medically unable wear masks?

How will my son be able to be with his learning support teacher if they have to be 6' apart?

If in red, and learning virtually, will elementary teachers hold live classes to teach curriculum (and record the classes for those who need to watch asynchronous) and will they all be trained to use the same platform for delivery of instruction in order to keep the same quality of learning consistent across grades and different teachers?

What is the plan of action if a teacher would test positive and or a classmate/classmates family member? Virtual learning remotely?

How will drop off look for the kids going into school? Will there be a drive thru line? And how will the pickup process look?

One of our children does not wear a mask - we are working with him but he currently has not worn one and gets very anxious when trying to work with him. Will the teacher be uncomfortable with this and or willing to help navigate working with him to try to put one on?

Children with learning support - will they be required to be in that classroom for the day or will there be ability to move from classroom to classroom with ease?

I have concerns with the return to school 5 days a week with children required to wear masks, no air conditioning, no fans and no social distancing in the classroom.

Also, has there been any talk as to a hybrid model that would allow students to learn from home via their classroom thru teams...so when a student might have to be out for 14 days they will transition back in with ease.

Will you be providing an electronic device to each child if we opt to do cyber learning? And if our children are in the school but we have to go to remote learning due to a mandate will you provide children with devices for at home or do parents need to have these for our children?

I'm interested in hearing more about the plan for returning to school as I am very disappointed in what has been presented so far.

I was under the impression that the district reopening plan was to be voted upon by this body today, yet according Pennsylvania's Department of Education website, it states that HASD submitted their plan on June 25, 2020. Can you explain this?

How are you planning on achieving this social distancing when it is mathematically impossible with square footage in the classrooms, the number of lunch tables we will have and each of the 3 lunch periods having over 100 children (with no ventilation)?

Will any cough, snuffle, headache, throwing up, etc. automatically be classified as Covid? My Junior gets migraines that make her sick to stomach. Doesn't mean she has it.

Why are we still suggesting a hybrid option? Many schools are continuing to operate with full in-person instruction during the "yellow phase." If other districts are making this work, why can't Hopewell? From my research, some of these districts are larger and some are smaller. If most parents want in school instruction, according to the surveys, why is this not being completed?

Will children have to wear a mask or shield all day in school and during recess? If they do and parents say No, they are not permitting to having their child wear a mask or shield all day in class or outside, how will this be handled? I feel a lot of patents are against the mask or shield all day even if Gov Wolf mandates it. Technically it's illegal to force someone into the mask or shield cause mandating someone to wear a mask or shield is not a legislative law.

What should children of healthcare workers in contact with COVID19 positive patients be encouraged to do?

Why are we going forward with the hybrid option if we are not in yellow phase? Why are neighboring districts planning on attending daily in person and we are not?

Masks are 100% necessary to keep the kids and their families safe. With that said no air conditioning on hot days made the classroom an unfit learning environment. We are aware of parents who have pulled their kids out of school on these hot days worrying about their kids well-being. Masks will just make that environment worse for the kids. Is their going to be air conditioning added, even portable air conditioning to all classrooms?

Is having a shorter day possible to eliminate lunch in the middle of the day. Is it possible to provide lunch to those who want/need it at the end of the day before being sent home? The survey that was given stated that kids would sit every other seat and that is not 6ft. Covid spreads more easily at in door dining locations. A cafeteria isn't a restaurant but they are functionally the same, groups of people sitting in close proximity with no masks on.

Also, does the district plan to release an actual curriculum or syllabus of what Online learning is going to look like? I am very uncomfortable with the progression of virus and the restrictions the state has enacted and how are kids can safely go to school. There is no research on children in mass groups (like classroom settings of building of 200+) that shows how the virus spreads. Adults cannot gather inside over 25. So how can we expect in person learning with over 200 kids in a building. Adults are advised to telecommute (when possible). It is fully possible that we can tele commute for school and that will then reduce risk and exposure of kids and teachers. We can be the leader in keeping our staff and community safer.

What are your plans for transporting our children on school buses so far?

What healthcare staffing will be provided for children/kids passing out to watch for and eliminate heat exhaustion if masks are mandatory, no air conditioning and heat in August/Sept?

In an effort to promote social distancing and to allow for contact tracing of possible COVID-19 cases, is it not contradictory to have a hybrid school schedule but then at the same time allowing sports teams to mix students from different days of the hybrid school schedule?

Will the district be following the County color phases or making own assessment? (e.g. vote on 7/20 seems to be to open in yellow when we won't know the county color at time of proposed opening 9/8). If not following County color, how will changes be announced?

We would like more details concerning the lunch room. SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted through droplets and possibly aerosols, particularly in specific indoor locations, such as crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces over a prolonged period of time with infected persons. This means that spending time in the proposed lunch areas (cafeteria or gym) with poor ventilation and a large group of students talking loudly increases the risk of potential transmission. Is it not possible for students to eat in smaller groups in the classroom where they are all facing the same direction (no face-to-face interactions) with windows that can be open to increase circulation?

Inquiring about masks for children that are medically exempt and how it will be handled.

Also if parents are not permitted to attend sporting events or are limited in number are you willing to get the program nfhnetwork.com? This is a way to live stream and record sporting events for the entire district for parents and students to watch live or at a later date?

If masks are required to attend in class school, what will the accommodations be for those who have medical conditions that according to the American Disabilities Act and the mandate for the commonwealth stipulate do not need to wear a mask?

If we do not start classes until 9/8/2020 when will the 2020/2021 school year end? and when will a new calendar be released to parents?

How will parents be notified if a student or staff in a particular building tests positive for COVID19?

With having only 1/2 of the students in a building daily how will picture day, book fairs and other activities be handled?

What is being done for those students who do not have access to regular internet as my family IS one of those families who do not have access, not because we choose so, but because there is NO line to provide internet to my house.

Children with IEP's what this looks like for them?

What will happen when a teacher or student tests positive for Covid? Mandatory quarantines of those exposed? Mandatory testing?

How likely is it that classes will go remote?

What is the decision for masking on the bus and in school?

One question is what will the scheduling look like with Covid?

Students should NOT be eating in the cafeteria at any school since this is exposing the kids/staff to all airborne particles without proper ventilation and airborne disinfectants between lunches.

I work in the Transportation Dept. and I am concerned with the safety of the drivers. I am asking what your plans are on protecting us? As I have not seen anything about the protection to the driver. Please keep in mind how important our jobs are. I have been driving summer school this last week and let me tell you, it is a dangerous situation when you're wearing a mask that you can't breathe in, your glasses fog up and sweat running down your face and in your eyes while trying to pick up and drop off children and this is in a bus with air conditioning I can't imagine one without. It is also a dangerous situation to have to back up a bus at a stop. Not only is it a danger to all on board but everyone around us. So I am asking you to put some safety in place before the start of the school year. I know you have a lot on the table right now but this is a serious matter.

I do not plan on having my child wear a mask to school. They have sensitive skin and even wearing masks for a short time to go into stores this summer has left them with chapped skin and my oldest actually had an acne outbreak... that she has never had before and it broke the skin so she had open wounds on her chin area. In addition, the National Pediatric Association is saying it is not necessary for children under 15 to wear one. In addition, not all the schools have proper ventilation and air conditioning so it will be sweltering hot.

Wearing a mask makes it difficult to hear the teacher and speak to each other. If people feel the need to have their kids stay home because kids don't be wearing a mask that's fine but my children won't be wearing one.

In the event we do all online learning, will the platform be universal? In other words, would all classrooms be working on the same technology rather than one classroom doing SeeSaw, another doing Google Classroom, etc.

The school district must follow the color phase of the county for the emotional, mental, physical, and financial health of families they serve. The PA Health Director bases the phase on set criteria, so what data would the school board be using to decide their independent phases? How would the school board justify going against the guidance of the PA Health Director, as that would severely harm families that are not able to follow that phasing in their workplaces?

I understand the very legitimate concerns with going back to school, and think this is a larger issue of economics but, as the kids and teachers are being forced back, we need to be more flexible. For the parents that are able, offer cyber school, flex/partial school, and traditional school from the start. Starting in the yellow is making families choose between work and children, or exhaust their budgets on unplanned childcare. Having focus groups only during the business day, to help decide the direction, ignored the feedback of the families that will be most impacted. The school board's decision here will have very real impacts that need to be considered for ALL of the students, not just a privileged few.

Education is very important for the kids. How are they supposed to move forward with education only going 2 days a week? How are they expected to wear a mask all day long when it's ridiculously hot in there with no AC? The kids need to go back to school every day. Starting school back in the yellow phase is honestly ridiculous. We have been in the green phase for a long time now. It's time to give these kids back a little bit of normalcy. I refuse to do any type of online education. I'm not a teacher I did not go to school for education. Our tax dollars for the school goes towards our kid's education. We the parents should have the SAY in what our kids do when it comes to school. If people are afraid to send their kids back to school

Give them the option to stay home. But making that decision for us is downright wrong.

With all of the extra steps being taken to socially distance and additional cleaning steps throughout the school day (I.E. staggering arrival and dismissal, lunch, etc. It will inevitably add more time to the school day. Will the school day hours change to accommodate the additional time needed or will the students suffer with less instruction time with their teachers?

Also, what social/emotional supports will be put in place for children both in school and for families who are schooling virtually. I have one child who is emotionally struggling and I am curious how the school will handle this.

Are there emotional supports for the teachers as well. There is a great group of teachers in Hopewell and I know this has to be hard for them as well. I hope that the district is finding some way to support the teachers through these changes as well.

What is the plan for working parents who cannot have their children at home to do the hybrid schooling, especially those with IEPs?

High school will not be changing clothes for gym but appropriate attire is required. What does that mean?

If school is started as a hybrid when will there be a re-evaluation to send the kids back on a full time basis?

I understand there are concerns for everyone's physical health but are we taking into consideration our children's mental health also?

If in the 'Yellow Phase,' will students with IEPs be permitted to attend school 5 days/week? Is this a definite plan?

Please speak about masks in depth. This is vital for families with children who have mental anxiety with them. My child suffers from anxiety due to and claustrophobia. If she goes and does not need to wear a mask will she be isolated more than others with masks. Is a face shield allowed without a mask? If so, this is an option we are able to work with but not sure for an extended amount of time/ full school day.

As I understand the plan currently, the way the school day will be handled is solely dependent on the color of phase our county is in. Is that correct? Is there a situation that would cause our district to change their response not dependent on the governor's classification of our county's phase?

What are the parameters that would indicate a cause for changing how our school day is handled? I.E.- If our phase color is changed by the governor or if, the answer to my previous question is that yes, there are parameters that would cause a change outside of Beaver county's phase, what are those benchmarks that would cause a change and what persons would be involved in making that decision?

How will the district seamlessly navigate between potential changes in phases or how their school day is handled? What have we learned from this springs circumstances?

How will teachers be protected? If it comes to light that there is a positive case in their classroom, will they be forced to use accrued sick time or PTO?

How will contact tracing be handled? Is that an issue that the district is prepared and legally able to navigate?

If in fact it is decided that masks are required, Is the district prepared to provide one-day use, disposable masks for each student? If not how can you be assured of proper cleaning and disinfection of reusable masks used by children?

How will the isolation rooms be handled? If a child arrives without a mask how will they be handled? does each school have enough space for multiple children to be held in isolation if necessary?

Per the questions on the transportation survey, how is the district equipped to provide transportation to their full load of students, operating on a typical daily schedule? Has the district acquired more buses and drivers to adequately transfer the children per the parameters?

I would like to know what the Hopewell cyber platform will look like. I would be insane to not sign my 2 kids up with an establish cyber school knowing that the teachers have not had any training in online teaching. I would like for Hopewell administration to convince me otherwise.

Will families choosing the cyber option for the fall be able to move to the traditional classroom during the school year if family situation changes, or vice versa?

Will cyber classes continue if we go "red" and schools close? Can students that are attending in-person school be allowed to enroll in cyber if we go "red"? Is there a limit for the number of students enrolled in cyber for each grade? Will title I be offered to those students in the cyber school? If my child is in the cyber program, can I send them back into the school during the school year if I choose to? Who will the teachers be for the cyber program? How much time is required to be spent online for cyber, either per day or per week?

I would like more information on our cyber option.

We also want to double check that cyber learning is an option instead of in person instruction.

What do we need to do if we choose the Hopewell Cyber Option? Is there a deadline to decide? Can we easily have our children go to their traditional elementary school if we so chose at a later date?

Will a family be able to change the choice they make during the school year as to whether their child will be attending school in person (if that is an option) or virtually? For example, if a family chooses in person but realizes that the changes that have to be put in place are too much for a child, can they later request to school virtually? Or if a family chooses virtually but needs to later put their child in school due to a change in the family's circumstances, will they be able to?

Will students who are enrolling in the Hopewell Cyber program still be able to access other district programs such as Lexia, Freckle, Read-N-Quiz, etc.?

Are there any accommodations for students with IEPs on the cyber program?

Approximately how many hours of work per day is the program and is it flexible for students to do on evenings and weekends if parents work?

Will the cyber option be able to be started before Sept 8th?

What is the student/teacher ratio for the cyber program? Will there be dedicated teacher from Hopewell as well?

I would like to know if the District plans to put out a survey to see how many kids/families actually want in-person learning in the fall vs. how many are online.

What is the deadline for parents/children to decide if they will return in-person or choose cyber option?

Will the Hopewell cyber school option offer synchronous and asynchronous teaching? Will the students have a virtual class meeting with other students or teacher? Will the teacher provide instructional videos - the teacher providing a lecture, not something from YouTube?

If a student enrolls in cyber school and the color shifts to green, can student switch to in-person school? Vice versa - if a student starts with in-person option, can they switch to cyber option mid-year?

Can we have additional information concerning the proposed cyber-school option? Will the cyber classes be lecture based? Based on our daughter's experience in the high school, the 2 cyber classes she took through Edgenuity were not lecture based and resulted in a subpar learning experience. Will those who are currently in honors classes be in advanced classes using the cyber option? How will children be assessed for classes next year?

If we choose to send our child to school can we make the decision to change to the cyber option if we are uncomfortable with the implementation of the safety procedures?

Requesting more information about the cyber option and alternating schedules for both Elementary and Junior High. Thank you!

If a student chooses the Cyber option to start the school year off with, are they able to transition back to in person instruction during the school year?

When the air turns cold, will the heaters be allowed since the blowers recirculate air the same as an air conditioner or fan?

Custodians only had a limited number of minutes to clean each classroom before the new restrictions and changes. How many additional minutes per classroom will they have now for cleaning to satisfactorily meet the restrictions/changes?

If, there is any virtual learning, will the school provide in home tutors? My husband and I are not teachers neither is grandma who watches my kids since my husband and I are essential workers. The end of last year's virtual school sessions was a disaster.

Now that we know the deplorable conditions of the Hopewell elementary building, have any improvements been made over the summer?

Also, how would students who do not drive attend after school practices on days they are not in school if they do not have transportation to the school due to parents working, etc...?

In review of the agenda, it appears we are ending the direct relationship with a Business Administrator and will be contracting to share w/Laurel School District. What is the reasoning for this change?

Another question is; why is the girls golf team being eliminated? My daughter wants to participate, but we have not been given any information on how to join the team. She will be playing for the soccer team as well and was told another girl on the soccer team is interested in playing for the girls golf team. She was also told a new member to the soccer team comes from the golf team, so there are at least 3 girls who are interested and I am sure there would be more if the information on the golf team was more readily available. Also why are students and parents not informed of such a decision until the board meeting that you are considering to stop of girls golf team?

The agenda references Executive Sessions on July 1, 2020, July 13, 2020, and before tonight's meeting, to discuss personnel. The courts have held that under Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, simply providing "personnel" as a reason is legally insufficient. More details must be provided to that the public can determine if the closed sessions were proper. Can the solicitor address this, please?

Also when will kindergarten screening be held?

If we choose the Hopewell cyber Option will taxes be affected since there will be less resources needed for a number of students?

As a grandparent, who has a middle school child residing in my home, I wish to convey how eager my grandson is to return to school, in person. Never one to get excited about school, these past few months have brought a new perspective to him. As the saying goes,

absence makes the heart grow fonder. When we received the letter from the district a few weeks ago, that the students would be returning to the school, in person, five days a week, as long as the county was in the "green" stage, he actually expressed excitement about it. Anything less is going to put him back in the malaise I witnessed when he learned remotely from March to June. My grandson was not challenged during those months of "learning." Even he admitted as much. And the lack of normal socialization weighed on his spirit. I, his grandmother and mother fully support his return to school, full time - five days a week, with the necessary precautions as enumerated by the Commonwealth's Education secretary. Thank you for taking our opinion into consideration.

What will be the sick policy for multiple children inside the school if one is sick but not the other?

Why are district meetings for teachers being held offsite so as to "enjoy air conditioned spaces" when teachers won't be allowed to use fans blowing inward or medically prescribed air conditioners in their classrooms due to the risk of spreading COVID-19 (per PTA focus group notes)?

Mrs. Vivian Lumbar requested that her email to the Board of School Directors on July 9 be included in the visitor's section.

Good morning ladies, first off I want to start by saying that I have no expectations that any district in any part of the world right now has all the answers. We are in uncharted territory and I completely get that! It's difficult to even come up with questions right now because we really don't even know what to ask! But here are These things weighing most heavily on my mind right now...I would like to also request ahead of time that the questions be typed up and distributed as soon as possible via the school district website. I would also request that the district and board responses be easier to hear and understand via the virtual meeting. in the past it is very difficult to hear anyone who is not sitting directly in front of the computer being used to stream the zoom meaning. Oftentimes as Dr Miller reads her prepared responses it goes fast enough that we are not able to understand. Some of us have gained a little more hearing by using headphones or at your beds, however the speed at which the responses are made make it incredibly difficult to understand to the average participant operating on an iPad, phone or computer. There is a chat feature and it would be really convenient and helpful if there is someone who was also dictating the comments and responses in written form live at that time. I would also ask that each question concern or comment be addressed at that time. We have observed school faculty ask a litany of questions that have gone unanswered and unaddressed and the board has gone straight into roll call votes.

Again I appreciate the difficult position that everyone is in right now and offer these suggestions only to help gain the communities participation and trust in the district and boards handling of this very delicate situation.

1. As I understand the plan currently, the way the school day will be handled is solely dependent on the color of phase our county is in. Is that correct? Is there a situation

- that would cause our district to change their response not dependent on the governor's classification of our county's phase?*
- 2. What are the parameters that would indicate a cause for changing how our school day is handled? I.E.- If our phase color is changed by the governor or if, the answer to my previous question is that yes, there are parameters that would cause a change outside of Beaver county's phase, what are those benchmarks that would cause a change and what persons would be involved in making that decision?*
 - 3. How will the district seamlessly navigate between potential changes in phases or how their school day is handled? What have we learned from this springs circumstances?*
 - 4. How will teachers be protected? If it comes to light that there is a positive case in their classroom, will they be forced to use a crude sick time or PTO?*
 - 5. How will contact tracing be handled? Is that an issue that the district is prepared and legally able to navigate?*
 - 6. If in fact it is decided that masks are required, Is the district prepared to provide one day use, disposable masks for each student? If not how can you be assured of proper cleaning and disinfection of reusable masks used by children?*
 - 7. How will the isolation rooms be handled? If a child arrives without a mask how will they be handled? does each school have enough space for multiple children to be held in isolation if necessary?*
 - 8. Per the questions on the transportation survey, how is the district equipped to provide transportation to their full load of students, operating on a typical daily schedule? Has the district acquired more buses and drivers to adequately transfer the children per the parameters?*

Mrs. Vivian Lumbar requested that her email to the Board of School Directors on July 9 be included in the visitor's section.

In my July 9, 2020 email about Hopewell Area School District's Reopening Plan, I suggested that the thinking about how to reopen our schools might be flawed. I have since realized that I, myself, fell into that same trap by correlating reopening phases to the county's phases and, as such, I have to apologize and amend some of my previous statements. The latest research from Florida is that children are contracting COVID-19 at similar rates to adults and may be suffering organ damage even if they don't present their symptoms as strongly as adults. Additionally, when the pandemic started, we protected our children first by closing our schools, so the infection rate numbers overall are skewed, since the children weren't being potentially exposed at a rate consistent with adults. We are now seeing cases where people are getting the virus a second time, which brings up concerns about whether herd immunity can be achieved without vaccinations. Governor Wolf's latest order that initiated the Board to hold the July 20, 2020 School Board Meeting

virtually and contact tracing requirements for schools is now a factor. Given these newest facts, I now believe that HASD should start the school year with remote learning. If our School Board cannot even meet in-person consistently during the summer, then it is simply not safe enough for our staff and students to return to school, even at half or one-fifth the numbers. Sports activities could still be governed by the county's phases. Students that are receiving therapies, etc. should still be able to obtain those therapies at a district building so long as the county is not red. By starting from the absolute safest option, regardless of Beaver County's phase, the administration and educators can begin planning now for how best to conduct remote learning effectively with the hopes of adding more focused in-person instruction later in the school year. Families would not have to choose cyber learning and whether or not to change to remote learning in the future, while all students would be receiving consistent instruction from their regularly assigned teachers remotely. The administration and staff can work together to address concerns for safety, instructional time, changes in procedure(s) and teaching strategies, etc. without a looming time crunch under changing conditions. The administration, working with the educators, should first identify those groups of students who are the greatest risk for learning loss from the lack of in-person instruction and prioritize those groups based on need. I believe on average, it may be grades K-2 and some special needs, but that is not for me to decide. Now they can work together to determine how best to bring those students back safely on a hybrid schedule and what that schedule should look like (i.e. number of days, half-day vs. full day, etc.). They can specifically ask those parents whether they wish to continue remote learning or attempt the hybrid schedule and have a better idea of how many students to accommodate in-person. There may be those students that have a higher need for daily in-person instruction where it may be possible to bring them back in even smaller groups first (e.g. life skills). Transportation and staggered scheduling, social distancing, building usage, educator resources (i.e. larger block instruction, one educator recording videos/another available for student chats, etc.) could be better discussed, planned and executed with a smaller group of students. Based on how the hybrid schedule is working and using the lessons learned, as well as the most up-to-date research and county phase, they could then determine if the next best course of action would be to bring those initial students in for more days of in-person instruction, begin bringing in smaller grade cohorts for those who might be at higher risk at home, or if they should begin to attempt a whole grade each at the Junior High and/or High School, etc. Once we begin to have some students on a hybrid schedule, a priority focus should be to keep those students that are already on the hybrid schedule there unless the county is in a red phase, even if it means delays bringing in the next group for in-person instruction. By utilizing lessons learned at each step and addressing the situation incrementally and thoughtfully, I believe a reopening plan that is smaller, focused and allowing sufficient time for the stakeholders to address as many concerns as possible without undue pressure to return every child to in-person instruction immediately will allow a much better experience overall for our students and staff, less ping-ponging between types of instruction based on our county phase designation or infections at the schools, far more flexibility on how to achieve successful outcomes for each group with each incremental step and, most importantly, be the safest option overall for everyone within our schools and our community. Unfortunately, there is no perfect solution; we have many competing needs as well as viewpoints within our district. However, I truly believe that by slowing down the process and shifting our

district's focus to smaller, incremental steps, it will be the best and safest option and produce a more consistent learning experience for our students. Thank you, Vivian M. Lombard 2867 Brodhead Road Aliquippa, PA 15001

Questions:

1. *I was under the impression that the district reopening plan was to be voted upon by this body today, yet according Pennsylvania's Department of Education website, it states that HASD submitted their plan on June 25, 2020. Can you explain this?*
2. *If our schools were to return to in-person instruction, whether every day or a hybrid schedule: Pennsylvania announced revised guidelines on July 16, 2020 which specifically state 6 feet between people in classrooms and joint use spaces (such as cafeterias), and all children facing the same direction - not across the table from each other. Also in those guidelines, it states 25 people or less per indoor gathering which is the reason for this virtual Board meeting.*
 - a. *How are you planning on achieving this social distancing when it is mathematically impossible with square footage in the classrooms, the number of lunch tables we will have and each of the 3 lunch periods having over 100 children (with no ventilation)?*
 - b. *Why are district meetings for teachers being held offsite so as to "enjoy air conditioned spaces" when teachers won't be allowed to use fans blowing inward or medically prescribed air conditioners in their classrooms due to the risk of spreading COVID-19 (per PTA focus group notes)?*
 - c. *When the air turns cold, will the heaters be allowed since the blowers recirculate air the same as an air conditioner or fan?*
 - d. *Custodians only had a limited number of minutes to clean each classroom before the new restrictions and changes. How many additional minutes per classroom will they have now for cleaning to satisfactorily meet the restrictions/changes?*

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Jeff Winkle, Chair**MOTION #3**

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the Hybrid School schedule, presented as “yellow”, incorporating two days of on-site instruction, in addition to alternating Mondays, and two days of remote learning, for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year, in order to support current health and safety guidance and regulations, as well as to maximize student face to face instruction. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #4

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve Resolution 16-2020 declaring the Covid-19 pandemic an emergency and authorizing the Superintendent to develop alternate instructional plans to employ in-person, virtual and distance learning as the Superintendent deems appropriate in accordance with 24 P.S. 520.1 of the Pennsylvania School Code. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Darren Newberry, to approve the expansion of the District’s cyber program to include all grade levels, K-12. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Jeff Winkle, 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 2020-2021 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Matthew Erickson, to approve the Service Agreement with the Watson Institute to provide services for students for the 2020-2021 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Revision of 2020-2021 school calendar that changes the students' first day of school to September 8, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Matthew Erickson, to accept the \$20,000.00 grant from the Women for a Healthy Environment for the purpose of lead in drinking water testing and remediation for the grant period ending December 31, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Jeff Winkle, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the District's participation in the Beaver County Arts Education Consortium for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$650.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Athletics by Dan Caton, ChairMOTION #11

By Dan Caton, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the fall coaches and salaries, subject to completion of the fall sports season and proration of the salaries in the event that the fall sports season is shortened. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Dan Caton, seconded by Matthew Erickson, to approve the elimination of Girl's Golf and Boy's Tennis, effective the 2020-2021 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair**APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS****MOTION #13**

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 \$219,922.53
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$18,839.76
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$3,870,767.55

MOTION #14

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Jeff Winkle, to approve Resolution #17-2020 for a 60-month lease with Wesbanco for \$508,056 with the first payment due at closing of \$101,611 and 4 annual payments of \$106,814 at an interest rate of 2.0% for 5 buses (bids accepted May 18, 2020) and 3, 10 passenger Ford Transit vans (Co-stars price of \$34,352/each). Total repayment from the capital reserve account will be \$528,867. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve Resolution #18-2020 for a 48-month lease with Wesbanco for \$197,993 with 4 annual payments of \$52,353.03 and an interest rate of 2.25% for devices for online instruction as outlined in the District's Viking CONNECT 1:1 device program. Total repayment will be \$209,412.12. This lease will be paid with PCCD/COVID-19 funds for year one. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPED ITEMS**MOTION #16**

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve items (1) through (4) 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 Chris E. and Kathleen S. Yanko to purchase tax parcels #65-018-0210.000, #65-018-0211.000 and #65-018-0212.000 located in Hopewell Township out of repository. The 2019-20 and prior years' taxes shall be exonerated.

2. Request of Catherine Diegmiller to purchase tax parcel #66-222-0111.003 located in Independence Township out of repository. The 2019-20 and prior years' taxes shall be exonerated.
3. Request of Charles Harris to purchase tax parcels #65-184-0104.002 and #65-194-0101.004 located in Hopewell Township out of repository. The 2019-20 and prior years' taxes shall be exonerated.
4. Request of Diana Pander to purchase tax parcels #65-004-0924.000, #65-004-0925.000, and #65-004-0906.000 located in Hopewell Township out of repository. The 2019-20 and prior years' taxes shall be exonerated.

Personnel by Matthew Erickson

MOTION #17

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the employment of Lauran Macon, learning support teacher at Hopewell Junior High School, at step 1 of the Bachelor's scale, effective August 27, 2020, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried by a vote of six to two, with Messrs. Winkle and Caton voting no.

MOTION #18

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to approve the employment of Samantha Hayduk, learning support teacher at Hopewell Elementary School, at step 1 of the Master's scale, effective August 27, 2020, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried by a vote of six to two, with Messrs. Winkle and Caton voting no.

MOTION #19

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Dan Caton, to accept the resignation for retirement of George Bailey, custodian, effective June 30, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation for retirement of Donna Emery, Senior High School paraprofessional, effective July 13, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Darren Newberry, to accept the resignation of Jennifer L. Conrad as an employee of the District as the Business Administrator, effective July 31, 2020. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Shared Services Agreement between the School District and Laurel School District to provide business administrator services to the School District effective August 1, 2020, substantially in the form presented at this meeting with such changes as may be approved by the Board President and Solicitor. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Matthew Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the appointment of Jennifer L. Conrad as Business Administrator effective August 1, 2020, through the Shared Services Agreement with Laurel School District. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miller asked for a moment of silence to remember the life of John Schafer, a long-time friend, fundraiser and supporter of the District. John worked tirelessly for the Football program, raising money, working concessions and helping whenever needed. John was a true Hopewell Viking and will be missed.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

August 10, 2020, Regular Work Meeting, TBD

August 24, 2020, Regular Business Meeting, TBD

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

Mrs. Dobo adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Lesia Dobo, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary