

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR WORK MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

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

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

An Executive Session was held 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.

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

Carla Buxton
Daniel Caton
Victoria Gill
Anissa Klesser
Jeanette Miller
Bethany Pistorius
Daniel Santia
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Matthew Erickson

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; Johannah Robb, Business Administrator; John Salopek, Solicitor, Nancy Barber, Secretary; Rob Kartychak, Korri Kane, Gary Hutsler and Donna Steff, principals; and visitors.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

1. Free school privileges for Callie O'Brien to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Free school privileges for Isaac Torres to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year.

Buildings and Grounds: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request of the Ambridge Area School District to use the varsity tennis courts on August 29, 2023 and September 6, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for their home tennis matches. Cost will be \$50.00 per match.
2. Request from Our Lady of Fatima School to use the Senior High School grass fields beginning August 17, 2023 through October 26, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for soccer practice

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

1. Employment of Brett Smith, Head Wrestling Coach, at a stipend of \$5,279.00, effective August 9, 2023.
2. Employment of Stan Magusiak, Head Bowling Coach, at a stipend of \$2,364.00, effective August 9, 2023.
3. Resignation of Leslie Dennis, paraprofessional, effective July 27, 2023.
4. Resignation for retirement of Amy Carl, paraprofessional, effective July 27, 2023.
5. Resignation of Shannon Casillas, special education teacher at the Junior High School, effective August 9, 2023.
6. Resignation of Briana DeNardo, elementary art teacher, effective July 17, 2023.
7. Dr. Robert Kartychak as Acting Senior High School Principal, effective August 9, 2023 and to grant Dr. Kartychak a leave of absence from his current position as Assistant High School Principal while serving as the Acting Senior High School Principal.
8. Mr. Gary Hutsler as Acting Senior High School Assistant Principal, effective August 9, 2023 and to grant Mr. Hutsler a leave of absence from his current position as Assistant Elementary Principal while serving as the Acting Senior High School Assistant Principal. Tabled.
9. Resignation of BobbieRae George, transportation aide, effective August 15, 2023. Ms. George would like to remain on the substitute transportation roster.
10. Change of employment status for Tyler Dolence-Ditoro, from transportation aide to full-time bus driver, effective August 3, 2023.
11. Employment of Leann Bridge, special education teacher at the Junior/Senior High Schools, at step 1 of the masters scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation.

12. Employment of Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, at step 1 of the masters scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation.
13. Resignation of Anita Dempsey, bus driver, effective August 7, 2023
14. Resignation for retirement of Michael Samek, social studies teacher at Hopewell High School, effective August 14, 2023.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the August 22, 2023 Business meeting.

Education/Curriculum/Instruction: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Mrs. Pistorius, Co-Chair

1. Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide Title One Services to students at Our Lady of Fatima and Saints Peter and Paul for the 2023-2024 school year at a per pupil allocation of \$1,049.47.
2. Senior High School club and activity sponsors for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Junior High School club and activity sponsors for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Agreement with the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit to provide ESL (English as A Second Language) for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$105.00 per hour.
5. Request of Dr. Kartychak for the Senior High School marching band and choir to travel to Williamsburg, Virginia from April 12, 2024 through April 14, 2024.
6. Student handbooks for the Senior High School, Junior High School and Elementary School.
7. Review of the District's Health and Safety Plan, pursuant to ESSER requirements. At this time, there are no recommended changes to the Plan.

Buildings and Grounds: Daniel Caton, Chair; Vicki Gill, Co-Chair

1. Request of the Viking Pride Marching Band to use the Junior High School cafeteria on September 30, 2023 for a craft show.
2. Request of the Knights of Columbus Hopewell Township to use the Senior High School soccer practice fields on September 30, 2023 for a skills competition.

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

1. Continuation of current SRO/Inter-agency agreement for the 2023-2024 school year. Discontinuation of this agreement can occur at any time by either party with 30 days notice. **(Roll Call)**.

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.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Beltz announced that Mr. Hutsler would not be transitioning to the Senior High School as assistant principal.

Crystal Borrer thanked the Board for their decision not to transfer Mr. Hutsler to the Senior High School. She felt it is important to have an administrator in every building. She also feels strongly that each elementary school should have their own guidance counselor.

Bridget Osterried also thanked the Board for their decision not to transfer Mr. Hutsler to the Senior High School.

Mr. Santia stated that this was a decision by Mr. Hutsler and that the Board accepted his preference to remain as the Assistant Principal at Independence Elementary School.

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

Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Bethany Pistorius, Co-Chair

MOTION #2

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, approved free school privileges for Callie O'Brien to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Carla Buxton, approved free school privileges for Isaac Torres to attend Hopewell Senior High School for the 2023-2024 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Caton, Chair

MOTION #4

By Dan Caton, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the request of Ambridge Area School District to use the varsity tennis courts on August 29, 2023 and September 6, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for their home tennis matches. Cost will be \$50.00 per match. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Dan Caton, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the request of Our Lady of Fatima School to use the Senior High School grass fields beginning August 17, 2023 through October 26, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for soccer practice. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Personnel by Lindsey Zupsic, Chair

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Brett Smith, Head Wrestling Coach, at a stipend of \$5,279.00, effective August 9, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Stan Magusiak, Head Bowling Coach, at a stipend of \$2,364.00, effective August 9, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation of Leslie Dennis, paraprofessional, effective July 27, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation for retirement of Amy Carl, paraprofessional, effective July 27, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Carla Buxton, accepted the resignation of Shannon Casillas, special education teacher at the Junior High School, effective August 9, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Briana DeNardo, elementary art teacher, effective July 17, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Santia, approved Dr. Robert Kartychak as Acting Senior High School Principal, effective August 9, 2023 and to grant Dr. Kartychak a leave of absence from his current position as Assistant High School Principal while serving as the Acting Senior High School Principal. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Dr. Beltz stated that the Motion to approve Mr. Gary Hutsler as Acting Senior High School Assistant Principal was tabled.

MOTION #13

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of BobbieRae George, transportation aide, effective August 15, 2023. Ms. George would like to remain on the substitute transportation roster. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Dan Caton, approved the change of employment status for Tyler Dolence-Ditoro, from transportation aide to full-time bus driver, effective August 3, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #15

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Leann Bridge, special education teacher at the Junior/Senior High Schools, at step 1 of the masters scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #16

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Emily Steinmetz, elementary art teacher, at step 1 of the masters scale, effective August 21, 2023, pending receipt of all necessary clearances and documentation. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #17

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Anita Dempsey, bus driver, effective August 7, 2023. Ms. Dempsey has asked to remain on the transportation substitute roster. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #18

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Anissa Klessner, accepted the resignation for retirement of Michael Samek, social studies teacher at Hopewell High School, effective August 14, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz congratulated those individuals that would be inducted into the Hopewell Sports Hall of Fame on August 24, 2023. They include: Chuck Blaney, Dale Grimes, Butch Bass, Dina Spagnolo, Kim McCabe and the late Vince Gratta.

Dr. Beltz also congratulated Mr. Allison on his retirement after 25 years of service to the District.

Dr. Beltz wanted to take this opportunity to thank the parents who fundraised to provide new uniforms for the Junior High School football team.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

August 22, 2023, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

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

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary