

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR WORK MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, in the Central Administration Board Room as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Daniel Santia, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Bethany Pistorius, seconded by Dan Caton, 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 and labor relations. 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:

Daniel Caton  
Matthew Erickson  
Victoria Gill  
Anissa Klessner  
Jeanette Miller  
Bethany Pistorius  
Daniel Santia  
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent  
Carla Buxton

Also present were: Dr. Jeffrey Beltz, Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor, Nancy Barber, Secretary; Edward Katkich and Korri Kane, principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction 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. Agreement with the Prevention Network to provide services for the Student Assistance Program for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to the District.

**Finance and Budget:** Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. Proposal from Reschini Group to assist with employer reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act in the amount of \$6.50 per required filing.
2. Proposal from McMar Design LLC (Quote #: 32024230-A) in the amount of \$4,277.30 for the purchase of additional door jam blocks throughout the District. All costs will be funded through the PCCD grant.

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

1. Resignation of Sheila Lubert, Business Administrator, effective August 22, 2023.
2. Employment of Katelyn King, transportation aide, effective August 28, 2023.
3. Revision to the girls soccer pay scale:

a.	Victor Ndinyah	\$5592.00
b.	Wendy Blake	\$3610.00
c.	2nd assistant (vacant)	\$1700.00
d.	Jose Gonzalez	\$2846.00
4. Resignation for retirement of Georgette O'Connor, paraprofessional at the Senior High School, effective October 1, 2023.
5. Employment of Richard Garris, English/Language Arts teacher at the Junior High School, at step 1 of the masters scale, pending receipt of all clearances.
6. Employment of Lori Peterson, half-time art teacher at the Junior High School, a step 1 of the bachelor's scale, pending receipt of all clearances.
7. Resignation of Howard Cervone, Director of Transportation, effective September 22, 2023.

At this time, Dr. Beltz began his review of those items that would be voted on at the September 26, 2023 Business meeting.

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

1. Appointment of the following:

a.	Dr. Moka as District Physician - \$10 per exam;
b.	Optometric Care as District Vision Examiner - \$3.40 per exam; and
c.	Dr. Rich Covatto to provide dental exams - \$5 per exam.

2. Samuel Phillips, a student at Point Park University, to complete his student teaching at the Junior High School during the fall semester, under the guidance of Anna Smyers.
3. Amy Baker, at student at the University of Pittsburgh, to complete her school nurse certification, under the direction of Leah Meehan and Adriane Prickett.

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

1. Request of Joe Sullivan to use the Junior High School band room beginning September 20, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Mr. Sullivan will not have access to the building during times the District is closed.
2. Request of Hopewell Youth Basketball to use Gym A at the Junior High School Monday through Friday beginning October 16, 2023 through March 8, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
3. Request of the Girls Basketball Boosters to use gyms A and B at the Junior High School and the Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on December 8, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and on December 9, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a basketball tournament.
4. Request of the Girls Basketball Boosters to use the Main and Auxiliary gyms at the Senior High School on Saturday mornings during the months of January and February 2024 for a Junior High School girls winter league.

**Finance and Budget:** Mrs. Zupsic, Co-Chair; Mrs. Miller, Co-Chair

1. Agreement with Questeq for E-Rate Category 1 and 2 Strategy and Application Process for the 2023-2024 school year. The District's contribution is 5% of pre-discount amounts for E-Rate purchases.
2. Request of Aliquippa Bucktails to purchase parcels 65-011-1316-000 and 65-011-1320-000 located in Hopewell Township out of the Beaver County Repository. All delinquent taxes from 2020-2021 tax year and prior years are exonerated. (**Roll Call**)

**Legislative:** Mrs. Miller, Chair; Mrs. Buxton, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. PSBA Election of Officers.
  - a. Allison Mathis President
  - b. Sabrina Backer Vice President
  - c. Karen Beck Pooley Treasurer
  - d. Marsha Pleta Western Zone Representative
  - e. Marianne Neel PSBA Insurance Trustee
  - f. Michael Faccinetto PSBA Insurance Trustee

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

1. Remove the following individuals from the cafeteria sublist, effective immediately.
  - a. Paula Bain
  - b. Lauren Giles
  - c. Nadine Kennelly
  - d. Andrea Lisenby
  - e. Rose Morrison
  - f. Earlene Nale

### **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.

**Jodi Hample**

Ms. Hample spoke of a bullying incident by two Junior High School boys soccer players. After the incident, she checked District policies regarding bullying and believed them to be out of date. She did not feel District staff handled discipline appropriately. She asked who makes the decision regarding school policy, how policies are updated and how that information is disseminated to the public.

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

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction by Matthew Erickson, Chair**

**MOTION #2**

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the Agreement with the Prevention Network to provide services for the Student Assistance Program for the 2023-2024 school year. There is no cost to the District. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Finance and Budget by Lindsay Zupsic**

**MOTION #3**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the proposal from Reschini Group to assist with employer reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act in the amount of \$6.50 per required filing. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**MOTION #4**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approved the proposal from McMar Design LLC (Quote #: 32024230-A) in the amount of \$4,277.30 for the purchase of additional door jam blocks throughout the District. All costs will be funded through the PCCD grant. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Lindsey Zupsic, Chair**

**MOTION #5**

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, accepted the resignation of Sheila Lubert, Business Administrator, effective August 22, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, approved the employment of Katelyn King, transportation aide, effective August 28, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, approve the revision to the girls soccer pay scale. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

a.	Victor Ndinyah	\$5,592.00
b.	Wendy Blake	\$3,610.00
c.	2nd assistant (vacant)	\$1,700.00
d.	Jose Gonzalez	\$2,846.00

MOTION #8

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Bethany Pistorius, accepted the resignation for retirement of Georgette O'Connor, paraprofessional at the Senior High School, effective October 1, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Richard Garris, English/Language Arts teacher at the Junior High School, at step 1 of the masters scale, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Jeanette Miller, approved the employment of Lori Peterson, half-time art teacher at the Junior High School, a step 1 of the bachelor's scale, pending receipt of all clearances. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Victoria Gill, accepted the resignation of Howard Cervone, Transportation Director, effective September 22, 2023. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Beltz addressed Ms. Hample's concerns about the bullying incident and explained that there are times when incidents occur outside of school jurisdiction and there is only so much

the District is able to do. He said that administration was aware of the incident and handled it within the scope of our authority. He said that the bullying policy is also in student handbooks.

Dr. Beltz followed up with information regarding questions asked at the last Board meeting regarding books in elementary libraries on topics related to body image and sexual content. Dr. Beltz stated that the books in question were not in our elementary libraries. He stated that at the Junior High School books with young adult content need parental permission to be checked out by students.

Dr. Beltz announced that the Senior High School open house would be September 14, the Junior High would be September 28 and the elementary schools is September 21, 2023.

#### Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 26, 2023, Regular Business Meeting will be in the Central Administration Board Room and virtually.

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

Mr. Santia adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Daniel Santia, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary