HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR WORK MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the Senior High School Auditorium as well as virtually, via Zoom. This meeting was recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board President.

MOTION #1

By Dan Caton, seconded by Dan Santia, to approved the agenda as presented. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

An Executive Session was held on September 7, 2021 and prior to the start of this meeting to discuss personnel. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania’s Sunshine Law, as amended.

Mr. Winkle clarified discussions at previous Executive Session meetings.

1. An Executive Session was held on Monday, August 2, 2021 to discuss personnel, litigation and collective bargaining matters.  The personnel matters were regarding the Superintendent search, labor grievances with the Professional Employee and Custodians Associations, and the Assistant High School Principal, Transportation Director and building substitute positions.  The litigation matters were regarding two (2) pending court cases and one (1) pending administrative case.  The collective bargaining matters were regarding the Secretaries and Paraprofessionals, Custodians, Cafeteria, Professional Employees  and Transportation personnel negotiations.
2. The Board did not conduct an Executive Session on August 9, 2021.
3. An Executive Session was held on August 10, 2021 to discuss the personnel matter regarding the Superintendent position.
4. An Executive Session was held on August 24, 2021 to discuss the personnel matters regarding the Superintendent position and the hiring of Professional Employees for vacant positions.
5. An Executive Session was held on September 7, 2021 to discuss the personnel matter regarding the Superintendent position.
6. An Executive Session was held today, September 14, 2021, to discuss the personnel matter regarding the Superintendent position and

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

Kathryn Oblak

Daniel Santia

Jeffrey Winkle

Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent

Darren Newberry

Also present were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent; John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Michael Allison, Korri Kane and Edward Katkich, Principals; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; and visitors.

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

**Buildings & Grounds**: Darren Newberry, Chair; Daniel Santia, Co-Chair

Mr. Pelino, Director of Buildings and Grounds gave an update on the Junior High boiler project. He stated that the new boilers are to fire for the first time on September 20, 2021 and inspected on September 24, 2021. Mr. Pelino stated that he had not received prints from Towers Engineers with respect to the installation, but believed that Renick Brothers had done a good job. Mr. Pelino also reported that the chiller for the Senior High School hadn’t arrived yet.

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

1. Proposal from Reschini Group to assist with employer reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act in the amount of $6.25 per required filing.
2. One-year agreement with Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc. to provide Alcatel Lucent LAN Equipment, Firewall and software support, effective September 1, 2021 through September 28, 2022, in the amount of $13,510.00.

**Personnel**: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Change of employment status for Lisa Litzinger, substitute cafeteria to two-hour breakfast position at Hopewell High School, effective August 30, 2021.
2. Employment of Ashley Franz, substitute cafeteria, effective August 26, 2021.
3. Change of employment status for Sarah Gigliotti from substitute cafeteria worker to 2.25-hour cafeteria server at Hopewell Elementary School, effective August 26, 2021.
4. Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Educational Support Personnel Association (Custodial Maintenance Personnel) for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.
5. Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopewell (Custodial/Maintenance) Education Support Personnel Association regarding the Custodians’ Negotiations Pay Grievance.
6. Resignation of Alaina Marshall, varsity head swim coach, effective September 1, 2021.
7. Resignation of Mark Elder, varsity assistant swim coach, effective September 1, 2021.
8. Resignation of Lisa Sinclair, bus driver, effective September 7, 2021.
9. Change of employment status for Della Martin from full-time bus driver to substitute driver, effective August 27, 2021.
10. Change of employment status for Carl Platko from permanent driver to bus utility attendant, effective August 25, 2021.

At this time, Dr. Kartychak began his review of those items that would be voted on at the September 28, 2021 Business meeting.

**Education/Curriculum/Instruction**: Dr. Erickson, Chair; Ms. McKittrick, Co-Chair

1. Appointment of the following:
2. Dr. Moka as District Physician - $10 per exam;
3. Optometric Care as District Vision Examiner - $3.25 per exam; and
4. Dr. Rich Covatto to provide dental exams - $5 per exam.
5. Agreement with the Prevention Network to provide services for the Student Assistance Program for the 2021-2022 school year.
6. Agreement with Class Academy to reserve two seats for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of $16,180.00 per student.
7. Partial Hospitalization Program Agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services for the 2021-2022 school year.
8. Peter Ritsema, a student a Geneva College, to complete his field experience this fall at the Senior High School under the guidance of Mrs. Henry.

**Athletics**: Mr. Caton, Chair; Mrs. Dobo, Co-Chair

1. Agreement with Greater Pittsburgh Physical Therapy to provide assistant athletic trainer services supporting the District’s Athletic Director/Trainer, Mr. Don Short, in the amount of $30,500.00 for a term from August 1, 2021 through the conclusion of the spring sport season in 2022.
2. At the request of the South Side Area School District, rescind girls gymnastics co-op agreement.
3. Informational: NFL Films interviewed Tony Dorsett inside Dorsett Stadium for a series called The Perfect 10 highlighting the 10 Heisman Winners that are also in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**Buildings and Grounds**: Mr. Newberry, Chair; Mr. Santia, Co-Chair

1. Informational: The Athletic Complex at the High School will be closed to the public between the hours of 7:30AM – 2:00PM due to the Physical Education classes using the facility for instruction.
2. Request of Hopewell Youth Girls Basketball to use Junior and Senior High School gyms October 9, 2021 through March 12, 2022 for games and practice.
3. Request of Hopewell Youth Softball to use the Junior and Senior High School fields for games from September 13, 2021 through October 29, 2021.

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

Recommendation to approve the following:

1. Master Natural Gas Sales Agreement with UGI Energy Services, for the purchase of natural gas, effective September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2025.

**Legislative**: Mrs. Oblak, Chair; Mr. Newberry, Co-Chair

1. Candidates for PSBA election of officers:
2. President-elect: Sabrina Backer

David Schaap

1. Vice President: Allison Mathis
2. PSBA Insurance Trust: Richard Freichs

(vote for up to 3) William LaCoff

Nathan Mains

**Personnel**: Matt Erickson, Chair; Kathryn Oblak, Co-Chair

1. The following regular education teachers, as “teachers of record” for the Beaver County Jail for the 2021-2022 school year:
2. Rosetta Dufalla, English
3. Elizabeth Lehman, Science
4. Raymon Smith, Math
5. Mark Witterman, Social Studies
6. Employment of David Kost, transportation aide, effective October 1, 2021.

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.

Charlie Kelly, 1203 Connecticut Street, Aliquippa, PA

Charlie is a 4th grade student at Margaret Ross Elementary. He would like for the Board to include student representatives on the Board. He said that this would allow the Board to know what students are interested in and to show students how to be leaders. Mr. Winkle thought Charlie had a great idea and the Board will discuss how to implement it. Ms. McKittrick stated that in years past, the Board meet with students from the Senior High School to discuss ideas and concerns. She said that she would like for the Board to start those meetings again.

Sarah Fischer, 3016 North Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Mrs. Fischer continues to ask why the District has imposed a mask mandate. She doesn’t feel that masks help prevent the spread of the virus. She also asked why the District requires a doctor’s excuse to exempt a student from the mask mandate. Dr. Kartychak read the following statement from the Pennsylvania Department of Education:

*Relatedly, this Order is not a mask optional policy. Any school entity simply permitting a parent’s sign-off without evidence that the student has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering is not in compliance with the Order. Under the Order, and as set forth in PDE’s Answers to FAQs, school entities must require all individuals two years of age and older, to wear face coverings unless the individual has a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering.*

Michael Murray, 1007 Lexington Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001

Mr. Murray stated that parents throughout the District have asked him about the status of a new school. This was a project before the pandemic and now that there is some semblance of normalcy, he would like to see discussions continue. Mr. Winkle stated that the first priority for the Board was to hire a new superintendent. Once they are seated, facilities will be discussed. Mr. Murray believes that the new superintendent should have experience in renovations and building projects. He would like to see the Board begin to discuss with various stakeholders what they would like to have in a new building.

Rebecca Dilts, 808 Monaca Road, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Dilts asked where to located the exemption form for masks. She stated that physicians don’t want to take the responsibility to write an excuse for a child to exempt them from wearing a mask. She had questions about how often masks are changed and when students can take masks breaks. Again, Dr. Kartychak stated that the District’s policy for a mask exemption must be provided by a physician. Dr. Erickson stated that if a child has diagnosed anxiety, sensory issues with respect to the mask or any other medical condition that would make it difficult for a child to wear a mask while in school, a parent can obtain a medical excuse from a physician and ask the District for a 504 Service Agreement.

Jeanette Miller, 2905 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA

Mrs. Miller said that busing issues at the start of school were bad. She stated that not all parents received updates if schedules were changed. She also stated that the District tennis courts behind the Junior High School had mold or moss on them, making it slippery when wet. Mr. Short and maintenance have been notified, but clean up has not begun. She said that the courts in front of the Junior High School had too many cracks or holes and could not be used for matches. She asked for the status for the purchase of band uniforms. Mrs. Miller wanted to know why the revised football coaches salaries were not delineated on the agenda. She also stated that she hoped that, with respect to the boiler project, that the District received a list of deliverables and payment should be based on those deliverables.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Mrs. Pistorius was also concerned about transportation issues at the start of the school year. She asked if the District had enough drivers and what was the status of the new buses. Mrs. Pistorius had several questions with respect to Covid-19 procedures. She stated that currently there are 31 students that needed to quarantine. She wanted to know what the close contact procedures are; does each school have enough masks for every student; what disciplinary action will be taken if a student does not wear a mask; and wanted to know where these policies can be located on the website or student handbook. Dr. Kartychak stated that close contacts refers to individuals less than three feet apart for 15 consecutive minutes, two days out from onset of symptoms. If a student is vaccinated, they don’t have to quarantine. A student can be tested after five days. If negative, they can return to school. If a student is not tested, they must quarantine for ten days.

At this time, Mr. Winkle returned to Finance and Budget

**Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair**

MOTION #2

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the proposal from Reschini Group to assist with employer reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act in the amount of $6.25 per required filing. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #3

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the one-year agreement with Dagostino Electronic Services, Inc. to provide Alcatel Lucent LAN Equipment, Firewall and software support, effective September 1, 2021 through September 28, 2022, in the amount of $13,510.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

**Personnel by Matt Erickson, Chair**

MOTION #4

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the change of employment status for Lisa Litzinger, substitute cafeteria to two-hour breakfast position at Hopewell High School, effective August 30, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #5

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to approve the employment of Ashley Franz, substitute cafeteria, effective August 26, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the change of employment status for Sarah Gigliotti from substitute cafeteria worker to 2.25-hour cafeteria server at Hopewell Elementary School, effective August 26, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Educational Support Personnel Association (Custodial Maintenance Personnel) for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hopewell (Custodial/Maintenance) Education Support Personnel Association regarding the Custodians’ Negotiations Pay Grievance. MOTION carried by a unanimous roll call vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to accept the resignation of Alaina Marshall, varsity head swim coach, effective September 1, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to accept the resignation of Mark Elder, varsity assistant swim coach, effective September 1, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #11

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to accept the resignation of Lisa Sinclair, bus driver, effective September 7, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to approve the change of employment status for Della Martin from full-time bus driver to substitute driver, effective August 27, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #13

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Lindsey Zupsic, to approve the change of employment status for Carl Platko from permanent driver to bus utility attendant, effective August 25, 2021. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 28, 2021, Regular Business Meeting will be in person and held virtually.

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

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeffrey Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary