

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Hopewell Area School District conducted a virtual and in person Board meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. This meeting was recorded.

An Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel, collective bargaining and litigation matters. This announcement is being made to be in compliance with Act 84 of 1986, Pennsylvania's Sunshine Law, as amended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Jeff Winkle, Board President.

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

Lesia Dobo
Matthew Erickson (Via Zoom)
Lori McKittrick
Kathryn Oblak
Daniel Santia
Jeffrey Winkle
Lindsay Zupsic

Members Absent
Daniel Caton
Darren Newberry

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Robert Kartychak, Acting Superintendent, John Salopek, Solicitor; Brooke Baker, Business Administrator; Nancy Barber, Secretary; Joel Roth, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Michael Allison, Louis Ceccarelli and Gary Hutsler, principals; and visitors.

Good New in our Schools reports were presented by Mr. Allison, Mr. Ceccarelli and Mr. Hutsler. Copies of their reports are attached to these minutes.

MOTION #1

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approved the agenda as presented.

Mr. Winkle asked for approval of minutes.

MOTION #2

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the August 23, 2021 and September 14, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

APPROVAL OF GROUPEd ITEMS

MOTION #3

By Lindsay Zupsic, seconded by Lori McKittrick, 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 August, 2021, 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 August, 2021, as presented, and make said report a part of these minutes.

Financial Statements

3. Recommendation to accept Financial Statements for the month of August, 2021, as presented, and make said statements a part of these minutes.

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.

Bethany Pistorius, 2008 South Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Mrs. Pistorius was happy to report that the Junior High Soccer team was winning 9 to 0. She asked that the District continue to focus on education and the need for student to recoup educational losses created by the pandemic. She also asked that a District policy be implemented to clarify the mask policy requirements and consequences for not adhering to the policy.

Jennifer Parrish, 5053 Hamilton Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Parrish presented the Board with a District organizational chart. She asked why citizens were at the top of the chart. She also asked if it was true that when a Board member was sworn into office, they swore an oath to uphold the Pennsylvania and United States constitutions. She was told that that was correct. She believes that each constitution is above any state mandate. She would like for the District to eliminate the mask mandate and should leave that decision to parents.

Valerie Hilton, 917 Cherry Street, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Hilton was pleased to report that the Twerp football team has won their last two games and that their cheerleaders won second place at their last competition. Ms. Hilton presented the District statistics as to why masks should not be required for young children and asked the Board to leave the decision on masks up to the parent.

Sarah Fischer, 3016 North Trillium Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Ms. Fischer asked whether the District was receiving federal or state funding on the condition that the District implement a mandatory mask policy.

Dr. Kartychak and Mr. Winkle said that they had not received any information from either the State or the Federal governments that indicated that was the case.

Michael Murray, 1007 Lexington Drive, Aliquippa, PA

Mr. Murray asked the Board to consider hiring a Communications/Grant Director. He said that the Good News reported each month be reported to the entire community and the District should be marketed better. Mr. Murray reported that the community had recently lost an individual to Covid. This person worked tirelessly as a husband, father and coach, and will be dearly missed by so many. He felt that the mask mandate was a crucial step in preventing the spread of Covid and the loss to any other family.

Mr. Winkle continued with committee recommendations and discussion.

Educational/Curriculum/Instruction by Lori McKittrick, Co-Chair

MOTION #4

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the appointment of the following. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

- a. Dr. Moka as District Physician - \$10 per exam;
- b. Optometric Care as District Vision Examiner - \$3.25 per exam; and
- c. Dr. Rich Covatto to provide dental exams - \$5 per exam.

MOTION #5

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Agreement with the Prevention Network to provide services for the Student Assistance Program for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #6

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Agreement with Class Academy to reserve two seats for the 2021-2022 school year at a cost of \$16,180.00 per student. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #7

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the Partial Hospitalization Program Agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services for the 2021-2022. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #8

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #9

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the Agreement with Seesaw for Schools to provide kindergarten through second grade students full access to the Seesaw Platform for the 2021-22 school year in the amount of \$3,300.00. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #10

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve Alessandra Gabbianelli, a student a Geneva College, to complete a student teacher placement beginning January 11, 2022 through May 5, 2022, under the supervision of Mr. Keiper and Mrs. Wilson. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Athletics by Mrs. Dobo, Co-ChairMOTION #11

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #12

By Lesia Dobo, seconded by Kathryn Oblak, to approve the request of the South Side Area School District to rescind the girls gymnastics co-op agreement. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Buildings and Grounds by Dan Santia, Co-ChairMOTION #13

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the 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. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #14

By Dan Santia, seconded by Lori McKittrick, to approve the request of Hopewell Youth Softball to use the Junior and Senior High School fields for games from September 13, 2021 through October 29, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Finance and Budget by Lori McKittrick, Chair

MOTION #15

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve items (1) and (2) and to ratify items (3) through (5) 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 \$786,772.58
2. Cafeteria Fund List of Bills in the amount of \$34,417.79
3. General Fund Payments in the amount of \$5,488,878.12
4. Cafeteria Fund Payments in the amount of \$449.00
5. Capital Reserve Fund Payments in the amount of \$133,519.29

MOTION #16

By Lori McKittrick, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the Master Natural Gas Sales Agreement with UGI Energy Services, for the purchase of natural gas, effective September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2025. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Legislative by Kathryn Oblak

MOTION #17

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the candidates for PSBA election of officers. MOTION carried by a unanimous vote of all Directors in attendance.

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| a. | President-elect: | Sabrina Backer |
| b. | Vice President: | Allison Mathis |
| c. | PSBA Insurance Trust: | Richard Freichs |
| | | William LaCoff |
| | | Nathan Mains |

Dr. Kartychak described House Bill 1254, The In-Person Education Act. In essence, the legislation would not require students to attend in-person instruction, nor would it require schools to offer in-person instruction. It simply says that schools with no in-person instruction must give families an option to use their child's share of state education funding to access educational alternatives.

Personnel by Kathryn Oblak, -Co-Chair

MOTION #18

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the following regular education teachers, as "teachers of record" for the Beaver County Jail for the 2021-2022 school year. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance

- a. Rosetta Dufalla, English
- b. Elizabeth Lehman, Science
- c. Raymon Smith, Math
- d. Mark Witterman, Social Studies

MOTION #19

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lindsay Zupsic, to approve the employment of David Kost, transportation aide, effective October 1, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #20

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the employment of Cassandra Kowalski, bus driver, effective September 20, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #21

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Lesia Dobo, to approve the employment of John Moskorisin, bus driver, effective September 29, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #22

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve to rescind the employment, which was approved on August 9, 2021, of Susan Mosholder, bus driver, due to not meeting transportation employment requirements. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Kathryn Oblak, seconded by Dan Santia, to approve the employment of Kathi Lopez, head varsity swim coach, effective September 29, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

MOTION #23

By Matt Erickson, seconded by Dan Santia, to accept the resignation of Robin Ewing, French teacher at the Senior High School, effective on or around October 29, 2021. MOTION carried unanimously by an affirmative vote of all Directors in attendance.

Mr. Winkle thanked Ms. Ewing for her service and said that she will be missed by students and staff alike.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kartychak also thanked Ms. Ewing. He said that she had been with the District for three years and had done an outstanding job. He welcomed Mr. Hutsler back, as he had recently been deployed. He said that the District and community were grateful for his service. Dr. Kartychak recognized and thanked Mrs. Oblak for her 8 years of service to the Board, as well as Mr. Winkle for this 12 years and Mrs. Dobo for her 20 years of service. He said that the District was fortunate to have the guidance of each of them.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report

Unfinished Business

None

Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 12, 2021, Regular Work Meeting, via Zoom and in person

October 26, 2021, Regular Business Meeting, via Zoom and in person.

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

Mr. Winkle adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Jeff Winkle, Board President

Nancy Barber, Secretary