

March 1, 2022

**HANOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

March 1, 2022

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
March 1, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, February 1, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, John J Mahle.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT: John J. Mahle, Jr., President; Dr. Vic Kopko, Vice President; Joyce Potsko, Treasurer; Rick Stevens, Secretary, Stacey Bleich, Michael Mazur, Rick Oravic and Matthew Redick.

ABSENT: Paul Holmgren

Rick Stevens, Secretary, stated a Quorum was established for the meeting.

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT: Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent; Attorney Jack Dean, School Solicitor; Mrs. Lisa Kitchen, Administrative Assistant; and a number of citizens, both in person and via the Zoom Platform.

John J. Mahle, Jr, Board President, provided the following Executive Session Report: "Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, the Board President wishes to announce that at its Regular Meeting on Tuesday March 1, 2022, the board of education of the Hanover Area School District held an Executive Session to discuss matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, threats of or actual litigation and went into a closed executive session at 5:15PM and began the public meeting at 6:01PM. The subjects discussed in executive session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations and threats of or actual litigation. Is there any public input on the Agenda Items Only?"

Mike Potsko, a district resident, approached the microphone to address the board. Mr. Potsko asked if the board would be able to provide the minutes in draft form prior to the meetings so that the public would have an opportunity to review them prior to the board voting on them. He also asked if copies of the Exhibits for the current meeting could be provided for public view so that the public would have an opportunity to look them over and have an opportunity to speak to them in the future.

March 1, 2022

Attorney Dean responded that there would not be a problem posting minutes from the previous month if they are posted with a note that they are "pending board approval". He also stated that a copy of Exhibits for the current monthly meeting will be available for public review.

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

It was moved by Stacey Bleich and seconded by Rick Oravic: To approve the following minutes and accept the following reports:

- Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 1, 2022.
- Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center Board of Education-Joint Operating Committee meeting minutes of January 24, 2022.
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2022.

BOARD VOTE: YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Kopko, Mahle, Mazur, Oravic, Potsko, Redick, and Stevens

No: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Chair declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, offered the following report: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I just want to congratulate Syndey Wilson, the Jr/Sr High School Student of the Month for the month of February. I'd like to congratulate Sydney and her family on her academic accomplishments. We will be featuring that student on our social media, highlighting the characteristics that have made Sydney our Student of the Month. The second piece that I want to share with you and the community is the See to Succeed Program. We are now the second school district in the Wyoming Valley to participate. This is a wonderful program. I learned last week that 83% of students who have a visual impairment or any type of corrective lense need is never addressed, 83% of the time. So, whether it's through transportation or the financial means to get corrective lenses, I am proud to say that the United Way and the Hanover Area School District have partnered. They now come to the school and do the test. They give the corrective lenses within 2 weeks they come back to the school. So, a student shows up to school, they get the test, and two weeks later they have their lenses. So, I'm very, very proud to be a part of that. So now we'll have students who will be able to see their books, the board, whatever their need might be, whatever the prescription

March 1, 2022

was. I'm very proud to be a part of that. Finally, this evening, I want to congratulate our wrestlers, we have 3 wrestlers that have won part of districts, now moving on to regional. Last names Warman, Murphy, Shemansky. I wish these students the best this upcoming week in their regional efforts in the wrestling competition. That is all I have for you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board."

It was motioned by Matt Redick, seconded by Paul Holmgren: To accept the Report of the Superintendent.

BOARD VOTE: YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Kopko, Mahle, Masur, Oravic, Potkso, Redick, and Stevens

NO: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Chair declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Rick Stevens seconded by Rick Oravic: To approve the following motions #1 through #5:

1. Approve the 2022-2-23 school calendar as per Exhibit G-1.

2. Amend the 2021-2022 school calendar as follows:

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2nd Make-Up Day-Full Day for Students and Staff

Thursday, April 14, 2022 Teacher In-Service Day-No School for Students

3. Authorize the Superintendent to notify the Northeast Pennsylvania School District's Health Trust, by letter, of our intent to withdraw from participating as of June 30, 2023.

4. Approve the Luzerne County Recycling Office to hold a tire recycling at the Junior-Senior High School parking lot on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

5. Amend the current Health & Safety Plan as per Exhibit G-5.

March 1, 2022

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTION #1 through 5 Above): YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Kopko, Mahle, Masur, Oravic, Potsko, Redick, and Stevens.

NO: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Joyce Potsko, seconded by Paul Holmgren: To approve the following motions 1 through 5:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)
January 27, 2022 to February 24, 2022
2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)
February 25, 2022
3. Elliott, Greeleaf & Dean \$5,790.14
January 2022
Invoice #161249
4. Pugliese, Finnegan, Shaffer & Ferentino, LLC \$195.00
December 2021
Invoice #267747
5. Approve the following 2021 tax refunds:
George Morio \$46.91

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #6 ABOVE):

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Kopko, Mahle, Masur, Oravic, Potsko, Stevens and Redick, and Stevens.

NO: Kopko on #2
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: Masur on #1 and #2

Chair declared the motions carried.

March 1, 2022

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Stacey Bleich seconded by Mike Masur: To approve the following motions 1 through 13:

1. Ratify the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$125/day:

Katy Sweeney
Matthew Yekel

2. Approve the February 2022 Salary Adjustments as per the HAEA Union Contract. (Exhibit P-2)

3. Approve the February Tuition Reimbursements as per the HAEA Union Contract. (Exhibit P-3)

4. Approve the request of Brian Kreitzer, Secondary Health & Physical Education teacher to take April 25, April 26, and April 27, 2022, off as Unpaid Days, with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-4)

5. Approve the request of Employee #32216 to take Childrearing Leave beginning February 24, 2022 to April 24, 2022. This leave will be unpaid. (Exhibit P-5)

6. Ratify the rate increase for Melissa Grenewicz, confidential secretary to \$15.00/hour, effective January 11, 2022.

7. Ratify the rate increase for Judy McGavin, confidential secretary, to \$15.00/hour, effective January 11, 2022.

8. Approve the substitute loyalty pay scale as follows:
1 to 25 days \$125/day
25 days/beyond \$150/day

9. Appoint Nicole Hummer as Senior Class Advisor at a salary of \$700.00, for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

10. Accept the resignation of Jim McGavin, Girls' Basketball Coach, effective February 20, 2022. (Exhibit P-10)

March 1, 2022

11. Appoint David Warho as cleaner position #1 at Hanover Green Elementary, at a rate of \$15.00/hour, as per the HAESPA contract. This is a 4-hour position, no benefits.

12. Appoint Dianne Pierce as Secondary Mathematics Teacher at a salary of \$60,228, Step 1, prorated, effective March 2, 2022.

13. Approve the following Extra-Curricular personnel for the 2021-2022 school year:

Stewart Caladie	Assistant Varsity Baseball	\$2,145.00
Joe Mendygral	Assistant Varsity Baseball	\$1,700.00
Al Martinez	Head Jr. High Baseball	\$2,145.00
Garrett Schiel	Assistant Jr. High Baseball	\$1,478.00
John Kilheeny	Assistant Varsity Baseball	UNPAID
Michael Brown	Head Jr. High Softball	\$2,145.00
Mikayla Hoskins	Assistant Jr. High Softball	\$1,478.00
Maria Skrepenak	Volunteer Softball	UNPAID
Carl Daubert	Assistant Varsity Track & Field	\$2,011.00
Kelly Rine	Assistant Varsity Track & Field	\$1,936.00
Jason Majoros	Head Jr. High Track & Field	\$2,011.00
Ken Daubert	Assistant Jr. High Track & Field	\$1,478.00
Bob Stelma	Assistant Varsity Track & Field	UNPAID
John Paprota	Assistant Varsity Track & Field	UNPAID
Kenny White	Assistant Varsity Track & Field	UNPAID
Brandon Chafin	Assistant Jr. High Track & Field	UNPAID

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 - #13)

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Kopko, Mahle, Masur, Oravic, Potsko, Stevens and Redick

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

March 1, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alli Schappert, Hanover Township, addressed the board in person. Mrs. Schappert raised the following points:

- Right to Know Request requesting Documentation as to who was involved in creating the Health and Safety Plan. No answer was received.
- District requested an extension to determine if information requested was privy to public knowledge or not
- Who has been involved in making the health and safety decisions for children
- Request for transparency

Attorney Dean replied that the district has received the Right to Know request and the 30 day extension is under legal review right now and a response will be provided when the date is up. He noted that every Right to Know request goes through the 30 day extension and that no request was being singled out.

Shappert continued:

- Concerned that mask mandate may possibly be reinstated based on positivity rates
- Mask mandates have consequences, including violating a person's rights
- Want to know who is placing the mandates; that is the reason for the request
- Asked for public vote/discussion on these important matters
- It is a fear that only one or two people are making these decisions without stakeholder input
- Asked about the Test to Stay program and how it would be implemented

Mr. Barrett responded that the district is not doing the Test to Stay, stating "we didn't participate in that".

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, addressed the board in person. Mr. Potsko raised the following points:

- Has application for ESSER III Funding been submitted.

March 1, 2022

Mr. Barrett responded that we did submit the application.

- Has anyone on the board or the in district been consulted determining which acceptable use classifications our district would be applying for to use the funds to support

Dr. Kopko and Mr. Barrett replied in the affirmative. Dr. Kopko identified himself as the Finance Chair and noted that the board was in constant consultation regarding the ESSER Funds and highlighted that there are areas in which the funds must be applied and the district must be very careful about that.

- It would be nice to be able to see, prior to receiving the funds, what we plan on using them for
- Asked to have this added as a motion to the next regular board meeting agenda as to whether or not we want to accept the funds, so that public comment could be made prior to accepting these grant monies.

Dr. Kopko replied that though he is only one of nine, he will vote yes to accept 6.8 million dollars for our children and this school district. He also pointed out that the district has a positive cash flow without the ESSER funds, which is the result of hard work, highlighting that the district will be debt-free in 6 years thanks to the well planned and targeted usage of financial strategies, including use of funds like the ESSER funds. He noted that without the strategic use of funds like ESSER, the district may have been headed in a very different direction.

- Concerned that the programs implemented (specifically new hires) would eventually burden the taxpayers once the grant money ran out.
- Just asking for public comment on it before decisions are made
- Could this be added to next month's agenda so we can have discussion prior to the vote?

Jude Schappert, Hanover Township, addressed the board in person. Topics addressed included:

- Why were the bids for the bipolar ionization system rejected in the January board meeting and can I have a little background of it? Funds were allocated from ESSER I and ESSER II for this system well below the 6-figure cost for the system. If bids were due in January, how was this to be paid for without ESSER III money?

Mr. Barrett replied stating there were many parts to that question. 1) Bi-Polar System: Ionization at Lee Park: There were 28 air ducts that were not factored into it. The bids were rejected because the square footage was not even going to be close as far as the accuracy of what it would cost the district. There was a mistake made and that was good because we are being compared to a lot of Wyoming Valley school districts. We didn't even have the system in that others did, and still our COVID numbers stayed low. So, I'm not even sure I want to use taxpayer money or grant money for a system that has been proven to be not a good, quality air filtration system for our students. Secondly, the cleaning supplies. Prior to this venture, we had a normal operating procedure for buying

March 1, 2022

cleaning supplies. We would buy things on a pace of an average cleaning. However, with COVID, that procedure increased by threefold. High touchpoints

had to be sanitized three times a day, with a deep clean every Friday, so very quickly our numbers began to rise. So we used those funds right there to pick up the tab on the increased utilization of cleaning supplies. Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Schappert to repeat some questions he may not have answered. Mr. Schappert did not reply. Mr. Barrett offered to meet with him in person at any time to go through any additional questions he might have. Attorney Dean suggested, he submit his questions in writing, so that can be answered thoroughly. Mr. Schappert thanked the board for their response.

Jaimie Walsh, Sweet Valley, addressed the board in person. "I'm part of the Parents for Freedom Group..."
Walsh: "I'm sorry, Sir. You are not a resident of the district. School Board Policy/Sunshine Act, we take comments from residents in the district." (inaudible voice from the audience: "That's an illegal objection. That's not your policy."). Atty Dean "Sorry. Thank you, though, we had that at Crestwood, too"
(Unidentified Man shouts) "That's a legal objection. That's not your policy."
Atty Dean: "Actually it's part of the Sunshine Act. (Man interrupting: "That's not your policy.") I'd ask you to take a look at it. What's your name, Sir?"
Unidentified Man: "Answer my question."
Dean: "It's under the Sunshine Act. We don't take comments from non residents."
Walsh: "That's policy specific per district. Crestwood's different from here."
Dean: "Is there anybody from the district that has any questions?"
Unidentified Man: "Are you guys denying a legal objection?"
Dean: "Are you a lawyer."
Unidentified Man: "Put it on record for me. Are you denying a legal objection? This is a legal objection. Just tell me: Are you denying a legal objection yes or no?"
Dean: "No. Tell me are you a lawyer yes or no?"
Dean: "Is there anyone else that has public comment on non-agenda items who lives in the district, is a resident of the district?"
Unidentified Man: "Legal objection. Legal objection."

Mr. Mahle struck the gavel to restore order and proceed with the public meeting.

March 1, 2022

FUTURE MEETINGS:

April Work Session: Tuesday, April 5, 2022

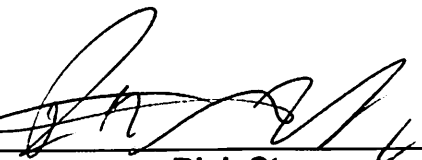
April Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Unidentified man continues to yell: "Are you guys denying a legal objection. Legal Objection. Legal Objection. Don't delete that video, I'm going to (inaudible) it."

President Mahle then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Paul Holmgren, seconded by Rick Stevens: To adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 6:29PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board