

May 3, 2022

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

MINUTES

May 3, 2022

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
May 3, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, May 3, 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; several District Administrators; and a number of citizens.

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 May 3, 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 6:09PM. 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, Hanover Township, addressed the Board. Items addressed included:

- Inquiry regarding the grant used to hire the two social workers. Mr. Barrett explained ESSER III funds were adjusted to allow for the sustainability of those positions under the projected needs for title servies. He clarified that the social workers were hired using the General Fund as the district awaits reimbursement from the ESSER III monies.

March 3, 2022

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 April 5, 2022.
- Wilkes-Barre Area Career and Technical Center Board of Education-Joint Operating Committee meeting minutes of April 25, 2022.
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2022.

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: HOLMGREN

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, offered the following report: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I want to inform the community that the high stakes state assessments have begun in the Hanover Area School District. Our PSSA's/Keystones Examinations began last week, we are well into the second week of these high-stake examinations. The students are doing a great job under the pressure and the learning loss that we have been experiencing. Also, in addition, I want to recognize the teachers within this district. The 2nd through the 5th of this week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Today on our social media and throughout the rest of the week, we are going to be celebrating our teachers. We thank you for everything you've gone through over the last two years and what you continue to endure on a daily basis. With the fact that the teaching part of this is the easy part, it's all about the surrounding services you are providing on a daily basis. So, from myself and this Board of Education, I want to thank you for everything you do, and we celebrate you this week. In addition, Mrs. Karen McHale is here, I want to recognize her this evening. On WVIA, our Therapy Dog, Barney, was a feature of *Mind Over Matter*. We're speaking on mental wellness, our dog was featured on a WVIA segment and I want to thank Karen and her husband. They purchased this dog and are donating this time and efforts back to the district for every student in need of therapeutic services. So, I thank Karen and I celebrate Barney on his recognition on WVIA. The very final piece to this is I want to let everybody know that there has been some tension within the

May 3, 2022

Hanover Area School District. We are the feature of an article last weekend. We do have a zero-tolerance policy within this district. Every student involved in a physical altercation is charged. We do not tolerate these undesirable behaviors. I want to let everyone know that once this happens, that these students are expelled from this district. I do not want any community member to feel unsafe sending your children into each of these five buildings. I have spoken to many parents over the last several days and I could assure you that I will call you back and that your student is safe. We just got a risk assessment report to this board of education within the last 45 minutes. We have a top rating from the Pennsylvania State Police. In addition to that, we have very proactive measures that are in place right now and will continue to be in place to make sure we are focusing on the strong students and doing the right things day in and day out and that we give attention to the students that are not. So, with that being said, I am imploring everybody here in this auditorium and everyone within this district to have confidence in the Hanover Area School District, in its Administration and in this Staff. The April Student of the Month at the High School, Karlee Yuscavage. I am very sorry, that is what we are here for. We are in the kid business, so I am very, very sorry that I did not recognize that. Congratulations to Karlee and her achievements. That is all I have for you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board.”

It was motioned by Rick Oravic, seconded by Joyce Potsko: To accept the Report of the Superintendent.

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

NO: None

ABSENT: Holmgren

ABSTAIN: None

Chair declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Rick Stevens seconded by Dr. Vic Kopko: To approve the following motions #1 through #3:

1. Authorize “Hawkeye Day” on Friday, May 27, 2022 as per Exhibit G-1.

May 3, 2022

2. Approve the Hanover Area School District to submit an application for Flexible Instruction Days for a three-year period, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

3. Approve the Hanover Area Cheerleading Booster Club and Cheerleaders to park cars at \$2.00 per car, for the upcoming 2022 Football Season, including any exhibition and play-off games.

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: HOLMGREN

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Joyce Potsko, seconded by Stacy Bleich: To approve the following motions 1 through 10:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): Exhibit F-1

March 30, 2022 to April 25, 2022

2. Approve the PNC check register(s): Exhibit F-2

April 26, 2022

3. Elliott, Greenleaf & Dean \$4,322.96
March 2022
Invoice #161735

4. Approve the request to waive the penalties and interest in the amount of \$2,323.48 for William and Mary Sheehy (Dundee Gardens) as per Exhibit F-4.

5. Approve Food-Service Management Company Renewal year cost reimbursable contract for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

6. Motion to approve the Hanover Area School District to be a part of South Valley Regional Recreation Authority with the specific understanding that there is zero financial commitment as of this point.

May 3, 2022

7. Approve the Hanover Area School District 2033-2023 Proposed Final General Fund Budget. Projected Revenues amount to \$38,253,423 and Projected Expenditures amount to \$38,235,423.

The stated milage rate is 19.6754. A copy of the Proposed Final General Fund Budget will be on display for inspection of the general public in the District Administrative Office and on the Hanover Area School District website, beginning May 4, 2022.

8. Motion to consider offering the Memorandum of Understanding/Voluntary Employment Separation Plan (VESP) between the Hanover Area School District and the Act 93 Administrators, contingent upon final review of language and approval by school solicitor.

9. Motion to consider offering the Memorandum of Understanding/Voluntary Employment Separation Plan (VESP) between the Hanover Area School District and the Hanover Area Education Association contingent upon final review of language and approval by school solicitor.

10. Motion to consider offering the Memorandum of Understanding/Voluntary Employment Separation Plan (VESP) between the Hanover Area School District and the Hanover Area Educational Support Professional Association, contingent upon final review of language and approval by school solicitor.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #10 ABOVE):

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

NO: Kopko on #2 and #6; Masur on #7; Redick on #1 and #2

ABSENT: Holmgren

ABSTAIN: Masur on #1 and #2

Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

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

1. Approve the tentative 2022 Graduation list. The final list of graduates will be conferred on June 7, 2022. (Exhibit P-1)

2. Approve the termination of Michelle Bolton, cleaner #7 at the Junior-Senior High School, effective April 7, 2022, as per Exhibit P-2.

May 3, 2022

3. Approve the Family and Medical Leave for Employee #30856, effective April 14, 2022.
4. Approve the request of Employee #30123, to take Wednesday, May 11th and Thursday, May 26, 2022 off as UNPAID days, with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-4)
5. Ratify the resignation of Michelle Mazur, Assistant School Nurse, effective March 24, 2022, as per Exhibit P-5.
6. Accept the resignation of Amy Cody, English Teacher, effective June 6, 2022 as per Exhibit P-6.
7. Accept, the resignation of Paul Gerrity, Tennis Coach, effective April 6, 2022 as per Exhibit P-7.
8. Appoint Taylor Coleman as Cheerleading Coach at a salary of \$15/hour, for the 2021-2022 school year.
9. Ratify the appointment of the following paraprofessionals at a rate of \$15/hour, for the 2021-2022 school year:
Quatavia Blake
Jordan Zagora
10. Ratify the appointment of Marian Brown as Hall Monitor at a rate of \$15/hour, for the 2021-2022 school year.
11. Appoint Edward Winter as Cleaner #1 at Memorial Elementary, at a rate of \$15/hour, no benefits, as per the HAESPA contract. This is a 4-hour position.
12. Approve the following Extra-curricular personnel for the 2021-2022 school year:
Emily Elick Volunteer Varsity Softball UNPAID
13. Appoint Mark Vital as a Special Education Teacher at a salary of B, Step 1, \$49,328 (prorated).

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

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Holmgren

ABSTAIN: Masur on #5

Chair declared the motions carried.

May 3, 2022

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laura Meyers, Hanover Township, addressed the Board in person. Topics addressed included:

- April 8th a surprise guest speaker addressed 7th/8th grade classes on a topic of 'healthy relationships. Speaker started by introducing herself "aware of her privilege as a white cisgender whose pronouns are she/her"; stated that she has her Masters in Sexual Communication, so you can just call me a 'Sex-pert', she said to the 12- and 13-year-olds. She talked about how to take care of an unwanted pregnancy; she showed pictures of herself at a Gay Pride event and shared with the kids how great it was. At the end of the presentation a plastic card was given to each student with little sayings on it like "what if the condom breaks"; "does size matter", etc. Mr. Sipper confirmed that he approved this presentation and seemed genuine when he stated that all of this would be discussed in the presentation. I want to know what will be done in the future so that something like this doesn't happen again, so that an outsourced presenter actually presents what they are supposed to, in this case, 'healthy relationships', and not infiltrate their personal perceptions on these topics. I teach my child a Biblical view on sex and am Pro Life. I wouldn't expect the school to do that, in fact, I wouldn't expect them to do it at all. I send my daughter here for an education on the basics: math reading, science, social studies and the fact that there wasn't even a permission slip or notification for this presentation is very concerning.
 - Dr. Kopko replied that as one of 9 on this Board he was very appalled at what she just reported. "I am even more appalled that we did not screen individuals who are presenting to students in our school district." Dr. Kopko stated that he would personally look into the matter and call Mrs. Meyers back. He thanked her for her report.

Mrs. Carol Tenza, Ashley, addressed the Board in person. Topics addressed included:

- Her daughter attends Lee Park Elementary, lost 6 weeks of education this year because there is no transportation. Stated she has called Shannon Morio and Tony Marcincavage multiple times. Stated she wonders why there is no back up plan for her child. "She can't be the only child in the district with a wheelchair." Questioned why Lee Park is not handicapped

May 3, 2022

accessible; noted that the bathroom stall was a concern, as well as her fire escape plan. Ms. Tenza stated that she is concerned for her daughter's well-being and safety and that she deserves an education. She shared that her daughter is not new to the district and that there should have been a plan for her. She asked why this had to continue and expressed her frustration with the situation.

- Attorney Jack Dean questioned the loss of educational time. Mrs. Tenza explained that the problem was a transportation issue that could not get resolved.
- Mr. Barrett requested to meet with Mrs. Tenza after the meeting to address her concerns.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

June Work Session: Tuesday, June 7, 2022

June Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 7, 2022

President Mahle then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Dr. Kopko, seconded by Mike Masur: To adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 6:29PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board