

June 6, 2023

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

MINUTES

June 6, 2023

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
June 6, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 7:00PM. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, John J. Mahle, Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT: John J Mahle, Jr, Board President; Joyce Potsko, Treasurer; Rick Stevens, Secretary; Stacy Bleich, Paul Holmgren; Michael Masur; and Rick Oravic.

ABSENT: Dr. Vic Kopko, Vice President and Matthew Redick

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

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT: Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent; Mrs. Lynn Vitale, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Attorney Mark Bufalino, District Solicitor; several District Administrators, and several citizens.

Mr. Mahle provided the following statement regarding the Sunshine Act: "Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, the Board President wishes to announce that at its Regular Meeting convened for general purposes convened on Tuesday June 6, 2023, the board of education of the Hanover Area School District held an Executive Session to discuss matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, threatened or actual litigation and went into a closed executive session at 5:00PM and began the public meeting at 7:00PM. The subjects discussed in executive session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations and threatened or actual litigation."

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

It was moved by Stacy Bleich and seconded by Paul Holmgren: To approve the following minutes and accept the following reports:

- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2023
- Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center Board of Education-Joint Operating Committee meeting minutes of May 15, 2023

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- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2023

BOARD VOTE:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Kopko and Redick

Chair declared the motion carried.

Mr. Mahle, Board President, invited anyone from the press or public to address the board on Agenda Items Only.

No members of the press or public responded to the invitation to speak on agenda items this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, offered his report which noted the following:

- Recognized the following Hanover Area Teachers/ Staff who retired this year:
 - Cathy Angraadi
 - Terry Dravage
 - Wendy Yedlock
 - Al Michalek
 - William Davis
- May Student of the Month for Hanover Area Jr./Sr. High School—Jacob Vigorito
- June Student of the Month for Hanover Area Jr./Sr. High School—Caiden Gronkowski
- May Student of the Month for Wilkes-Barre Area CTC—Enrique Collazo
- Congratulated the Class of 2023
- Congratulated the Academic Award Winners
- Congratulated the Athletic Award Winners
- Recognized the following students for their completion of the LCCC Career Pathway Program:
 - Caden Hummer
 - William May

It was moved by Rick Oravic, seconded by Rick Stevens: To accept the Report of the Superintendent.

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BOARD VOTE:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Kopko and Redick

Chair declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Joyce Potsko, seconded by Paul Holmgren: To approve the following motions 1 and 2:

1. Approve the resolution supporting Cyber Charter Reform by the Board of Directors of the Hanover Area School District. (Exhibit G-1)
2. Approve the tentative agreement between Hanover Area School District and UGI for utilization of District property for storage at Rifkin Field, Sans Souci Parkway, Hanover Township, pending Solicitor agreement.

BOARD VOTE (on Motions #1 and 2 Above):

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Kopko, Redick

Chair declared the motions carried.

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Rick Oravic seconded by Rick Stevens: To approve the following motions 1 through 16:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)
April 28, 2023 to May 31, 2023
2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)
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3. Law Office of Mark W. Bufalino
Attorney Mark Bufalino
May1, 2023 (April Services) \$1,131.00
4. Approve the 2023-2023 Membership Agreement between the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the Hanover Area School District in the amount of \$12,238.63. (Exhibit F-4)
5. Authorization to enter into an agreement with Justice Works Youth Care for Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth (AEDY) Services at a daily rate of \$131.00 per day for Regular Education and \$143.00 per day for Special Education, pending program approval.
6. Approve the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center Joint Operating Committee 2023-2024 Operating Budget. (Exhibit F-6)
7. Approve the 2023-2024 Hanover Area School District Final General Fund Budget. Projected Revenues amount to \$39,669,302 and Projected Expenditures amount to \$39,669,302. (Exhibit F-7)
The stated mileage rate is 18.7743. There is no tax increase. A copy of our Final General Fund Budget will be on display for inspection by the general public in the District Offices and on the Hanover Area School District website on June 7, 2023.
8. Approve the agreement between the Luzerne County Department of Probation Services and the Hanover Area School District for School/Community Based Probation Project for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. (Exhibit F-8)
9. Approve Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Renewal year cost reimbursable contract for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. (Exhibit F-9)
10. Accept the proposal of \$0.29 per tax bill processed from RBA Professional Data Systems to prepare the 2023 School Real Estate Tax Bills and Interim Real Estate Tax Bills and the 2023 Per Capita Tax Bills.
NOTE: this is the ninth (9th) year we are contracting with RBA.
11. Accept the proposal from Infocon Corporation to print and mail the 2023 School Real Estate and Per Capita Tax Bills.
NOTE: This is the ninth (9th) year we are contracting with Infocon.

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12. Award the contract to the successful lowest responsible bidder for the 2023-2024 for 87-Octane Ethanol Gasoline and B2 2% USLD Bi-Diesel to Button Oil.

The cost is:

30,000 gallons of 87-Octane E10 Ethanol Gasoline at \$2.6885 per gallon.
(\$3.1885 with freight charge per gallon charge)

20,000 gallons of B2 2% ULSD (Bi-Diesel) at \$2.5552 per gallon.
(\$3.1052 with freight charge per gallon)

13. Ratify the Cooperation Agreement between Hanover Township and the Hanover Area School District for the purpose of jointly completing the Hanover Area Community Recreation Project. The Project consists of reconstruction of Fellows Avenue to create the Fellows Avenue Recreation Trail and rehabilitation of Historic Memorial Stadium. (Exhibit F-13)

14. Approve the Dual Enrollment Agreement between East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania and Hanover Area School District. (Exhibit F-14)

15. Motion to approve the Tax Assessment Appeal Stipulation for John R. Lisman and Ellen E. Lisman vs. Luzerne County Board of Assessment Appeals, Luzerne County, Hanover Area School District, and Hanover Township. (Exhibit F-15)

16. Approval to send notification of the Hanover Area School District's intent to withdraw from the Northeast Pennsylvania District Health Trust, effective June 30, 2024.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #16 ABOVE):

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

NO: Masur on #1

ABSTAIN: Bleich on #1 and #2

ABSENT: Kopko, Redick

Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Rick Oravic, seconded by Stacy Bleich, to approve Items 1 through 23.

1. Accept the resignation of Sheila Balas, Crossing Guard, effective at the end of this school year. (Exhibit P-1)

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2. Accept the resignation of Betty Jo Kelly, as an Assistant Nurse, effective May 5, 2023. (Exhibit P-2)

3. Approve the final 2023 Graduation List. (Exhibit P-3)

4. Ratify the appointment of Luke Westaski, Part-time Night Cleaner, at a rate of \$15.00/hr., no benefits, as per the HAESPA contract.

5. Accept the resignation of Stephanie Gover, Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach, effective May 10, 2023. (Exhibit P-5)

6. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Mason Wooldridge, Safety Coordinator, effective June 30, 2023. (Exhibit P-6)

7. Motion to approve the reconfiguration of our school buildings for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

Lyndwood	PreK-K
Hanover Green	Grades 1 & 2
Lee Park	Grades 3 & 4
Memorial	Grades 5 & 6

Grades 7-12 will remain the same at the Junior-Senior High School

8. Motion to approve the settlement agreement regarding Hanover Area School District and Student "A". (The student's name cannot be disclosed because of Federal and State privacy laws.)

9. Appoint David Griffith, Head Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, for the 2023-2024 school year, at a salary of \$4,123.00.

10. Appoint the following Extra-Curricular personnel for the 2023-2024 school year:

Jason Majiros	Varsity Head Football Coach	\$6,778.00
John Garnett	Varsity Head Boys Soccer Coach	\$4,123.00
Jocelyn Holodick-Reed	Varsity Head Field Hockey Coach	\$4,129.00
Elbros Samkough	Varsity Head Girls Volleyball Coach	\$4,123.00
Robert Shoemaker	Head Boys Golf Coach	\$3,089.00
Maria Majiros	Varsity Head Girls Tennis Coach	\$3,550.00
Carl Daubert	Varsity Head Cross Country Coach	\$3,007.00
Taylor Coleman	Varsity Head Cheerleading Coach.	\$3,266.00

11. Ratify the request of Employee #30084 to take April 14, 2023, as UNPAID and with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-11)

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12. Accept, with regret, the retirement of William Arthur Davis, Jr., effective June 30, 2023. (Exhibit P-12)

13. Accept, with regret, the intent to retire along with the 2023 VESP for the following professional employees:

Cathy Angradi
Terry Dravage
Alfred Michalec, Jr.
Wendy Yedlock

14. Appoint the following for Per Diem Summer employment, at the rate of \$15.00/hr., no benefits:

Catherine Scripkunas	Cleaner
Laurie O'Boyle	Cleaner
Theresa Owens	Cleaner
James McGavin	Cleaner
Ty Evans	Cleaner

15. Appoint Brittany Owens, as a Certified School Nurse, until July 31, 2023, at a salary in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

16. Approve the request of Employee #31334 to take two (2) days UNPAID, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, and Wednesday, October 11, 2023, with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-16)

17. Approve the request of Employee #31797 to take two (2) days UNPAID, Tuesday, October 10, 2023, and Wednesday, October 11, 2023, with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-17)

18. Accept the resignation of Jordan Zagora, Paraprofessional, effective June 6, 2023. (Exhibit P-18)

19. Appoint Alissa McMickens as a Constable, with a salary of \$30.00/hr. This is a 1099 position, effective June 7, 2023.

20. Motion to enter into a five-year agreement between the Hanover Area Education Association and the Hanover Area School District for the period beginning September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2028, pending Solicitor's approval.

21. Appoint Michael Masur as Board Treasurer for the Term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

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22. Appoint Rick Stevens as Board Secretary for the Term July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027.

23. Appoint Jennifer Guesto, as Attendance Outreach Officer, at a salary of \$60,000.00, effective August 22, 2023. This is an Act 93, Category 1 Position.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 through #23 Above)

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Kopko, Redick

Chair declared the motions carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ann Elick addressed the Board. Topics addressed include:

- Concerns regarding the Hanover Area Girls Softball Program
- Asked Board to reopen the Head Coaching Position and to consider her resume as an applicant for the position
- Noted that there has been no weight program for two years
- Noted the team had only one win last year and only two wins this year
- The team lost some very talented players and failed to develop new talent
- Current leadership has failed to develop players to reach their personal potential
- Currently, players are not afforded an opportunity to work on personal goals and the girls have become "accustomed to losing"
- If given a chance to lead the program, immediate changes would focus on developing the current roster and begin to develop interest for younger girls
- Immediate focus would be: daily drills and player development; playing as a team.

Mr. Mahle noted that he rarely misses Board Meetings and that he had not heard of any complaints all year regarding girls softball.

Emily Elick replied that she had complained to Mr. McCree all year, noting she had volunteered with them all year and her concerns were not recognized. Ms. Elick also noted that this is not the first time she raised concerns over Coaching that went unanswered. She noted that when she played for the district, Coach Healey sat her all year and she was unrecognized by the colleges to which she applied. Elick noted that she believed opportunities were "taken away from her"

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by these actions and she believes the same things that happened to her as a student athlete are happening now to current players.

Mr. Oravic recommended to Mr. Mahle that an Athletic Committee Meeting be set up to discuss the matter separately with concerned parties and Mr. McCree, Athletic Director, in order to discuss the matter privately.

Ann Elick continued to explain the following:

- Noted this was nothing personal
- Girls need to be more involved than they are currently
- Things happen that can't be controlled (like student transfers)
- Have to focus on the problem of the girls we do have that are potential D1 players who choose to play travel ball instead of District play. She noted we are losing quality players to this problem

Charlene Gist addressed the board with the following concerns:

- Her daughter will be a Senior next year.
- Last year, parents wrote a letter to the administration regarding girls' sports at Hanover and Softball was highlighted. Gist noted that this letter was sent to all Board members.
- Noted that her daughter did not play this year, as she opted for travel ball.
- Noted her daughter was brought up as a freshman to play and played all star quality ball for the district that year. In her sophomore year, she led the conference in home runs.
- Noted her daughter chose not to play this year because she felt she came out of Hanover a worse player than when she started. It hurt her, as it ruined her junior year.
- Noted that it is difficult to coach young girls, that they need to be developed and taught and that was not happening in the current program
- Stated that the district needs someone in the position that has the ability to teach and develop players, and not put there because they know somebody.
- Noted her daughter's travel coach put an application in for the position last year, and was not even granted an interview

Chris Malacari addressed the board with the following concerns:

- Her daughter lettered in four sports this year. She is concerned that she does not want to play softball for the next two years.
- Noted "this is heartbreaking to me because this is a sport she loves".
- For a child to not want to play a sport they have been playing for so many years because they are not getting the opportunity to be the best that they can be is upsetting.

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- Last year there was no opportunity for Freshman girls to move up and there were at least four girls that had great talent and played for years. Only one player moved up and it was a player who had only played for one year and attended all practices.
- A coach should make girls want to play, and instead of not wanting to play. "I just feel sad that my daughter does not want to play in this program anymore."

Mr. Mahle stated that the Athletic Committee would meet to discuss these issues separately, to discuss the matter with the Athletic Director.

Members of the public asked if the Athletic Committee meeting would be a public meeting.

Mr. Oravic explained that the committee meeting is not public, but all concerns raised this evening would be addressed and discussed at the meeting in order to bring the concerns to a resolution.

Two additional unidentified members of the public raised similar concerns regarding lack of player development and "demoralizing" culture created by the coaching staff resulting in zero morale left among the girls that remain on the team.

Vince Bonsavage addressed the Board.

- Noted his daughters played Hanover Softball having a great experience until Coach Healey took over when his daughter would come home crying for various reasons.
- Noted he addressed the Board previously on these issues on behalf of his kids.
- Bonsavage noted that maybe if they (the Board) had listened to these concerns before, maybe they (the District) wouldn't be getting sued over the situation involving Adrianna Mangan who was seriously hurt over recklessness at a practice.
- Too many girls with great talent were lost (refused to play) for coaches who created this atmosphere. "It is a shame."

OLD BUSINESS:

None

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Potsko addresses the Board.

- Noticed that we are entering into an agreement with the National School Board Association and wanted to make it clear that though this Association makes recommendations, it is not necessary that we “go along” with every recommendation they might make regarding policy in our district.
- Encouraged the Board to read each policy beforehand to determine if the recommendations are truly in the best interests of our children before voting on future policy.
- Noted he usually has a lot of things to question, argue about or complain about, but today he does not.
- Glad to see the reconfiguration of the schools is going back to the way it was.
- Couldn't be happier to see students graduating from here with Associates Degrees. “That is pretty awesome.”

Mary Ann Potsko addressed the Board:

- Wanted to note that the Graduation Ceremony held last night was excellent.
- Mr. Ed Kochanski, the guest speaker, was absolutely marvelous.
- The entire graduation ceremony, including the students, really should be applauded. We really enjoyed it. It was a beautiful ceremony.
- As far as Mrs. Mantione goes and the program they put together for the EMTs and the East Stroudsburg information. This is fantastic. For these kids to have an opportunity to earn an Associates Degree upon graduation, you just can't beat it.
- The donor who paid for those kids to take credits at LCCC, it's just fantastic.
- Congratulations to the Administration, Teachers, and Students. It was a beautiful night last night.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

August Work Session

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

August Regular Meeting


Tuesday, August 1, 2023

President Mahle then called for Adjournment.

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ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board