

November 1, 2022

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

MINUTES

November 1, 2022

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by the Board Vice President, Dr. Vic Kopko.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Dr. Vic Kopko, Vice President; Joyce Potsko, Treasurer; Rick Stevens, Secretary, Stacey Bleich, Paul Holmgren, Michael Masur, Rick Oravic, and Matthew Redick.

ABSENT: John J. Mahle, Jr., President

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

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT: Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent; Attorney Mark Bufalino, District Solicitor; Mrs. Lisa Kitchen, Administrative Assistant; several District Administrators; and several citizens.

Dr. Vic Kopko, Board Vice President, provided the following Executive Session Report: "Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, the Acting Board President wishes to announce that at its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, the board of education of the Hanover Area School District held an Executive Session to discuss matters of employee relations, threatened or actual litigation and went into a closed executive session at 5:00PM and began the public meeting at 6:30PM. The subjects discussed in executive session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor relations and threatened or actual litigation. Is there any public comment on agenda items only, please?"

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, addressed the Board. Items addressed included:

- Made a legal objection regarding the posting of the time of the board meeting not being posted on the district's website
- Made a second legal objection stating pertinent documents were not printed out and made available to press and public prior to meeting
- Noted it would have been helpful to have pertinent documents in hand during the work session to follow along, especially for the financial and general exhibits

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- Noted that a school district recently settled a case in the amount of \$300,000 for not posting these documents and making them available
- Recognized that documents are available online and are posted, but does not understand why they are not available and printed out prior to the meetings for public and press
- Noted that the parental opt out from he submitted to the board was again not attached to the minutes that were posted to the website. Asked for an explanation as to why this was not remedied.
- Dr. Kopko replied that the public notice of the meeting was posted along with the time of the meeting in a local newspaper prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Potsko agreed but noted that per the sunshine law it must also be posted to the district's website.
- Both Dr. Kopko and Superintendent Barrett noted that the meeting was posted on the district's website with the time, while Mr. Potsko maintained that it was not.
- Mr. Potsko again asked for an explanation regarding his request that the parent opt out form was not attached to the minutes.
- Mr. Barrett informed Mr. Potsko that his three minutes were up and thanked him for his public input.

Mary Ann Potsko addressed the Board in person. The following topics were addressed:

- The parental opt out form is something that would be very beneficial to parents of this district.
- It was noted at the work session the responsibility of the taxpayers to "foot the bill" of students who are expelled from school and the need to provide them with an education. Questioned if that amount is in excess of \$200,000/month.
- Mr. Barrett replied in the affirmative.
- Asked Mr. Barrett directly, as a member of the State Board of Education, is he is pushing for a remedy for this. Why do the taxpayers of the HASD have to pay for students who "do not want to behave or follow the rules"?
- Mr. Barrett replied that her concern is something that would be addressed in a school safety meeting, not here. Secondly it is the General Assembly that determines what we pay out. There is a formula for everything.
- Mrs. Potsko again questioned if Mr. Barrett has brought this to their attention as a member of the State Board of Education.
- Mr. Barrett again replied, "most certainly".
- Mrs. Potsko asked for their response. Mr. Barrett replied that would be something that would need to be changed in the school code, which takes time to go around to do stakeholder informational sessions. He suggested that the meet privately to discuss the process by which this might happen, as it is a process.

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- Mrs. Potsko replied she would like hear about it in public, believing people have the right to know about these things. Examples cited included: how these students, who may be attending private or cyber schools, who would be checking on their progress and would they be allowed to graduate? Are they attending? Are they successful? When does it become the parents' responsibility? Mrs. Potsko noted that she would like to speak to Mr. Barrett about these things.
- Mr. Barrett replied that these were two separate issues and that the State Board of Education is meeting November 9th. Right now, he noted that he is serving as the Superintendent of Schools.
- Mrs. Potsko stated that it is a problem when we are paying out that kind of money for students entrolled in these programs. She then asked for the the number of students who were expelled that we are paying for in these outside placements.
- Dr. Kopko clarified that these students are not only students who are expelled but includes students who have special needs and require alternate school settings resulting from a disability. Dr. Kopko highlighted that the district created its own cyber school alternative in an attempt to reduce the costs she was questioning.
- For clarification, Mrs. Potsko asked for the number of students expelled that we are responsible to pay for.
- Mr. Barrett replied that this year, it was only one student. Potsko asked for the cost of the placement. Barrett replied that the cost depended upon the school the parent chose. Potsko was shocked to learn that the parent had the flexibility to choose this at district's cost stating she did not believe it was fair to the parents and families of students who do well and participate and know how to behave in school, that they don't have choices for alternate schooling that was paid for by the district.

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

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

- Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 4, 2022
- Special Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2022
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2022
- Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center Board of Education Joint Operating Committee minutes of September 14, 2022

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Mahle

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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

- Congratulated Mrs. Jerri Clemmons on her retirement following 24 years of service to the district in the Business Office.
- Recognized October Student of the Month for Junior Senior High School Elijah Noe.
- Recognized CTC October Student of the Month Thomas Belawicz, an Automotive student at the CTC.
- That is my report, Mr. Chairman.”

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

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Mahle

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Rick Stevens seconded by Rick Oravic: To approve the following motion 1:

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1. Approve the second and final reading of the following School Board Policies as per Exhibit G-1:

Policy #218	Student Discipline
Policy #220	Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials
Policy #220	Attachment
Policy #227	Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
Policy #237	Electronic Devices
Policy #810.1	School Bus Drivers and School Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Mahle

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Stacy Bleich, seconded by Paul Holmgren: To approve the following motions 1 through 6:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)
October 1, 2022 to October 26, 2022
2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)
October 31, 2022
3. Law Office of Mark W. Bufalino \$3,217.50
Attorney Mark Bufalino
October 2022
4. Law office of Pugliese, Finnegan, Shaffer & Ferentino \$312.00
Attorney William Finnegan
September 2022
5. Approve the agreement for the feasibility study of future projects between the Hanover Area School District and Reynolds Construction, LLC, d/b/a SitelogIQ Construction Management ("SitelogIQ") as per Exhibit F-5.

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6. Accept the certification from the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs of Disabled Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption for:

David J Ressler

NOTE: The Board thanks Mr. Ressler for his service and sacrifice to our Country.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #4 ABOVE):

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

NO: Kopko on #2

ABSENT: Mahle

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Mike Masur seconded by Rick Stevens: To approve the following Motions 1 through 10.

1. Approve the request of Marie Skrepenak to transfer 10 sick days from the Hazleton Area School District to Hanover Are as per the Pennsylvania School Code. (Exhibit P-1)
2. Ratify the appointment of Porsha Cassaberry as Personal Care Aide, at a rate of \$15.00/hour for the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Ratify the appointment of Veronica Tattersall as Personal Care Aide, at a rate of \$15.00/hour for the 2022-2023 school year.
4. Ratify the appointment of Brianna Butkiewicz as Personal Care Aide, at a rate of \$15.00/hour for the 2022-2023 school year.
5. Appoint Brandon Holmgren as Supervisor of Building and Grounds at a salary of \$55,000.
6. Appoint Suzanne Schappert as PIMS Coordinator at a salary of \$40,000.
7. Appoint Ashley Drouse as Human Resources Secretary at a salary of \$40,000.
8. Appoint Chris Gray as Head Boys Basketball Coach at a salary of UNPAID.

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9. Appoint Holly Bienias as School Nurse at a salary of \$61,978, in accordance with the HAEA contract.

10. Appoint the following Extra-Curricular Personnel, for the 2022-2023 school year:

Jared Carlo	Boys Basketball Asst. Varsity JV Coach	\$3,386
Dajon Rush	Boys Basketball Head Jr. High Coach	\$3,154
Tyler Smallcomb	Boys Basketball Asst. Jr High Coach	\$2,040
Matt Dessoie	Boys Basketball Varsity Volunteer	UNPAID
Anthony Marcincavage	Boys Basketball Varsity Volunteer	UNPAID
Julian Maffei	Boys Basketball Jr. High Volunteer	UNPAID
Dave Popson	Boys Basketball Varsity Volunteer	UNPAID
Kiley Sock	Boys Basketball Jr. High Volunteer	UNPAID
Woodley Augustin	Girls Basketball Freshman Coach	\$3,154
Kyleen McCance	Girls Basketball 7 th /8 th Grade Coach	\$2,040
Jenera Quinoes	Girls Basketball Volunteer	UNPAID
Dave Griffith	Boys Wrestling Head Coach	\$6,162
Daniel Erickson	Boys Wrestling Asst. Varsity Coach	\$3,386
Chris Caines	Boys Wrestling Head Jr. High Coach	\$3,055
Shawn Wright	Boys Wrestling Asst. Jr. High Coach	\$3,055
Kim Drozda	Boys Wrestling Varsity Volunteer	UNPAID

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 through #10 Above)

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Mahle

ABSTAIN: Holmgren (on #5)

Chair declared the motions carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, addressed the Board noting the following:

- Asked if the parent opt out form he provided to the Board was going to get posted to the public record as he had asked previously.
- Mr. Barrett replied that it would be posted.
- Questioned why public meetings are no longer on Zoom.

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- Mr. Barrett replied that the live portion of it was becoming difficult, so the recordings are posted to the District's YouTube Channel shortly following each public meeting for anyone to view.
- Mr. Potsko asked for clarification on the difficulties and Mr. Barrett replied that it was the audio portion and the ability to live stream the meetings.
- Asked for an explanation of why the Board does not want to post the Exhibits at the meetings, specifically why they are not printed out and made available to view at the public meeting, again referring to policy 903.
- Dr. Kopko and Mr. Barrett replied that the Exhibits are posted to the website prior to the public meeting and that anybody who wanted to print them out can do so.
- Mr. Potsko referred the Board to a settled case of over \$300,000 and asked again that the board consider printing out paper copies for the public prior to the regular meetings.


FUTURE MEETINGS:

Reorganization Meeting:	Tuesday, December 6, 2022
December Work Session:	Tuesday, December 6, 2022
December Regular Meeting:	Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Vice President Kopko then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Rick Oravic, seconded by Mike Masur, to adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 6:52PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board