

**April 4, 2023**

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

**MINUTES**

April 4, 2023

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School  
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania  
April 4, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:21 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:** John J Mahle, Jr, Board President (by Phone); Dr. Vic Kopko, Vice President; Joyce Potsko, Treasurer; Rick Stevens, Secretary; Stacy Bleich, Paul Holmgren; Michael Masur; and Rick Oravic, and Matthew Redick.

**ABSENT:** None

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

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

Attorney Mark Bufalino, Board Solicitor, provided the following Executive Session Report: "Prior to tonight's meeting an Executive Session was held with the members to discuss legal matters of contract negotiations, as well as various other personnel matters."

**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 March 7, 2023
- Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center Board of Education-Joint Operating Committee meeting minutes of March 20, 2023
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2023

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**BOARD VOTE:**

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**Chair declared the motion carried.**

Dr. Kopko asked if any members of the public wished to address the Board on Agenda Items Only.

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, commented on the following:

- Noted that the Board “probably wanted to do the public comment before they voted on other things”
- Asked for an explanation on Exhibit F-2, a line item for Appletree Associates. Mr. Barrett, Superintendent, replied that the payment was for a contracted school psychologist employed to assist with keeping special education timelines in compliance for newly identified special education students.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

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

- March Student of the Month for Hanover Area Jr./Sr. High School—Brooke Piscotty
- March Student of the Month for Wilkes-Barre Area CTC—Timothy Sosa

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

**BOARD VOTE:**

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**Chair declared the motion carried.**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**GENERAL:**

1. Approve the updated ARP ESSER Health & Safety Plan. (Exhibit G-1)
2. Approve the updated 2022-2023 Organizational Chart. (Exhibit G-2)

3. Amend the 2022-2023 school calendar as follows:

April 5, 2023	½ Day Students/Full Day Staff	2 <sup>nd</sup> Make Up Day (March 14, 2023)
April 6, 2023	Act 80 Day—No School for Students	

**BOARD VOTE:**

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**Chair declared the motions carried.**

**FINANCIAL:**

It was moved by Stacy Bleich seconded by Joyce Potsko: To approve the following motions 1 through 7:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)  
March 3, 2023 to March 30, 2023
2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)  
March 31, 2023
3. Law Office of Mark W. Bufalino \$3,003.00  
Attorney Mark Bufalino  
March 1, 2023 (Feb. Services)
4. Ratify the Confirmation Agreement between UGI Energy Services LLC and Hanover Area School District. (Exhibit F-4)

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5. Approve the depository Banking Proposal and Financial Services between FCNB Bank and Hanover Area School District. (Exhibit F-5)

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

Deborah Mangold

Effective March 23, 2023

**NOTE:** The Board thanks Ms. Mangold for her service and sacrifice to our Country.

7. Motion to offer 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.

**BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #7 ABOVE):**

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

NO: Kopko on #2

ABSTAIN: Kopko on #5; Masur on #1

ABSENT: NONE

**Chair declared the motions carried.**

**PERSONNEL:**

It was moved by Mike Masur seconded by Rick Stevens to approve Items 1 through 10.

1. Approve the request of Brittany Marra to carry over 4.0 days from Hazleton Area School District, as per the PA School Code. (Exhibit P-1)

2. Ratify the appointment of Paulette Anselmi, as a Per Diem Cleaner, at a rate of \$15.00/hour, no benefits.

3. Appoint Michael Palchanis, as a Part-Time Cleaner, at a rate of \$15.00/hour, no benefits, as per the HAESPA contract, effective April 5, 2023.

4. Ratify Jamie Domyan, as HAESPA Instructional Aide, with a salary of \$15.00/hour, effective March 30, 2023.

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5. Approve the request of Employee #31752 to take Child Rearing Leave beginning approximately May 23, 2023, until the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. (Exhibit P-5)

6. Approve the following Extra-Curricular personnel for the 2022-2023 school year:

Brianna Horton	Athletic Intern—Softball	UNPAID
Hayden White	Volunteer Track Asst.	UNPAID
Sheldon White-Richards	Volunteer Tract Asst.	UNPAID
Kenneth White	Volunteer Varsity Track	UNPAID

7. Approve the request of Employee #32262 to take an UNPAID Half Day. On May 9, 2023, for personal reasons. (Exhibit P-7)

8. Approve Krysti Gober, as a Crossing Guard, at a rate of \$50/per day, pending the receipt of all required clearances.

9. Appoint Joseph Gorham as Secondary Assistant Principal, at a salary of \$89,000.00 effective immediately.

10. Appoint Beth Connelly as Elementary Principal, at a salary of \$92,000.00 effective May 1, 2023.

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

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

NO: Kopko on #9 and #10; Redick on #9 and #10.

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

**Chair declared the motions carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, questions why the 2 positions were added if they weren't budgeted. Mr. Barrett, Superintendent, replied that the Assistant Principal position was vacated by means of the promotion of Mrs. Mantione, who moved into Central Administration. Vacating that position, left 1000 students to only one administrator in Mr. Sipper. The Board revisited the situation and deemed it a safety issue. A similar situation also existed within the elementary buildings with 2 buildings sharing a principal, putting that principal in danger by rushing in between buildings to address emergency issues. Through the interviewing process, we found a candidate that we believed would be of value to solve that issue as well. So, both positions we felt were a priority at this point. Potsko then questioned why the assistant principal position wasn't budgeted if the prior person was moved. Mr. Barrett answered that the central administration position was a newly created position in the district, as reflected in the new organizational chart approved this evening.

Mr. Potsko questioned why they added the new position now, instead of waiting for the new budget year, noting that it seems like "you are creating new positions on the fly". Mr. Barrett noted that it was a priority for him because "aligning items for the summer in preparation for next year, as time moves by so quickly in a school year, that putting our central administrator in position for the month of March was critical for us to timely implement stuff for July 1. So, it was a very strategic move."

Potsko questioned how many new programs the district was adding to make this so urgent. Barrett replied that it wasn't about a number of programs as it was the quality of programming that was necessary and is where we were lacking. Potsko opined that he wasn't sure about the creation of the central admin position and adding personnel when the district is providing the same amount of programs where better planning could occur. He also commented that adding a position in upwards of \$90,000 seems strange.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

May Work Session:

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

May Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

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Vice President Kopko then called for Adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36PM.

ATTEST:  \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

**Rick Stevens**  
**Hanover Area School Board**