

May 8, 2023

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

MINUTES

May 8, 2023

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
May 8, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2023, at 7:06PM. 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; 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.

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 May 8, 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 6:00PM and began the public meeting at 7:06PM. The subjects discussed in executive session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations and threatened or actual litigation. Is there any public input on the Agenda Items Only?"

Mr. Barrett, Superintendent, introduced Mrs. Ann Marie Mantione, Director of Pupil Services and Hanover Township Community Ambulance Association Chief Chris Woolfolk, who presented to the public and the board a new student career pathway program for EMT Certification that will be offered to Hanover Area High School Students beginning next school year. The program is a cooperative program between the HASD and Hanover Township Emergency Services that will lead to EMT Certification upon graduation from high school. A bulleted list of

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topics covered in Mrs. Mantione's presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

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

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2023
- Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center Board of Education-Joint Operating Committee meeting minutes of April 17, 2023
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2023

BOARD VOTE:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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

- Recognized all Hanover Area Teachers in light of Teacher Appreciation Week, thanking them for their service to our students
- April Student of the Month for Hanover Area Jr./Sr. High School—McKenna Nay
- April Student of the Month for Wilkes-Barre Area CTC—Emily Schultz
- Mr. Barrett extended congratulations to the Hanover Area Class of 2023

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

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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.

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

Mary Ann Potsko, Hanover Township, commented on the following:

- Questioned Item 15 (Personel) on rescinding the approval of Joseph Gorham as Assistant Principal of the Jr/Sr High School, specifically, if the vacated position would be posted or if the position would be eliminated.
- Mr. Barrett responded that the position would be re-posted.
- Mrs. Potsko questioned item 11 regarding the appointment of Joe Parsnik, asking if he had worked in that position before since the item states "pending all clearances".
- Mr. Barrett responded that he has not worked in that position yet as the district was awaiting the clearances, which had just come in during the last week.
- Mrs. Potsko asked for clarification regarding the start date in lieu of clearances to which Mr. Barrett assured that Mr. Parsnik was not paid, as he was not cleared to work until those clearances were received by the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Paul Holmgren, seconded by Mike Masur: To approve the following motions 1 through 4:

1. Approve the updated 2022-2023 Organizational Chart. (Exhibit G-1)
2. Motion to amend the correction of the 2022-2023 school calendar from April Meeting:
April 6, 2023 Inservice Day—No School for Students
(NOT an Act 80 Day)

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3. Authorize "Hawkeye Day" on May 26, 2023.

4. Motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan. As required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and State Board Regulations, the Board of Education for the Hanover Area School District, reviewed and approved the following plans: Induction Plan (Chapter 49), Professional Development Plan (Act 48), and Gifted Education Plan Assurances (Chapter 16). (Exhibit G-4)

BOARD VOTE (on Motions #1 through #4 Above):

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 Rick Oravic: To approve the following motions 1 through 11:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)
April 1, 2023 to April 26, 2023
2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)
April 27, 2023
3. Law Office of Mark W. Bufalino \$1,014.00
Attorney Mark Bufalino
April 1, 2023 (March Services)
4. Amend the clerical error for the ratification of the Confirmation Agreement between UGI Energy Services LLC and Hanover Area School District. The correct agreement is dated 3/17/2023. (Exhibit F-4)
5. Approve the Sponsorship Agreement (the "Agreement") is made between FNCB Bank and Hanover Area School District, as a school district existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, hereinafter referred to as the

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"School District", and FNCB Bank, a Pennsylvania state-chartered bank,
hereinafter referred to as the "Bank". (Exhibit F-5)

6. Ratify the tentative agreement between Hanover Area School District and the Hanover Area Educational Support Professionals Association (HAESPA) contract.

7. Approve the Hanover Area School District 2023-2024 Proposed Final General Fund Budget Projected Revenues amount to \$39,669,302 and Projected Expenditures amount to \$39,669,302.

8. The stated mileage rate is 18.7743. 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 3, 2023.

9. Accept the certification from PA Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs of Disabled Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption for:

Lawrence F. McConnell

March 29, 2023

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

10. Authorize advertisements of Bid Specifications for Fuel Supply and Proposal for passenger vans.

11. Motion to approve entering an agreement with Hanover Area School District and The Miller Company who was awarded the Bid for the Sanding, Refinishing, Floor Repair of the Jr./Sr./ High School Gymnasium. (Exhibit F-11)

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #11 ABOVE):

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

NO: Kopko on #2; Masur on #1

ABSTAIN: Kopko on #5

ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

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PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Stacy Bleich, seconded by Rick Oravic, to approve Items 1 through 15.

1. Accept the resignation of Amanda Lloyd, Elementary Gifted Support Teacher, effective June 5, 2023. (Exhibit P-1)
2. Approve the request of Employee #30465 to take two (2) UNPAID days on April 11, 2023 and April 12, 2023 for personal reasons. (Exhibit P-2)
3. Approve the request of Employee #30718 to take three (3) UNPAID days on September 11, 12, & 13, 2023 due to a family commitment. (Exhibit P-3)
4. Ratify the approved request of Employee #31752 to take Child-Rearing Leave on April 20, 2023 and be able to use her personal/sick accumulated time, then the rest UNPAID for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. (Exhibit P-4)
5. Accept the resignation of Beth Connelly, as Third Grade Elementary Teacher, effective April 28, 2023. (Exhibit P-5)
6. Motion to approve the Salary increase for Christa Langdon of \$5,500.00, effective May 1, 2023.
7. Motion to approve the Salary increase for William Kane of \$2,632.02, effective May 1, 2023.
8. Approve the following Extra-Curricular personnel for the 2023-2024 school year: William Callahan, Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach at a salary of \$6,778.00.
9. Ratify Betty Jo Kelly, as a Substitute Nurse, at a salary of \$26.00/hr., with a start date of April 13, 2023.
10. Ratify the appointment of Wimar Polanco, as a Paraprofessional at a rate of \$15.00/hour.
11. Appoint Joe Parsnik, as a Reserve Safety Officer, at a rate of \$35.00/hr., effective March 8, 2023, pending all clearances. This is a 1099 position.
12. Approve the tentative 2023 Graduation List. (Exhibit P-12)

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BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 through #12 Above)

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

NO: Redick on #6 and #7

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barrett thanked Mrs. Mantione and Chief Woolfolk for the time and tedious effort it took to achieve the EMT Career Pathway agreement. He noted the difficulty with adhering to the detail of the Department of Education standards and the tremendous amount of work it took to put this program into place for our Hanover Area students.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, offered the following:

- Referenced Personnel Recommendation #13 regarding litigation in recovering costs associated with the social media crisis, specifically asking if the state of Pennsylvania would be taking any responsibility for this in light of the knowledge that masks did not have the effectiveness that was originally proposed, that vaccinations were not as effective as initially thought, and that lockdowns had a negative impact on students' mental health. Potsko pointed out that this should be taken as a caution for the future, to not necessarily "go along" with everything recommended by the state, because we could have opposed things that we did not.

Mary Ann Potsko, Hanover Township, offered the following:

- Referenced the Education Modified Platform database, again asking the question how long the information stored would be kept; would it be kept after graduation; is it permanently stored; does it follow these students forever. She noted she will keep asking this question until she receives an answer that the district would "stand by".
- Regarding Trust Mapping, where are student responses stored and are surveys completed by students permanently stored at the end of each

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school year and does the creator of the survey have access to student responses; do the creators have access to information collected forever; can they share data collected with others. Stated she wants to know what happens with that student information and would "appreciate a response to that".

- Commented on the Comprehensive Plan, stating she was put on the committee. Stated she met with Dr. Pugh who kindly met with her to discuss the plan and district programs. She wanted the board and the public to know that she was grateful to Dr. Pugh for taking the time to meet with her and hear the enthusiasm with which she presented her ideas. She noted that absenteeism and parental support are the two biggest obstacles to overcome in order to see our children succeed as they should. She noted that she believes that staff morale is another issue she believes needs to be addressed based upon her conversations with others, including several elementary faculty members.
- Pointed out that the appointment of an elementary principal without the posting of the available position appears to be very detrimental to the morale of our teachers. She opined that if we were to put out a Trust Mapping survey to our teachers and staff, we might be very surprised at the results, noting it must be very disheartening to them to face the challenges they do every day knowing that there is no opportunity for advancement.
- Noted that Dr. Pugh had the idea of starting a newsletter to cultivate a means to share information and Mrs. Potsko offered suggestions to add to that several features which would allow teachers to share information both with parents and other educators by means of a featured links to bring groups of people together who might be experiencing similar challenges to us. Mrs. Potsko noted she was very impressed with Dr. Pugh's knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm and found her time with her to be inspired and hopeful for the future of our school district.

Elizabeth Hartman, Hanover Township addressed the following:

- Shared that she is a graduate of our school district and has recently become involved again because her grandchildren will be attending school here next year.
- Stated that when she attended school here in the '80's she was bullied, citing a few personal examples, and noting the way she was dealt with personally. She commended the district on the manner in which steps are taken to protect all children of the community.
- Noted she looks forward to becoming involved again and thanked the Board, the teachers and the community for everything they do for our children and noted that the efforts are seen and appreciated.

HANOVER AREA STUDENT EMS PROGRAM 2023-2024 – May Board Meeting 2023

- Hanover Area
Emergency Student Response Team & EMS Program
- 2023-2024
- Career Pathways Pennsylvania
- Creative Partnerships
- As we look at the challenges of education in the 21st century we realize that community engagement and creative partnerships will be required for us to lift our communities and empower our students to reach their full potential (Philadelphia Education Fund, 2019).
- Community Partnership
- Hanover Area Emergency STUDENT Response Team & EMS Program
- Economic Future
- Career Pathway & CAREER READINESS
- Career urgency/Annual Calls
- Thomas Gusher Jr. Training Institute
- Hanover Area Student Response Team
- 9th & 10th Grade
- TIME Commitment
- 1st Level of EMS Student Program
- 2023-2024
- HANOVER AREA STUDENT EMS PROGRAM
- 11th & 12th Grade
- REAL LIFE SKILLS
- EMS JOB SHADOWING
- WIN/PRACTICAL SESSIONS
- EMT Certification
- Career Pathways
- Hanover Area School District & Hanover Township EMS Career Day Program

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FUTURE MEETINGS:


June Work Session: Tuesday, June 6, 2023

June Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 6, 2023

President Mahle then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board

