

September 12, 2022

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

MINUTES

September 12, 2022

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
September 12, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Monday, September 12, at 6:35 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, Paul Holmgren, Michael Mazur, and Rick Oravic.

ABSENT: Matthew Redick

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.

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 Monday, September 12, 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 6:35PM. The subjects discussed in executive session related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations and threats of or actual litigation. At this time, for agenda items only, would anyone from the public like to address the Board?"

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

- Questioned the item concerning approval of minutes which included a vote on the South Valley Regional Recreation Authority, a vote he contends occurred without public input, citing the action violates the Sunshine Act. He then asked the board for any information on the agreement.

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- Mr. Barrett replied that the by-laws for the Authority are still being developed, noting he requested them on Friday in preparation for this meeting, but he did not receive them.
- Mr. Potsko then asked for an amendment to the vote and table this agreement for another time when this agreement is actually available for public comment and for the Board's own review.
- Mr. Barrett replied that to enter into the South Valley Recreational Authority did not have financial commitment at that point.
- Mr. Potsko argued that the agreement is still not available for public review or for Board review and questioned how the board could vote on something that they haven't reviewed.
- Dr. Kopko noted that he is on record as voting no. Mr. Potsko shared his appreciation for that, noting that there were two other members that voted no and his question was for those members who voted yes. He continued to advise that this would be a violation of the Sunshine Act and that the Board had a 'path to remedy the situation' but would be choosing not to if they approved the minutes from last month.
- Mr. Potsko then questioned Item 16 under Personnel, referencing a consulting contract, asking why the contract is not available for public review. He noted that if he is unable to review the contract, he is unable to make comment on it which is another violation of the Sunshine Act. He then recommended that the Board consult with the Solicitor on this and tabling item #16 Personnel as well as the minutes from last month.
- Board Solicitor, Attorney Mark Bufalino, advised that the board take a recess so that he could advise on these matters. Board President, John Mahle, then called for a short recess of the public meeting, so the Board could meet in executive session.
- Following a brief executive session, the public meeting was reconvened by President Mahle. Mr. Barrett addressed agenda item #16 under personnel, noting that the item would be tabled. When Mr. Potsko asked about the approval of last month's minutes, Mr. Barrett noted that the board would be moving forward.

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APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

It was moved by Stacey Bleich and seconded by Michael Masur: To approve the following minutes and accept the following reports:

- Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 15, 2022
- Special Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2022

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Redick

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, offered the following report: "Thanks, Mr. Chairman. First, I have some recognition for some current staff members and some former staff members. I'd like to recognize three 2021-2022 Retirees and give them a certificate of appreciation from both myself and this Board of Education and the Hanover Area School District. Jenifer Bendowski, certificate of appreciate for 23 years of service to the Hanover Area School District; Amy Cody, 18 years of service to the District and this community; Lee Ann Simasek, 29 years of service to the Hanover Area School District. Finally, the Excellence in Teaching Awards. This is an award that is voted on by peers and we have one at the secondary and one at the elementary level. I'd like to recognize Mrs. Catherine Rinaldi for the elementary level. For the Secondary level, I'd like to recognize Mrs. Shannon Gerrity. Congratulations! That is my report, Mr. Chairman."

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

Chair declared the motion carried.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

It was moved by Rick Stevens seconded by: Rick Oravick: To approve the following motions 1 through 3:

1. Approve the Standing Orders and Health Policies for Certified School Nurse as per Exhibit G-1.

2. Approve the first reading of the following School Board Policies as per Exhibit G-2:

Policy #004-BOG-O	Statement of Financial Interests
Policy #236.1	Threat Assessment
Policy #805	Emergency Preparedness and Response
Policy # 805.2	School Security Personnel

3. Approve the following Administrative Regulations as per Exhibit G-3.

AR# 805-AR-1	Emergency Preparedness, Required Drills and Assessments
AR# 805.2-AR-0	School Security Personnel Training

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Mike Masur, seconded by Stacy Bleich: To approve the following motions 1 through 13:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): Exhibit F-1
August 12, 2022 to September 8, 2022

2. Approve the PNC check register(s): Exhibit F-2
September 9, 2022

3. Elliott, Greenleaf & Dean
Attorney Jack Dean \$234.00
July 2022
Invoice #162864

4. Law Office of Mark W. Bufalino \$2,418.00
Attorney Mark Bufalino
August 2022

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

Carol J. Padden

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

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #5 ABOVE):

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

NO: Kopko on #1 and #2;

ABSENT: Redick

ABSTAIN: Bleich on #1 and #2

Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Joyce Potsko seconded by Rick Oravic: To approve the following Motions 1 through 17, with Motion 16 TABLED:

1. Approve Tenure for the following Professional Employees:

Alissa Everetts
Kiersten Knorr
Shelby Mack
Amy Yanchek

2. Approve the following Mentor Teachers for the 2022-2023 school year:

Renee Benavage
Jillian Pientka
Desiree Bannon
Pamela Quaglia
Danielle DiPietro
Rebecca Saylor
Robert Stelma

3. Appoint the Co-Curricular and Department Chairpersons for the 2022-2023 school year as per Exhibit P-3.

4. Ratify the appointment of Bernadette Hess as a Personal Care Aide, at a Rate of \$15.00/hour for the 2022-2023 school year.

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5. Ratify the appointment of Rosemarie Denis as a Personal Care Aide, at a rate of \$15.00/hour, for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. Ratify the appointment of Sheldon Harris as a Crossing Guard, at a rate of \$50/day, for the 2022-2023 school year.
7. Appoint Dawn Baiamonte as a Crossing Guard, at a rate of \$15.00/hour, for the 2022-2023 school year.
8. Appoint James McGavin as Hall Monitor at a rate of \$15.00/hour, for the 2022-2023 school year.
9. Approve the FMLA Leave of Absence for Employee #30924, effective August 29, 2022.
10. Approve the request of Briana Williams, Social Worker, to take September 28th, September 29th, and September 30, 2022, off as unpaid days with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-10)
11. Approve the request of Amy Mullery, Guidance Counselor, to take October 11th and October 12, 2022, off, as unpaid days with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-11)
12. Approve the request of Melissa Richardson, Child Study Coordinator, to take November 16, 2022, off as an unpaid day with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-12)
13. Approve the request of Brittany Driscoll Hernandez to carry over 4 sick days from Wyoming Valley West School District, as per the PA School Code. (Exhibit P-13)
14. Accept the resignation of MLB Information Services, as PIMS Consultant, effective September 12, 2022. (Exhibit P-14)
15. Appoint Frank Litchkowski to Cleaner Position #5 at the Junior-Senior High School as per the HAESPA Contract. (This is a lateral move.)
- 16. (TABLED) Approve the consulting contract between Joseph Alberola and the Hanover Area School District, pending approval from the district solicitor and acceptance by Mr. Joseph Alberola.**

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17. Appoint the following Security Officers for the Special Occasions at the Hanover Area School District for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$30.00/hour:

Arthur Bobbouine, Jr.
Francis Thomas Collis
James Hoffman

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 through #15 and #17)

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

NO: Bleich (on Exhibit 3, number 3); Holmgren (on Exhibit 3, number 3); Kopko (on Exhibit 3, number 3); Mahle (on Exhibit 3, number 3); Masur (on Exhibit 3, number 3); Potsko (on Exhibit 3, number 3); Stevens (on Exhibit 3, number 3)

ABSENT: Redick

ABSTAIN: Masur (on #12)

Motion to Table Item #16 by Dr. Kopko, seconded by Mike Masur.

Board Vote (on Motion to Table):

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

NO: NONE

ABSENT: Redick

ABSTAIN: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

Mr. Barrett, Superintendent, clarified for the public that Item number 3 under personnel, did pass, however, the subsection item 3 within the exhibit, did not pass. He further clarified that this was a department head position for a particular department that did not pass.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

FUTURE MEETINGS:

October Work Session:

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

October Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

- Asked for clarification on previous meeting on the vote to enter into a land bank, asking if anyone from the board can offer any clarification for financial burden.
- Mr. Barrett replied that there is an enrollment fee and recalled a roughly \$3,800 membership fee. He offered to get that information specifically for him in an email.
- Potsko asked if any board members had done any research on the effects that would have on the school district. He referenced a land bank in Luzerne County based in Pittston, the NE PA Landbank established in 2014 and asked if anyone had reached out to them to determine if it was beneficial to the district. (No one from the Board responded to the question).
- Mr. Potsko asked that in the future, before entering into these agreements, if they can be publicly discussed and researched, and benefits explained.

President Mahle then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Stacey Bleich, seconded by Paul Holmgren: To adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 6:57PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary

Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board