

December 5, 2023

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

MINUTES

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
December 5, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Brian McDermott.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Stacy Bleich, Paul Holmgren, Jacob Hyder, Dr. Vic Kopko, Michael Mazur (by phone), Brian McDermott, Richard Oravic, Matthew Redick, Rick Stevens

ABSENT: NONE

Rick Stevens, Board 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.

Board President, Brian McDermott, asked if anyone from the public wished to address the Board on agenda items only.

Michael Potsko, Hanover Township addressed the Board on the following topics:

- Congratulated new members of the HA Board of Education
- Questioned the posting of the new District Compliance Officer, specifically the job description.
 - Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, explained that the PDE recently put mandatory duties on school districts that contained approximately 150 point safety checks to be reported on each district building. Each of those checks need to be tethered to both a policy and a procedure. These would then be documented in a manual for each building and uploaded to the Department of Education to ensure compliance. The scope of the responsibilities would evolve to ensure compliance moving forward.

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APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

It was moved by Rick Oravic and seconded by Paul Holmgren to approve the following minutes:

- Regular Board Meeting minutes of November 14, 2023

BOARD VOTE:

YES: YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Oravic, Mazur, McDermott, Redick and Stevens

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Rick Stevens and seconded by Stacy Bleich to approve the following minutes:

- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2023

BOARD VOTE:

YES: YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Oravic, Mazur, McDermott, 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:

- Congratulated Board Members Masur, Holmgren, Hyder, McDermott and Redick on their appointments/reappointments to the HA Board of Directors and Mr. McDermott on being installed as Board President
- Recognized Brooke Turney as the November Student of the Month for the Jr/Sr High School

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- Recognized Kristene Hall as the November Student of the Month for the Wilkes-Barre Area CTC.
- Announced that AT&T has selected Hanover Area School District to contribute \$30,000.00 to purchase the Dreambox Software, which is a Harvard Studied program for Reading and Mathematics. It is highly regarded and very expensive for Districts and is intended for underperforming students in Reading and Math. It will be utilized with our students in the SHINE program. Our involvement with SHINE made us eligible for this donation by AT&T. This program will promote growth to bring our students academically to prepandemic times of where they need to be academically. Mr. Barrett noted that he is grateful to AT& but highlighted that this software program needed to be completed on a computer. The 100 students that participate in our SHINE program were all recipients of laptop computers, courtesy of AT&T. I am very grateful to report this to our Board of Education and this community.
- On behalf of District Administration and the Board of Education, wished all a Happy Holiday Season.

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

BOARD VOTE:

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Oravic, Mazur, McDermott, Redick and Stevens

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

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

1. Motion to authorize the School Solicitor to revise and advertise the request for proposals for the Hanover Green Parking Lot Construction Project.

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BOARD VOTE:

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Oravic, Mazur, McDermott, Redick and Stevens
NO: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT:

Chair declared the motions carried.

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Rick Oravic, seconded by Stacy Bleich: To approve the following motions #1 through #3:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)
November 9, 2023 to November 29, 2023

2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)
November 30, 2023

3. Motion to reject Agenda #5 item #4 on the October 3, 2023 board meeting that was awarded to Rohrer Bus Sales for two (2) passenger E-Vans.

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #3 ABOVE):

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Masur, Oravic, Redick and Stevens
NO: Kopko on #2
ABSTAIN: McDermott on #1, #2 and #3
ABSENT: None

Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Michael Mazur seconded by Rick Oravic: To approve the following Motions 1 through 11.

1. Accept the resignation of Yolanda Hollock, as Senior Class Advisor, effective October 23, 2023. (Exhibit P-1)

2. Accept the resignation of Taylor Farrell, as Assistant School Nurse, effective December 1, 2023. (Exhibit P-2)

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3. Appoint Anna Pac, as Senior Class Advisor, Extra-Curricular Personnel; at a salary of \$1,400.00 for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Ratify the appointment of Kateleen Dulisse as a Paraprofessional at a salary of \$15.00/hour for the 2023-2024 school year effective October 30, 2023.
5. Approve the request of Employee #32343 for a continuance of unpaid leave from 12/1/23 to 12/31/23, with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice. (Exhibit P-5)
6. Approve the request of Employee #30434 to take January 12, 2024 as an UNPAID day, with the understanding that this will not set a precedent or establish a past practice.
7. Approve the salary increase for Shantel Grohowski, Confidential Secretary at a salary of \$41,263.60, effective December 6, 2023.
8. Approve the salary increase for Employee #32312, Assistant School Nurse, at a salary of \$43,700.00, effective December 6, 2023.
9. Approve the salary increase for Employee #32139, Assistant School Nurse, at a salary of \$43,700, effective December 6, 2023.
10. Motion to approve expulsion adjudication regarding student J.K.
11. Motion to approve expulsion adjudication regarding student K.H.

BOARD VOTE:

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Mazur, Oravic, McDermott, Redick and Stevens
NO: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

It was moved by Dr. Vic Kopko, seconded by Mr. Hyder to:

12. Appoint Alexis Rupert, as the High School Assistant Principal, at a salary of \$89,000, effective immediately.

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BOARD VOTE:

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Oravic, Mazur, McDermott, Redick and Stevens
NO: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

It was moved by Rick Oravic and seconded by Mrs. Bleich to:

13. Appoint Joseph Gorham, as the District Compliance Officer, at a salary of \$89,000, effective 12/6/2023.

BOARD VOTE:

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Oravic, Mazur, McDermott, and Stevens
NO: Kopko, Redick
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

It was moved by Stacy Bleich, seconded by Mr. Stevens to:

14. Appoint Michelle Mazur, as an Assistant School Nurse, at a salary of \$43,700, effective December 6, 2023.

BOARD VOTE:

YES: Bleich, Holmgren, Hyder, Kopko, Oravic, McDermott, Redick and Stevens
NO: NONE
ABSTAIN: Mazur
ABSENT: NONE

Chair declared the motions carried.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS:

None

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

District Solicitor, Mark Bufalino, announced that following the Reorganization Meeting and prior to the Regular Meeting, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss legal issues, personnel matters, potential litigation and other matters that were subject to and under the parameters of Executive Session matters. Bufalino noted that Real Estate was also discussed in this session.

Board President McDermott expressed on behalf of himself and Mr. Hyder, thanks to the board for their confidence and looks forward to working with this board and the administration beginning tomorrow.

An invitation was extended to the public to join in the cafeteria for light refreshments.

FUTURE MEETINGS:


January Work Session: January 9, 2024

January Regular Meeting: January 9, 2024

President McDermott then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Paul Holmgren, seconded by Rick Oravic to adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 7:14PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board