

February 7, 2023

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

MINUTES

February 7, 2023

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania
February 7, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM. 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.

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. Lynn Vitale, Administrative Assistant; several District Administrators, and several citizens.

Mark Bufalino, Board Solicitor, provided the following Executive Session Report: Atty. Bufalino stated that the Board of Education met in executive session immediately prior to the public meeting at 5PM to discuss matters relating to employee relations, litigation and labor negotiations and began the public meeting at 6:22PM.

APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES/REPORTS:

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

- Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023
- Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2022

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BOARD VOTE:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Redick

Chair declared the motion carried.

Board President, John J. Mahle, Jr. asked if any members of the public wished to address the board on agenda items only.

Mike Potsko, Hanover Township, asked regarding Exhibit F-2, whether the survey on Trust Mapping was completed, which students were involved, and if the amount of money in the line item would cover the entire year.

Principal Christa Koter-Langdon responded, explaining she was currently in the second part of the process which involved 4th through 6th grade students, that parents were informed prior to the completion of the first part, allowing for an opt out in addition to answering any questions prior to the start of the project. Mrs. Langdon noted that there were approximately 6 parents who approached with concerns whom she addressed personally. The second phase of this project took place around mid-February, consisting of roughly six questions that are of a survey type, and completed in homeroom. The final survey will be completed the week after Easter break. Mrs. Langdon noted that up to this point, she has not been able to review results of surveys with Mr. Barrett. She stated that she is confident that once the process is completed that Mr. Barrett will share any information gleaned in our public meeting.

Mary Ann Potsko, Hanover Township, asked what exactly was being mapped in the survey.

Mrs. Langdon replied that the surveys mapped the students' perception of the individuals whom they considered trustworthy in their individual social groups. Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, added that the Trust Mapping is a proactive approach by the Hanover Area School District to seek out students who may be in need of support whether it be from a societal standpoint or maybe getting them involved in some extra-curricular clubs. This is a response to noticing that some behavioral issues are a result of students acting out from a defense mechanism standpoint—looking for attention or some type of notoriety—so, we are trying to find a proactive approach to get them involved by taking an inventory on them to see if we can identify what they like to do in an effort to get them involved in a positive and productive way before they act out in a negative way.

Mrs. Potsko asked if anyone could see the survey itself. Mr. Barrett replied that administration has access. She asked if parents were able to see the questions

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before the students took the survey. Mrs. Langdon replied that the permission form included sample questions of what the students were asked. Mrs. Potsko indicated that she would like to see the questions and again questioned what the district was doing with the results of the surveys, specifically—are they posted anywhere. Mrs. Langdon replied that the results are immediately locked through passwords and only she and Mr. Barrett had access to student results. Mr. Barrett offered to have Mrs. Potsko meet with him personally during the week to view the program. Mrs. Potsko agreed to meet.

Mrs. Potsko then moved to the item of Education Modified Mental Health Database, questioning who would have access. Mr. Barrett replied that this database is highly confidential and will be a state mandate beginning in the 2024-25 school year. Just like any school immunization or physical examination documentation would be stored in a database, this would now be mandated documentation. Our school district is getting out ahead of it, in order to work “the bugs out of it” prior to the mandate. We will be documenting any mental health services received by students in one place in order to create “Handle with Care Plans” that will serve to meet the students’ emotional or mental health needs. This will allow teachers to access the best methods to address and communicate with students who may have a history of mental health needs and to effectively interact with them. Mrs. Potsko continued, asking, “but who is deciding if these are mental health issues”? Mr. Barrett replied that they are diagnoses given by a mental health professional and are provided to our district, released through permission by a parent or legal guardian. Mrs. Potsko continued, asking “so nothing would be done by the district itself”. Mr. Barrett replied that only staff members that are licensed to do anything of that nature. She continued, “so can a staff member diagnose a child with a mental health issue”? Mr. Barrett replied “no, but we have social workers who work very closely with mental health agencies continuously over the course of a day. We also have agreements with agencies, we have school based mental health, there is a lot embedded with regard to mental health within the walls of these buildings”. Mrs. Potsko continued, asking if parents are aware that we are keeping this database. Mr. Barrett replied, again, that this is something new that we are working on in order to be in compliance with upcoming mandates. He stated, “we are just breaking the ice on this”. Mrs. Potsko asked if parents would have to give permission to allow this information to be shared and Mr. Barrett replied “yes, absolutely”. She then asked if this was a requirement due to the ESSER Grants, to which Mr. Barrett replied no, that this mandate has nothing to do with ESSER Grant monies. Mrs. Potsko then stated that she believed that parents should get involved because this database would be a part of a child’s permanent record.

Mrs. Potsko’s last question was on the hiring of a Dean of Discipline, asking if it was a new position. Mr. Barrett replied that it is a position that is being Tabled this evening. She asked to be directed to the posting of the position and to see

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qualifications required. Mr. Barrett replied that the information requested will be provided.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

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

- Congratulated Mr. Lussier, our K through 12 Music Educator, on receiving a grant through the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation in the amount of \$33,742.00 for the purchase of musical instruments. He thanked Mr. Lussier for his hard work, district-wide.
- Recognized Ian Kunec as December Student of the Month (Jr./Sr. High School)
- Recognized Breanna Applegate as December Student of the Month (WBA-CTC)
- Recognized Aprillia Mazzoni as January Student of the Month (Jr./Sr. High School)
- Recognized Nathan Valstar as January Student of the Month (WBA-CTC)
- Recognized and presented Board President John J. Mahle, Jr. with a plaque for 24 years of service to the Hanover Area School District

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

BOARD VOTE:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Redick

Chair declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GENERAL:

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

1. Approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar as per Exhibit G-1.

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BOARD VOTE:

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: Redick

Chair declared the motions carried.

President Mahle asked if there was any public comment on board agenda items only at this point. No members of the public or press volunteered comment.

FINANCIAL:

It was moved by Mike Masur seconded by Joyce Potsko: To approve the following motions 1 through 6:

1. Ratify the following PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-1)
January 6, 2023 to February 2, 2023
2. Approve the PNC check register(s): (Exhibit F-2)
February 3, 2023
3. Law Office of Mark W. Bufalino \$2,145.00
Attorney Mark Bufalino
January 2023
4. Acknowledge the Audit of Financial Statements of the Hanover Area School District, as prepared by BBD, LLP, Certified Public Accountants for the Fiscal Year, June 30, 2022.
5. Approve the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18 General Operating Budget and Resolution, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. (Exhibit F-5)
6. Approve the Service Agreement between Hanover Area School District and The Education Modified, Inc. for Mental Health Database Services for year 1 in the amount of \$18,494.16. (Exhibit F-6)

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 TO AND INCLUDING #6 ABOVE):

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

NO: Kopko on #2

ABSTAIN: Masur on #1 and #2

ABSENT: Redick

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Chair declared the motions carried.

PERSONNEL:

It was moved by Rick Stevens seconded by Mike Masur: To approve the following Motions 1 through 7 and 10 and 11, **with Motions #8 and #9 being TABLED.**

1. Approve the child rearing leave for Employee #32063 beginning approximately March 13, 2023 until the last day of school. The employee has requested to use 30 accumulated sick days and then take the rest of the school year as UNPAID.
(Exhibit P-1)
2. Approve the request for UNPAID maternity leave for Employee #32307 beginning approximately March 7, 2023 and lasting eight (8) weeks to approximately April 25, 2023.
(Exhibit P-2)
3. Accept the resignation of Anthony Marcincavage, Food Service & Transportation Coordinator, effective February 3, 2023.
(Exhibit P-3)
4. Accept the resignation of Lisa Yelland, Assistant School Nurse, effective January 27, 2023.
(Exhibit P-4)
5. Ratify Danielle DiPietro, as Yearbook/CoCurricular Advisor, with a salary of \$2,152.00, effective November 23, 2022.
6. Appoint Hollie Evans as Food Service & Transportation Coordinator, with a salary of \$50,000.00, effective immediately.
7. Appoint Cassandra Williams as Per Diem Cleaner, at a rate of \$15.00/hour, no benefits, as per the HAESPA contract.
8. **(Tabled) Appoint ... as Part Time Cleaner, as a rate of \$15.00/hour, no benefits as per the HAESPA contract.**
9. **(Tabled) Appoint ... as Dean of Discipline, at a salary of (blank) effective (blank).**
10. Appoint Sallie Murphy as Assistant School Nurse, with a salary of \$33,742.50 effective immediately.
11. Approve the following Extra-Curricular personnel for the 2022-2023 school year:

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Al Weston	Head Track Coach	\$4,018.00
John Paprota	Asst. Varsity Track/Field Coach	\$2,323.00
Kenneth Daubert	Head Jr. High Track Coach	\$2,413.00
Carl Daubert	Asst. Varsity Track Coach	\$2,413.00
Brandon Chafin	Asst. Jr. High Track Coach	\$1,774.00
Todd Kolbicka	Head Varsity Baseball Coach	\$4,018.00
Garrett Schiel	Asst. Jr. High Baseball Coach	\$1,774.00
Stewart Caladie	Asst. Varsity Baseball Coach	\$2,574.00
John Kilheany	Volunteer Varsity Baseball Coach	UNPAID
Alan Martinez	Head Jr. High Baseball Coach	\$2,574.00
Joe Mendygral	Asst. Varsity Baseball Coach	\$2,040.00
Catherine Hoskins	Head Varsity Softball Coach	\$4,018.00
Mikayla Hoskins	Asst. Varsity Softball Coach	\$2,574.00
Marie Skrepenak	Volunteer Varsity Softball Coach	UNPAID
Donald Pientka	Head Varsity Boys' Volleyball Coach	\$3,748.00
Joseph Scudder	Asst. Boys' Volleyball Coach	\$1,836.00

BOARD VOTE: (ON MOTIONS #1 through #11 Above)

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

NO: NONE

ABSTAIN: Holmgren on #6

ABSENT: Redick

Chair declared the motions carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

FUTURE MEETINGS:

March Work Session:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

March Regular Meeting:


Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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President Mahle then called for Adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Rick Stevens, seconded by Rick Oravic, to adjourn the Regular School Board Meeting at 6:39PM.

ATTEST:  _____, Secretary
Rick Stevens
Hanover Area School Board