

**AUGUST 27, 2020**

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

**MINUTES**

**AUGUST 27, 2020**

**Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School  
Hanover Township, Pennsylvania  
August 27, 2020**

**NOTE: Due to the mandated closure of schools, and for the health and safety of individuals, the Board of Education held this Special School Board Meeting using the virtual platform “Zoom”.**

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, stated this video is being recorded.

Attorney Jack Dean, School Solicitor, informed Mr. John J. Mahle, Board President, he could start the meeting but just make the announcement first that this meeting is being recorded and that we had an Executive Session on Sunday, August 23, 2020, to discuss safety and personnel issues. With that, John, you can take roll call and start the meeting.

A Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Hanover Area School District was held using the virtual platform “Zoom”, on Thursday, August 27, 2020, at 6:03 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mr. John J. Mahle, Jr. Prior to this meeting, on August 23, 2020, we had a personnel meeting and tonight we had an Executive Session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG**

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS:**

**PRESENT:** John J. Mahle, Jr., President; Stacy Bleich, Vice-President;  
Joyce Potsko, Treasurer; Rick Stevens, Secretary; Paul  
Holmgren, Dr. Vic Kopko, Michael Mazur and Matthew Redick.

**ABSENT:** Frank Ciavarella, Jr.

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

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**OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT:**

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent; Attorney Jack Dean, School Solicitor; Mrs. Lisa Kitchen, Administrative Assistant; and a number of citizens.

Mr. John Mahle, Board President, asked the Superintendent, Nathan Barrett, if he would like to address the Board on the issue tonight.

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, replied yes. Do we have to ask for public comments based on this one agenda item that is the motion to suspend all fall sports and co-curricular activities.

Attorney Jack Dean, School Solicitor, replied yes we should take public comment and board comment; board comment first then public comment.

Mr. Michael Mazur, Board Member, stated okay I have a question on the motion. What is the Superintendent's recommendation on this motion?

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, replied the Superintendent's recommendation on this motion is to protect the safety of the students within this community. We spend millions of dollars throughout the course of the school year protecting students, whether it be in the form of any type of camera system in the building, metal detection, you name it; when it comes to protecting our students. This right now is a pandemic. We are moving forward with education during a pandemic. I am not comfortable with this. Today I just checked our zip codes; we have eight new positive cases in the last seven days. Bloomsburg University, I understand is a neighboring county, but it congregated students with 90 positive cases; shutting down their university. This is just an example of what I think is going to happen when we begin congregation. I am not comfortable putting these students in this type of atmosphere that is going to allow us to come together and we are mindful and we are understanding of students voluntarily signing up for sports and are mindful of these students in the positive outcomes of their athletic competitions. But I am also mindful that they cannot participate if they don't have their health. So it is my recommendation that we suspend sports until further notice. I did try

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to make every attempt to reach out to the PIAA for quick testing in order for us to participate on a weekly basis; without avail. So I do not feel comfortable blindly sending our students into competition without any testing as to whether they had an adverse effect the week before or in their weeks coming ahead. So with that being said, Director Mazur, I am very uncomfortable.

Mr. Michael Mazur, Board Member, replied thank you.

Mrs. Lisa Kitchen, Administrative Assistant, stated there are no further comments right now, Mr. Barrett.

Attorney Jack Dean, School Solicitor, asked if there were any other board comments or public comments.

Mr. Rick Hummer, Head Varsity Football Coach, stated he would like to make a public comment.

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent, asked Mr. John Mahle, Board President, if Coach Hummer has authorization to make a comment.

Mr. John Mahle, Board President, replied yes I have no problems as long as the Board doesn't.

Coach Rick Hummer replied thank you very much. I am Rick Hummer, Head Coach of the Hanover Area Football Team. I just want to take a few seconds to fill you in on what we have been doing since July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have been doing screen tests and symptom checks and informing our athletes of social distancing; we've done everything that we were instructed to do. We got done everything correctly that we have been asked and we've been hoping that the PIAA allowed for fall sports, which they did. We have had no issues to date. These student athletes know the current situation with this virus and have accepted the responsibility; their parents have accepted the responsibility. I speak to you as a coach and as a parent of one of the student athletes. I've accepted the risk and I am here to be a voice for these athletes. They have no say but yet this is impacting them in ways that they can't comprehend. They feel punished. They see other schools practicing for their schools and wonder why aren't we. As a parent and a coach, I know I will, as well as every coach in this school district, do whatever it takes to keep these kids safe by continuing to do the temperature screens and any other

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requirements brought to us. I ask that you give these kids a chance and make them feel proud to represent this school district. Thank you.

Mr. John Mahle, Board President, replied thank you Rick. He then asked if there were anyone else who would like to address the Board.

Mrs. Lisa Kitchen, Administrative Assistant, replied there are no other comments.

Mr. John Mahle, Board President, replied then Nathan at this time we will take the vote.

Attorney Jack Dean, School Solicitor, replied we will need a motion and a second first.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**PERSONNEL:**

It was moved by Stacy Bleich, seconded by Dr. Vic Kopko: To approve the following motion:

1. Motion to suspend all fall sports/co-curricular activities.

**BOARD VOTE: (ON PERSONNEL MOTION #1 ABOVE):** YES: Bleich (Unfortunately I vote yes.), Kopko (Sadly, yes.), Mazur (On the recommendation of the Superintendent, yes.), Potsko, Redick. NO: Holmgren, Mahle, Stevens. ABSENT: Ciavarella  
ABSTAIN: NONE Chair declared the motion carried.

Mr. John Mahle, Board President, stated 5 (yes) and 3 (no); motion carries.

