

**HEMPFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
200 CHURCH STREET
LANDISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

The Committee Meeting of the Hempfield School Board was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, on a virtual meeting platform and at Hempfield High School, 200 Stanley Avenue, Landisville, PA 17538 in the Performing Arts Center. The following board members were present: Dylan Bard, Mike Donato, Linda Johnston, Grant Keener, Jim Maurer, Charles Merris, Bill Otto, and Patrick Wagner. Chris Smiley was absent. Also present: Michael Bromirski, Superintendent; Mark Brooks, School Board Secretary/Chief Financial & Operations Officer; Denise Galen, Special Education Director; Michael Graham, Chief Information Officer; Karen Hall, Treasurer/Executive Director of Human Resources & Business Operations; Maria Hoover, Assistant Superintendent; Tab Musser, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Polonus, Athletic Director; Jacquelyn Strybos, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Recording Secretary. There were approximately 100 residents in the audience and 290 joining the meeting virtually on Zoom.

Mr. Michael Donato called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Donato stated that the school board met in executive session on September 2nd, 2021 to discuss a safety and security matter, and immediately prior to this meeting at 6:00 pm to discuss a contractual issue, a safety and security issue, and one personnel issue. He noted that the district would be recording the meeting for the sole purpose of compiling the meeting minutes and that at least one audience member also planned to record the meeting. Mr. Donato read a statement related to the District's Health and Safety Plan.

Mr. Otto made a motion, seconded by Mr. Maurer to approve the agenda incorporating additions/deletions.

Vote: "Aye" 8; "Nay" 0; Absent 1 (Smiley). Motion passed.

RESIDENTS' REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (five-minute limit)

Heidi Kistler addressed the Board on universal masking.

Kristina Newport addressed the Board on universal masking.

Elizabeth Werley addressed the Board on universal masking.

Melissa Sasso addressed the Board on universal masking.

Kari Moreno addressed the Board on universal masking.

Patrick Moreno addressed the Board on universal masking.

Stacy Hernandez addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Meridith Hilt addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Tammitha Mitchell addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Kathleen Myers addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Fae Skuya addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Joelle Rajkowski addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Chelsea Longabaugh addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Aelxandra Solosko addressed the Board on universal masking.

Chris Brown addressed the Board on transgender athlete participation, the selection of the Independent Law Center, and lack of transparency.

Kathleen Mulligan addressed the Board on universal masking.

Ray Keene addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Daniel Schlegel addressed the Board on universal masking, and the Health & Safety Plan.

Mr. Donato announced a brief break at 8:37 pm. The meeting was reconvened by Mr. Donato at 8:55 pm.

Denise Cope addressed the Board on universal masking.

Kathy Brooks addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Jamie Williams addressed the Board on the lack of scientific evidence to support masks.

Vanessa Reisig addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Adrienne Barnett addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Rebekah Jenkins addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Dan Whilte addressed the Board on safety and the protection of privacy in bathrooms at the high school.

Jessica Totten addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Jason Jenkins addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

Donald Meacham addressed the Board on the masking mandate.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Bond Refinance

Mr. Bromirski introduced Mr. Mark Brooks to give a brief overview of the upcoming bond refinance. Mr. Brooks noted that, as discussed at the last Finance meeting, the District plans to refinance a series of bonds in January. The Board will be asked to vote on the matter at the next voting meeting in order to allow time for the administration to proceed with the process and secure a favorable rate, which will result in significant savings to the District.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Bromirski gave a brief update on the District's Comprehensive Plan 2019-2022, which has been extended by one year. He highlighted several key areas:

- *Curriculum Assessment & Instruction* - the revision of the curriculum cycle and additional work on curriculum, that was completed over the past year including several new course options.
- *Reducing Barriers* – work that has been done to streamline access to mental health services through a partnership with Community Services Group
- *Operational Excellence* – work completed by the technology department to upgrade our network capacity, improve redundancy, and enhance security to keep us ahead of the game.

Details of this presentation may be found on the School Board webpage, Documents Archive, under September 2021 and also on the Comprehensive Plan webpage, under Comprehensive Plan Yearbook: Updated September 7, 2021.

COVID Update

Mr. Bromirski gave a brief update on Covid in the district, and shared that the Covid Dashboard, displaying the number of active cases in our schools, is updated on a daily basis. He shared some of the frustration the Administration has felt over the vague guidelines that have come out, and the lack of response from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to questions submitted in an effort to gain clarification and direction. He shared that the District has worked hard to get support from the medical community, but we also need to have open lines of communication with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. He greatly appreciates the ability to engage in respectful conversations with all stakeholders. Mr. Bromirski asked for continued support in this regard and for assistance in setting up respectful and collaborative meetings and getting answers from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. He explained the Hempfield exemption form and the information that is required to be submitted to our building principals for further follow up related to masking.

Superintendents' Goals

Mr. Bromirski reviewed draft goals for the 2021-2022 school year for himself and our two assistant superintendents, Mrs. Maria Hoover and Dr. Tab Musser, which board members had in front of them.

- He noted a continued focus on the Health and Safety Plan and keeping our schools open for educational learning of students and staff and extracurricular activities as a primary goal for each of them.
- The superintendent's second goal will be focused on working with the team to monitor district finances, operations, and educational learning to ensure we have the necessary resources and supports.
- The assistant superintendents have been tasked with leading the next Comprehensive Plan process which will start in the next month.
- Another goal, common for all three administrators, is to focus on their own individual learning and how they can help other members of the leadership team to grow and effectively lead the district.

Mr. Bromirski closed his comments by asking the Board to consider voting on two contracts that were time sensitive – B. Financial Items, 1.i and 1.j (Rachel's Challenge)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 7, 2021	5:30, Executive Session, 7:00 pm, School Board Regular Meeting Hempfield High School, Performing Arts Center
Sept. 14, 2021	TBD, Executive Session, 7:00 pm, School Board Regular Meeting Hempfield High School, Performing Arts Center
Sept. 16, 2021	5:00 pm, Policy, Personnel and Legal Committee Meeting Administration Building, Public Board Room
Sept. 21, 2021	5:00 pm, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting Administration Building, Public Board Room
Sept, 28, 2021	5:00 pm, Finance Committee Meeting Administration Building, Public Board Room
Sept, 30, 2021	5:00 pm, Education and Programs Committee Meeting Administration Building, Public Board Room
October 5, 2021	TBD, Executive Session, 7:00 pm, School Board Committee Meeting Administration Building, Public Board Room
October 12, 2021	TBD, Executive Session, 7:00 pm, School Board Regular Meeting Administration Building, Public Board Room

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report

REPRESENTATIVE/ADJUNCT REPORTS

Lancaster County Career & Technology Center - Mr. Keener/Mr. Bard – no report

Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 - Mr. Merris – going back to virtual meetings after meeting in-person. A new Health and Safety Plan was adopted at the August meeting. The Burgard Education Center (previously an elementary school in the Manheim Central School District) is being renovated and will be operational soon, providing extra classroom space at no additional cost to districts.

Hempfield Area Recreation Commission (HARC) – Mr. Aloisi/Dr. Harrington – Mr. Donato had spoken with Mr. Aloisi and had no report

Safety and Security - Mr. Wagner/Mrs. Johnston – no report

PSBA Liaison - Mr. Wagner/Mr. Merris – no report

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds - Mr. Merris/Mr. Donato/Mr. Wagner/Mr. Bard - Mr. Merris noted that the last meeting was held on August 24th. Topics covered included: body cameras; Ga Ga pit; high school parking permits, third party contracts for substitute custodians; Centerville Elementary sewer project completion; Centerville Middle School roof project update and approval of Frey Lutz to perform HVAC installation work; high school steam line repair; campus sign update; approval of Sage Technology Solutions to provide paging systems for Mountville Elementary and Rohrerstown Elementary; architect recommendation for restroom and locker room renovations; Covid update.

Education and Programs - Mrs. Johnston/Mr. Maurer/Mr. Merris/Mr. Bard - Mrs. Johnston had no report. The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Finance - Mr. Maurer/Mr. Aloisi/Mrs. Johnston/Mr. Keener - Mr. Maurer reported that the last meeting was held on August 31st and topics included discussions on Bond Refinancing, contracts needed to keep the district functioning, and the annual financial audit and certification process that is underway.

Policy, Personnel and Legal - Mr. Smiley/Mr. Donato/Mrs. Johnston/Mr. Keener – In Mr. Smiley's absence, Mr. Keener noted nothing new, but shared that the next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Minutes of the school board standing committee meetings may be found on the School Board webpage under each individual standing committee.

ACTION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**PERSONNEL ITEMS**

Mr. Bromirski asked that the Board vote on item 3., noting that Cheryl Irwin-Bass was in attendance and officially started in her role with the district today, September 7, 2021.

Mr. Maurer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Otto to approve to employ Cheryl Irwin-Bass as the Director of Communications for the Hempfield School District, effective September 7, 2021.

Vote: "Aye" 8 "Nay" 0; Absent 1 (Smiley) Motion passed.

FINANCIAL ITEMS

Mr. Maurer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merris to approve the following contracts:

- i. Rachel's Challenge for event programming that includes a speaker, training, and materials for events to be conducted at Centerville Middle School on September 21, 2021
- j. Rachel's Challenge for event programming that includes a speaker, training, and materials for events to be conducted at Landisville Middle School on September 20, 2021

Vote: "Aye" 8 "Nay" 0; Absent 1 (Smiley). Motion passed.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS ITEMS

No discussion

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

No discussion

ADJOURN

Mr. Donato asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Otto made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merris to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 pm.

Vote: "Aye" 8; "Nay" 0; Absent 1 (Smiley). Motion passed.

Mark W. Brooks
School Board Secretary