

**Union City Area School District**  
**SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room**  
**May 5, 2021**

President George Trauner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed those attending online and gave the following announcement:

- Tonight's meetings are being broadcast as a live YouTube stream via the link in the banner of the home page of the District website. Additionally, Zoom is hosting and being utilized by those providing public comment.
- Some of my fellow Board members and administrators are attending via Zoom from their homes. A test was conducted prior to tonight's meeting for technology set-up only and no business was discussed.
- An opportunity for Public Comment will take place tonight during the meetings. Those wishing to comment regarding tonight's meetings need to pre-register no later than 6:10 p.m. tonight by accessing the Zoom registration information located in the link in the banner at the top of the homepage of the District website ([www.ucasd.org](http://www.ucasd.org)).
- Tonight's meetings are being recorded and will be available on the District website by next Monday, May 10, 2021, via a link under the Quick Links box from the home page.

Mr. Trauner then led the salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

**Roll Call by the Secretary**

Stephen Gilbert, Brian Gregor Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas and George Trauner were present. Blain Blakeslee was absent.

**Others Present**

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Steve Thompson, Glenn Shaffer, Ann Sill, Lisa Rosenthal, Michael Swanson, Nathan DeSimone and Randy Hurlburt were physically present in the LGI, Maryann Mook was physically present watching remotely from the cafeteria, and Krista Byler was present via Zoom.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING – May 5, 2021

**Presentation**

Mrs. Coleman presented information via a PowerPoint regarding the **Proposed Curriculum Textbook Adoptions** for 2021-2022. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] We are on a ten-year adoption cycle and a few departments were on the schedule for new textbooks for next year with all falling within the budget. Middle School English Language Arts staff chose McGraw Hill as their curriculum for Grades 6-8 for school years 2021-2027. Middle School Social Studies staff chose their curriculum from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt also for Grades 6-8 for school years 2021-2027. The Elementary School was not due for new math curriculum until the following school year, but there was Title I money remaining, so the K-5 teachers worked cooperatively and choose curriculum from McGraw Hill. All three motions will be on next week's agenda for approval. Mrs. Coleman was asked if the students can learn at their own pace to which she replied that they can and added that assignments are given according to the students' abilities. She was also asked if the Title I money would be forfeited if it wasn't spent and she responded affirmatively.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Bennett reported the following:

1. **Rosenthal:** Mr. Bennett welcomed Lisa Rosenthal, the incoming Secretary to the Superintendent and School Board who has been training and will step in to these positions when Ms. Sill retires.
2. **New Curriculum:** The curriculum the staff chose is amazing. It was a lengthy process that took hours of time for Mrs. Coleman, the teachers and administrators to review. They are excited to begin using it.
3. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Mr. Bennett acknowledged all of the faculty and staff during this special week stating they all make our District great and make a difference in the lives of students. It has been a fun week filled with many treats. He handed out a sheet to the Board listing all of the events that are scheduled for the week. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] A special thank you to our nurses, Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. Tomcho as tomorrow is School Nurses' Day.
4. **Update on COVID-19 Protocols and Restrictions:** May 31<sup>st</sup> restrictions will be rolling back. Mr. Bennett will be learning more about it tomorrow. There will be no more attestations which equates to no more forced closures. Masking still in place until 70% of Pennsylvanians age 18 and older individuals are vaccinated. We are waiting to hear on social distancing which could change things for graduation. If social distancing is removed, we will be moving graduation back into the gym. He thanked Dr. Tomcho for arranging a bus to take students over age 16 who wished to be vaccinated to Meadville. This is a personal decision and in no way is it required.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING – May 5, 2021

5. **Update on Concession/Restroom Building:** Things are on schedule. Over the next two weeks everything below grade is taking place – plumbing, in-floor heat and backfilling. Decisions are yet to be made as whether the roof will be shingles or metal. Mr. Bennett will keep the Board posted. Everything is being done to benefit the students and the community.
  
6. **Town Hall Meeting with Rep. Curt Sonney:** Partnering with Corry School District, students Grace Jones and Brooke Reagle represented our District at a virtual Town Hall Meeting with Representative Sonney on April 22. The kids did a great job and the Corry Journal followed up with an article. He passed around the newspaper article for the Board to see. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]
  
7. **State Assessment:** Mr. Bennett reminded the Board of the State Assessment schedule as follows -
  - PSSAs for Math and Language Arts for students in grades 3-8 will be held May 10-14 and for Science for students in grades 4-8 May 17 and 18.
  - Keystones for Literature will be May 17-18; Biology will be May 19-20 and Algebra will be May 21 and 24.
  
8. **End of Year Events** are scheduled as follows:
  - Academics Awards will be given out June 1 at 8:15 a.m.
  - Athletic Awards will be given out June 2 at 8:15 a.m.
  - Baccalaureate on June 2 is being moved to 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the auditorium. Students will each receive two tickets. The remaining 400 will be distributed by lottery, if needed.
  - Graduation 2021 will be June 3, currently planned for 8:45 p.m. if held outside or will be at 7:00 p.m. if we are able to move it inside. Dr. Tomcho is investigating.
  - Graduation 2020 will be June 4, also currently planned for 8:45 p.m. if held outside or at 7:00 p.m. if it is moved indoors. Kyle Blakeslee has been chosen as the guest speaker.
  
9. **Pool Lights:**

The following vendors' bids were submitted

  - L & M (LaFace and McGovern) - \$133,983.00
  - Musco - \$44,238.00 (Co-Star Company). Musco also offered assistance throughout the process.
  - Best Lights - No quote submitted
  - Qualite Sports Lighting - Not interested in a project this small

Hyer Electric was approved last month for the project labor at approximately \$6,300.00. The money will be coming out of Capital Improvements and coinciding with the roof project. There were no questions from the Board. A motion for approval will be on next week's agenda.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING – May 5, 2021

**10. Sound System for Gymnasium:**

We have a quote of \$17,760 by the World of Music for the sound system for the Middle School/High School (Main) gymnasium which is a fraction of the previous quote which was over six figures and a fraction of what it would have been during the renovation. Mr. Bennett asked for permission to approve the quote. The Board agreed and had no questions.

**11. PSBA - State of Education Report:**

There are very interesting statistics from a survey put out to school districts across the state. We did participate as well as a total of 310 districts out of the 500. There are very interesting facts and perspectives of the impact of COVID on education. Mr. Bennett passed around two copies of the report and stated that if anyone would like to take one to review and then return to let him know at the end of tonight's meeting.

**12. Summer Events:**

- **French Creek Festival** is a good possibility and the Union City Pride is working on their Safety Plan. Mr. Bennett offered his assistance. Fireworks from the campus will be permitted.
- **Summer Wrestling Event** - Mr. Fred Caro (head coach) met with Mr. Bennett and they are working on a Safety Plan. Because it's a closed-gate events and attendance can be monitored, he believes it can take place. It will be for young kids through high school and they will wrestle under the stadium lights. This will be an exciting event for the Community. The date set is July 10 and will coincide with the Festival.

**Administrative Reports** [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Coleman noted to the Board that her report states that the Elementary School had decided upon math curriculum from Lawson for grades 3-5 and from McGraw Hill for grades K-2. Earlier this week they asked her if the committee could reconvene. Upon discussion, they felt it would be better for the students to have one consistent curriculum throughout the Elementary Math curriculum and agreed upon the McGraw Hill curriculum.

Dr. Tomcho offered clarification in her report regarding Career Street, the Virtual Career Day. She thanked Mrs. Coleman, Mr. Keefer and Mrs. Dawson for organizing this for the several students who participated. One student is completing EUP's Quality Assurance Program and was given an offer from two different paid internship companies and chose the company in Corry which he felt was a better fit for him.

Mr. Shrout had nothing to add but Mr. Hopson stated it was nice to see the enrollment up 7.5%.

Mrs. Byler was thanked for the snacks.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING – May 5, 2021

**UCAEA Report**

Mr. Randy Hurlburt gave this month's report on behalf of the Union City Area Education Association. He thanked the Board for the breakfast (fruit, bagels and donuts) on Monday morning. The community and PTO provided breakfast, lunch and dinners throughout the week and it very much appreciated by the teachers. There is one month of school left with a week of PSSA testing and a week of Keystone testing. It has been a very difficult year but everyone has shown adaptability and flexibility, have learned a new way to teach and learn, and even new procedures for sports and the prom were developed. It has not always been smooth but the School District all worked together. He thanked the Board for their support.

**Representative Reports**

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that the IU Budget doesn't pass unless all 17 school districts approve it. Only one Board member from one district voted against the budget so the 2021/2022 IU budget has been passed. Under the direction of Mr. Whitman, the Executive Director, lots of good things are happening at the IU.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported as follows:

Their last meeting was on April 21.

1. The April student spotlight was for a Corry girl battling cancer. Her Make-A-Wish was for a mobile pet food pantry for homeless pets. Her Make-A-Wish was granted and they contacted ECTS for assistance. The Facilities Maintenance Technology students and their instructor updated a trailer designing and building shelves to securely transport pet food and toys. It's called "Avery's Pawsitive Change Pet Food Pantry."
2. Third quarter honors
  - 181 students (29% of the enrollment) made the honor roll. (A 95% or higher GPA is required.)
  - 203 students had perfect attendance (32% of the enrollment)
  - 96 students made the distinguished list (15% of the enrollment). For this category, honor roll achievement and perfect attendance is required.
  - Union City had 20 honor roll students and 8 distinguished
3. Erie County Community College is looking for space to open classrooms and are considering a 2-3 year lease of the Skills Center in the evenings beginning next school year.
4. There were eight general contractors at the pre-bid meeting. It's looking like the renovation is still a possibility.
5. Graduation will be live streamed on May 26. Students are permitted to have two guests in their own lab.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING – May 5, 2021

6. There is good news on enrollment. Of the four classes on probation, one is now okay. Fifteen students have enrolled since his April report. Culinary Arts has increased to 62 students allowing the two teachers; in April numbers were low enough that only one teacher was needed. There are still a lot of interested students.
7. There is still no update on Millcreek. BIU who issues the building permits is behind and haven't yet approved the plans. The bid opening is being delayed until June 10.
8. North East School District has a new JOC member. The previous member only attended one meeting in the past 18 months.
9. Mr. Emerick, Superintendent of Fort LeBoeuf, will be the Superintendent of Record for another year which Mr. Gilbert is pleased about.
10. They are still searching for a new Business Manager and checking with area colleges for recent graduates. A retired Business Manager has been filling in.

**Other Business**

1. Mr. Trauner presented the first reading of new policy 800.1 "Electronic Signatures/Records." There were no questions.
2. Mr. Trauner asked the Board to access next week's Draft agenda to review. Mr. Hopson asked if on the motion regarding the Elementary Door Entrance Project bid why they are reusing the hardware. Mr. Thompson responded by saying the hardware we have is very good but the hinges are being replaced. There were no other questions. Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that if they had questions before next week's meeting to contact him or Mr. Bennett.
3. Mr. Gilbert stated he failed to mention one other item in his report. Grants totaling \$260,000 are being applied for and are due by May10. The grants are for bettering individual classes and students as well as for capital equipment such as laser machines, CNC machines and drone technology classes.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Trauner announced that the Board would be holding an Executive Session following adjournment for the purpose of Personnel and Contractual discussion.

Union City Area School District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
COMMITTEE MEETING – May 5, 2021

**Adjournment**

Mr. Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Miller.

Roll Call Vote: Stephen Gilbert, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner voted yes. Blain Blakeslee was absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill  
School Board Secretary