

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
October 7, 2021

School Board President George Trauner called the meeting to order at precisely 6:00 pm.

Mr. Trauner then led the group in the Salute to the American Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

Mr. Trauner reminded all in attendance of the Erie County Executive's universal indoor masking order for public schools in Erie County and respectfully asked that all comply. He announced that masks were available for anyone having forgotten to bring their own.

Roll Call by the Secretary

Blaine Blakeslee, Christopher Brenner, Stephen Gilbert, Douglas Hopson, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner were present. Lori Lewis was absent.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Stacey Dell, Tara Lineman, Michael Swanson, Krista Byler, Daniel Keefer, Stacey Mulson, Glenn Shaffer, Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Amy Webber, Mary Ann Mook, Mike Mangel, Corey Bailey, and Lisa Rosenthal.

Presentation:

PSBA Honor Roll Recognition of Board Members – Mr. Bennett

On behalf of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Mr. Bennett recognized two School Board Directors for their years of dedication to the Union City Area School District. He presented a certificate to Mr. Robinson for his eight years of service. Mrs. Lewis was honored for her 12 years of service. She will be presented with a certificate at a later date when she is physically present.

Trap Shooting Proposal – Mr. Bailey

Mr. Bailey reported on the District's requirements, responsibilities, and benefits for student participants, parents of those students, and the community should a Union City Trap Shooting Team be introduced. He shared an informative PowerPoint and answered questions brought by the board members in attendance.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Matthew Bennett

Mr. Bennett began by officially welcoming New Board Member Mr. Christopher Brenner. He then shared information on Erie County's COVID-19 statistics and the impact at UCASD. Statistics reflective of our District are encouraging. The administrative team is closely monitoring numbers. The best interests of all students, parents/guardians, and staff are considered. Mr. Bennett offered thanks to the school community and the board members for their understanding and flexibility as we continue to navigate our way through. Mr. Bennett then reported that the IU5 Superintendents continue to work with the Erie County Health Department.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – October 7, 2021

Their next meeting is scheduled to take place on October 8, 2021. The Superintendents strongly advocate for a change in the ECDOH protocol that requires non-symptomatic, non-positive students living in households with non-symptomatic, non-positive family members to quarantine when identified as a close contact of a possible positive. Mr. Bennett will update the board on the progress of these discussions. A board member asked if the Department of Health seemed receptive. Mr. Bennett answered that the ECDOH has agreed to review the protocol. This is encouraging news for the Superintendents.

Mr. Bennett moved on with an update on the various campus renovation projects. The Elementary concrete project is complete, except for the punch list and brick/awning work. Clerk of the Works, Mr. O'Brien, is closing monitoring the project. The pool roofing project is in its final stages. The ceiling looks beautiful. Mr. Shaffer is coordinating the lighting. Mr. Stehli continues to post updates on the progress. The start of the Entrance project has been delayed due to difficulty receiving materials. The Concession/Restroom Building is complete except for the punch list and engraved bricks. The Concession Stand oven was finally delivered.

To conclude his report, Mr. Bennett shared that all participating school boards unanimously approved the ECTS Renovation Project. In other news related to ECTS, Mr. Joe Tarasovitch is getting creative with the recruiting of students. As part of the effort, coloring books picturing non-stereotypical groups or individuals in various careers will be distributed to all Elementary Schools of districts in the ECTS region.

Public Comment

Mr. Michael Mangel – Quarantining and its impact on students' education.

Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman – Financial Updates

Mr. Hopson commented that it is great to hear that the Erate ECF Grant application to purchase 500 new Chromebooks was fully approved!

Mrs. Dell – Curriculum Director/Special Program

Mr. Keefer – High School Report

Mr. Hopson commented that it was good to see the FFA officers had an opportunity to attend the Farm Bureau meeting in Albion, PA. He thanked Mr. Keefer for sharing the news.

Mr. Keefer added to his report saying the UCASD Boys Golf Team won their first ever District-10 Championship last Friday, October 1, 2021. They won their match vs. Clarion today and will now move on to the State Team Championship!

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – October 7, 2021

Mr. Shrout – Middle School Report

Dr. Melissa Tomcho – Elementary Report

It was asked if veteran volunteers are needed for recognition at the annual Veterans' Day Assembly. Dr. Tomcho explained that flyers/invitations were sent home with students regarding the event. Please reach out to Dr. Tomcho or Mr. McMahan to suggest individuals for recognition.

Dr. Tomcho added that the Elementary Building submitted a video for the How Cool is Your School contest sponsored by Erie News Now and Northshore Insurance Agency. This year's theme is "Community Matters." She then offered a correction to her report. The United Way confirmed the dates for the Daniel the Tiger visit. Daniel the Tiger will arrive on the EMTA Trolley on October 21 rather than October 22.

Mrs. Mulson/Mrs. Webber – Special Education Report

Mr. Shaffer – Facilities Report

Mr. Trauner commended Mr. Shaffer on a great report. Mr. Gilbert asked if the new carpet cleaning machine was being used in all the buildings.

Mr. Shaffer answered that it is used primarily in the High School and Middle School Building because of all the carpet. Eventually, as budget allows, a machine will be added to the Elementary building. Mr. Hopson asked who was cutting the lumber that L&D Tree Service timbered. Mr. Shaffer answered that he volunteered to do so.

Mrs. Byler – Food Service Report

Mr. Trauner commented on the good news of two new hires to the Food Service team. Mrs. Byler shared that the start date for one of the new hires has been delayed due to a conflict with her other employment schedule.

UCAEA Report

On behalf of the Union City Area Education Association, Michelle Flaherty expressed appreciation for the board and the administration working together with UCEA to support the students and staff as they navigate through another challenging year. She then shared the many positive activities and successes in athletics, social, and academic development opportunities for all grade levels.

Mr. Trauner thanked Ms. Flaherty for all that she shared and for what she does for our District. He invited her to present at every Committee of the Whole meeting.

Union City Area School District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
COMMITTEE MEETING – October 7, 2021

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that IU5 is up and running with the new school year. However, contact tracing can be overwhelming since they serve districts in Crawford, Erie, and Warren Counties. They continue to receive a high number of resignations. Like so many businesses today, filling the vacancies proves to be challenging.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert happily reported that the much-needed thirty-four million-dollar ECTS renovation project would proceed! Vo-tech enrollment at the last meeting was 721. Of that number, 65 are UCASD students. Three labs, Graphic Communication, Precision Machining, and Tourism and Hospitality, are in danger of probation due to low enrollment. Recently, registration for these labs has increased. Moral has improved under the leadership of Mr. Joe Tarasovitch, Superintendent of Record, and recruitment efforts seem to be paying off. In conclusion, Mr. Gilbert reported that ECTS is still short-staffed and striving to fill vacancies that provide needed support.

Other Business

Review of the October 14, 2021 Draft Agenda.

In light of the hot topic of COVID-19 state mandates for schools, Mr. Gilbert encouraged fellow board directors to read the article appearing in today's edition of the Erie Times regarding a school district in our area that is non-compliant.

Mr. Trauner announced that the board directors would enter into Executive Session for personnel and legal discussion following adjournment of this meeting. The board would not reconvene for public business.

Adjournment

Mr. Hopson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gilbert. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Rosenthal
School Board Secretary