

Union City Area School District
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room
June 11, 2020

President George Trauner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The salute to the flag and a moment of silence were observed.

Roll Call by the Secretary

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

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Ann Sill, Mike Swanson, Annette Buell and Kim Docter were present.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bennett gave the following report:

1. The Board will be approving a revised 2020/2021 District calendar at a special meeting on June 23 which will align with the Erie County Technical School calendar.
2. There are several plans that need written, approved by the Board, and submitted to the state:
 - Athletic Plan – Before team sports begin, an action plan must be written. The local Athletic Directors will craft the plan, and then send it to an attorney for review with fees being split by all school districts. The yellow phase restricts groups to 25 or fewer; the green phase – 250 or fewer. No spectators will be permitted; only the athletes, coaches and officials. Mr. Bennett clarified that the development of this plan will be a combined effort of Athletic Directors from both Erie and Crawford Counties so there's not a competitive advantage of all not being on the same page.
 - Health and Safety Plan will be developed from state guidelines and will be a thick packet that Mr. Bennett hopes to have ready for approval soon. Committees are starting to work on specific components
 - Reopening of school is being worked on.
3. He offered a final reminder that there will be a special meeting on Tuesday, June 23, at 6:00 p.m. for approval of the revisions to the 2020/2021 District calendar.

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Public Comment

Mr. Trauner called **Annette Buell** to the podium, asking her to state her name, address and phone number and informed her that she had three minutes to speak. He added that there would be no response from the Board but if one was needed, it would come from Mr. Bennett. Ms. Buell stated that she is the Bloomfield Township Tax Collector and attending with her tonight is Kim Docter who is the Bloomfield Township Deputy Tax Collector. She distributed a document to the Board and explained that new wages for tax collectors will be approved for 2022 in February. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] She proceeded to read through the document and would like the Board to consider the discrepancies between her wages and those of the Union Township and Union City Borough tax collectors based on the payment received per the number of bills collected. Mr. Trauner thanked her for sharing this information.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Blakeslee seconded to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting and the May 14, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

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

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gilbert moved, Mr. Hopson seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2020. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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

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Approval of Check List

Mr. Blakeslee moved, Mrs. Lewis seconded to approve the Checks for Board Approval – June 11, 2020, Checks Between Board Meetings – May 2020, Athletic Checks – May 2020, Procurement Card Listing – May 2020, and Construction Project Checks for Board Approval – June 11, 2020. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mr. Trauner announced he would be abstaining from Vendor Check 4053 to Bethesda Lutheran Services.

Roll Call Vote: Blain Blakeslee, Stephen Gilbert, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis and David Robinson voted yes. George Trauner voted yes for all items except for Vendor Check 4053 from which he abstained. Brian Gregor, Barbara Miller and Kimberle Thomas were absent. Motion carried.

Ms. Buell and Ms. Docter left the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Academics

Mr. Trauner asked for motion for Academic items 1-5 if there were no objections. There were none.

Mr. Hopson moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the following five items:

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| Textbooks for HS English Language Arts | 1. The purchase and use of Textbooks for High School English Language Arts by the publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt “Into Literature” for \$57,997.80. |
| Textbooks for MS Math | 2. The purchase and use of Textbooks for Middle School Math by Publisher Big Ideas/Cengage “Modeling Real Life” for \$23,929.00. |
| Read 180 for Special Ed English Language Arts | 3. The purchase and use of Read 180 for Special Education English Language Arts for \$7,674.10. |
| Erie Co. Special Ed Transition Program Operating Agreement | 4. The Erie County Special Education Transition Program Operating Agreement effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] |
| Change of location for all remaining 2020 School Board Meetings | 5. Changing the location of all remaining 2020 School Board Meetings from the Elementary School Large Group Instruction Room to the Middle School/High School Large Group Instruction Room, effective immediately. |

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Mrs. Coleman was asked the number of books that would be purchased. She replied that there are 90 books with a license for six years for High School English Language Arts and 270 licenses, also for six years, for Middle School Math. Additionally, these licenses can be split as needed. She noted the cost for Social Studies textbooks is lower.

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

Finance

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to approve Finance items 1-6 if there were no objections. There were none.

Mrs. Lewis moved, Mr. Blakeslee seconded to approve the following six items:

**Judicial Tax
Agreement with
MacDonald Illig,
Jones and Britton**

1. The Agreement between the County of Erie, the Erie County Tax Claim Bureau, and the law firm of MacDonald, Illig, Jones & Britton LLP. The Resolution sets forth that the Board is approving the Agreement. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**First National
Insurance Agency –
Wright’s Specialty
Insurance**

2. The First National Insurance Agency proposal to renew coverage with Wright’s Specialty Insurance effective July 1, 2020 [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**2020/2021 UCASD
Final Budget**

3. To accept the Union City Area School District 2020-2021 Final Budget as presented which includes an expenditure level of \$19,132,097 and as partial support, re-enact the ACT 511 Earned Income, Realty Transfer and Per Capita Taxes (\$5), Section 679 tax on person (\$5), and also as partial support, enact Real Estate Tax millage rates as listed: Union City Borough and Union Township: 11.81 mills and Bloomfield Township: 44.40 mills. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

**Fund 51 Food
Service Budget**

4. Fund 51 Food Service Budget for school year 2020-2021. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

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Act 1 Taxpayer
Relief Act –
Homestead/
Farmstead
Properties

5. The following resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1"); and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that a school district that receives a property tax reduction allocation pursuant to section 505 of the Act shall use the property tax reduction allocation to fund exclusions for homestead and farmstead property; and

WHEREAS, the Union City Area School District has received a property tax reduction allocation pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania certified on April 15, 2020, that \$621,000,000 was available to fund a property tax reduction allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that each school district that receives a property tax reduction allocation is to calculate a homestead and farmstead exclusion for the purpose of reducing school district property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Union City Area School District has finalized such calculations; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that each school district adopt a resolution implementing the homestead and farmstead exclusion no later than the last day of the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the homestead and farmstead exclusions shall take effect.

AND NOW, on this 11th day of June, 2020, it is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Union City Area School District (hereinafter the "District") Board of Directors (hereinafter the "Board") the following:

- 1) That the District has determined it to be in the best interests of the District to implement the homestead and farmstead exclusions pursuant to the Act.
- 2) That the District has calculated a homestead exclusion for the purpose of reducing school district property taxes, such exclusion to be \$230.00.

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3) That the District has calculated a farmstead exclusion for the purpose of reducing school district property taxes, such exclusion to be \$230.00.

4) That the administration of the District shall take any and all action necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution, including but limited to, preparing and mailing the school district tax notices pursuant to section 343 of the Act.

Quinn Law Firm 6. Quinn Law Firm as the School District’s Law Firm effective July 1, 2020.

It was asked if the former law firm had been informed of the Board’s decision to hire a different law firm to which Mr.. Bennett replied that they have been informed.

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

Personnel

Mr. Trauner asked for a motion to approve Personnel items 1-3 if there were no objections. Again, there were none.

Mr. Hopson moved, Mr. Gilbert seconded to approve the following items:

Jones Resignation 1. To accept the resignation of Marlee Jones, Elementary Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2020. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Jones – Cub Club 2. To approve Marlee Jones to the District Substitute list effective July 1, 2020, for Cub Club (Elementary After-School Program) only.

Parkin – Speech Language Pathologist 3. Tayler L. Parkin as full-time Speech and Language Pathologist, effective with the 2020-2021 school year, Step 1, Master’s Degree, \$46,479.00, pending receipt of remaining employment documents.

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

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Financial Reports

The financial reports were presented. [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Other Business

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that a Special School Board meeting would be held in this room on Tuesday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m. If any Board members prefer to attend via Zoom, they are to inform Ms. Sill.

Adjournment

Mr. Blakeslee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Hopson.

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

Mr. Trauner adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary