

Union City Area School District
SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING
Elementary Large Group Instruction Room
February 6, 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, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner were present.

Others Present

Matthew Bennett, Amy Coleman, Tara Lineman, Adam Shrout, Melissa Tomcho, Stacey Mulson, Amy Webber, Steve Thompson, Krista Byler, Ann Sill, Mischeal Knapp, Laura Lee Thomas, Kim DeSimone, Kyle Blakeslee, Tracy Daggett, Steve Jones, Jeannette Boyd, Nathan DeSimone, Jen Drayer, Tricia Young, Dana Ward, Susan Michael, Troy Reynolds and George Fox were present.

Presentation

Mr. Kyle Blakeslee gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Outdoor Concession Stand. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] He explained that the OSCC (Outdoor Sports Complex Committee) was formed to assist the School District with visioning and physical improvements to the Outdoor Sports Complex, to raise fund through donations and serve as project manager for the construction projects with the School Board approving the final construction plans and communicating with the community. Architectural drawings were supplied by Roth Marz Partnership architects and paid for by the Union City Community Foundation. Following construction, the completed project will be donated back to the District. The most pressing need is the concession stand bathrooms which were built in the mid-80s with donated labor and materials. The goal was to renovate, but upon inspection, it was determined that the bathrooms are in such bad shape they must be demolished. This will be Phase I of a multi-phase project. Local contractor Dan Burek, owner of CSI Construction provided a building assessment of the concession stand. The estimated cost is \$300,000 but \$350,000 will be budgeted. Timelines were discussed. There were various questions by the Board including the standards required for the kitchen appliances (no actual cooking will take place), handicap accessibility (yes), plan changes after Board approval (Board will be kept informed), and the heat source (natural gas). There was discussion on hiring at the prevailing rate, School District liability and a fundraiser suggestion.

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Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Bennett reported as follows:

- The scheduling for Middle School and High School is being reviewed. Community concerns will be addressed as well as maximizing our resources. A group of teachers, administrators, Mrs. Coleman and Mr. Bennett will be going through a NISL program which will run for 8 days over a four month period. Pros and cons will be discussed with interested Board members, teachers and administrators.

- A parent concern/question protocol was developed as a result of number people who call Mr. Bennett with concerns stating they did not know who to contact. The sheets were distributed to the Board. [See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book] Each page shows the chain of command to be followed for parent and community questions or complaints for various areas of concern such as athletics, secondary, elementary or Special Education. The charts will be made available on the District website.

- Administrative guidelines drafted by the District Solicitor on “Essential Oil Administration and Use” was distributed to the Board which explains procedures to be followed with holistic practices becoming more and more common.[See Supplemental enclosed in the Minutes Book]

- Mr. Becker is the District’s most recent recipient of the Golden Apple award on Wednesday, January 29, and who was nominated by Grace Jones. The telecast will air on WJET Channel 24 on Wednesday, February 12.

- Canadohta Security completed the camera update in the Elementary School and generously donated \$1,500 worth of cameras in addition to what was provided by a grant Mrs. Coleman secured making the complete upgrade no cost to budget or tax dollars.

Public Comment

Mrs. Laura Lee Thomas was invited to come to the podium for Public Comment by President Trauner who informed her she had five minutes to speak and she would not be responded to by the Board, but would be contacted by Mr. Bennett. Mrs. Thomas spoke about the Wrestling program which her husband, Bruce, had been a part of since 2005. Their family has been involved in wrestling for about 15 years. She is disappointed in the behavior of head coach at a recent tournament, and she feels a wrong message is given when athletes are permitted to skip practices without consequences or to quit, then allowed to return to their starting spots, thus displacing other athletes. She feels there is no team spirit and the drama since the beginning of the year has been hard on the kids.

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Administrative Reports [See Supplementals enclosed in the Minutes Book]

Mrs. Lineman added that as informed by Ms. Sill, the state audit will begin in a couple of weeks. It was asked what is being audited to which she replied mainly finance and safety items. In response to being asked if there will be a Board retreat this year, she stated that there will not and the budget will be presented at the March meeting.

Mrs. Coleman added that the District has partnered with Parker Hannifin for three internships.

Mrs. Tomcho was asked what the courses were that the three recognized ECTS students were in. She replied that she believes Alex Smith is taking Auto, Lindsey Vaughan is in Culinary and Leanna McChesney is in Hospitality.

Kudos were given to Mr. Shrout for the 3,000+ items donated to the local food pantry.

Mr. Thompson thanked Jacob Wolf and the UC Fire Department for using their ladder truck tonight to install the new ropes on the flag pole. It was also noted that money is being saved this year on snow plowing.

Representative Reports

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Mr. Trauner reported that the IU is struggling to keep aide positions filled. They are hired, but then they find other work and resign. The 2020-2021 budget process will soon begin.

Erie County Technical School Joint Operating Committee

Mr. Gilbert reported the following:

- The preliminary 2020-2021 budget was approved by the JOC with our District's fees increasing 9% or \$27,000. The amount is based on enrollment.
- A new CAEP (Alt Ed) contract with Bethesda is to be approved next week.
- PennDot wants to install a round-about in front of the ECTS property which would take about half of the frontage, and a take-or-leave offer is expected but Dr. Walker has not heard from PennDOT in a couple of months.
- The renovation project is moving along and 2nd payment is due soon.
- A new fire alarm system is being installed.
- As reported earlier, three Union City students were honored as Students of the Month.
- The Cosmetology Class is having a Spa Day on February 11.
- Twenty five students competed in the Skills USA competition which included District student Cheyanne Lombardozzi was held in New Castle with about 800 students from 13 districts attending. Seven or nine of the twenty five ECTS students who participated qualified for the state competition in Hershey in April.
- He stated it was one of the better meetings he's attended. There seemed to be a better atmosphere and more transparency.

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Mr. Blakeslee opened discussion about a huge workforce that will be opening soon in our country. That college is great for some kids, but technical skills are also needed. With limited slots open at ECTS and the cost, he was wondering if some courses could be brought to our District to meet these needs. It was mentioned that internships were started at Parker for that very reason and that Dr. Walker has some good ideas with plans to expand course offerings to address some of these very problems, however adding courses is a long process requiring state approval and lots of red tape. Corry Vo-Tech has been toured with discussion of some of our students attending there, but they were not receptive to that. Career path presentations by heads of companies or laborers such as plumbers was suggested. Mr. Bennett replied that this is what they are currently working on. A Career Fair will be held this spring and the secondary schedule is being looked at to get more supports for students who want to examine various kinds of careers. It was mentioned that manufacturers in Meadville train individuals. Mrs. Coleman has developed “Career Café” with a handful of 5th grade students exploring careers. Mr. McMahan brought in a union plumber who brought tools and equipment and responded to great questions from the students. Mr. Gilbert added that his company is doing a coop with a Corry welding student this summer in a “Pay to Learn” program and will provide a similar opportunity for a UCASD ECTS student.

Other Business

There were no questions on next week’s draft agenda. Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that if questions arose to contact him or Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Bennett reported that he’d just received a weather update and the rain has started to freeze to the road surfaces. Black ice is developing, so please take caution driving home tonight.

It was mentioned that LECOM new Union City medical arts building that is being constructed was not open to bids from local contractors. Following discussion it was stated that private companies are not required to seek bids.

Executive Session

Mr. Trauner reminded the Board that an Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel discussion would follow adjournment with no business to follow.

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Adjournment

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

Roll Call Vote:

Blain Blakeslee, Stephen Gilbert, Brian Gregor, Douglas Hopson, Lori Lewis, Barbara Miller, David Robinson, Kimberle Thomas, and George Trauner voted yes.

Mr. Trauner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Sill
School Board Secretary